

**PIONEER DISTRICT, BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY**  
**MINUTES**  
**POST-CONVENTION MEETING**  
Crown Plaza, Grand Rapids, Michigan  
10:00 am, Sunday October 17, 2010

**CALL TO ORDER:** Convention Committee Chairman Jerry Ditto called the meeting to order at the Crown Plaza at 10:02 am.

**INTRODUCTIONS AND HEADQUARTERS HOTEL:** The hotel itself looks great, the grand renovation finished 10 days ago. They had their grand opening Tuesday. Jerry Ditto gave profuse thanks to certain hotel staffers like Jessica, Nikki, Linda the banquet manager, Debbie, Corey, Meegan, the house keeping staff (which always greeted us). The Salon thing worked great. I left at 1:30 and there was an awful lot of singing going on, nice to have a crowd in the hallways, the bartenders were kept busy, nice job on check-in, Friday went very well. Saturday morning didn't. There was no one here. The restaurant was slammed Saturday morning. It was definitely a staffing problem. Got the impression that Saturday was a day off and the hotel was full. There was a VIP list and asked for special treatment, didn't happen. Many complaints about door key issues. Latch wasn't working on Mackinac Room. Floor in bathroom could get quite slippery when wet need to get rubber mats or something on floor. Hotel people definitely enjoyed all the singing around the hotel. Have Mount Pleasant give us a call to get the exact stats on how many meals served at what times. Need to improve our signage. We've had this issue before. Needs to be added to the Convention Manual. We've got to sign everything and at Soaring Eagle it's going to be a similar issue. May want to get signs made up that are standard signs that go with the cash register.

**REGISTRATIONS:** District Treasurer Robb Smith informed us that we had 539 pre-registrations and 93 on-site registrations for a total of 632 full-paid registrations. Robb reported 36 partial registrations for Friday night, 25 partials for the Saturday chorus contest and 26 for the finals for a total of 87 partial registrations. We had 116 complementary registrations and Grand Rapids used 75 complimentary registrations. Had issues with printers, should consider getting our own.

**AUDITORIUM:** WOW! Mikes were very hot. Poor guy who works to set up for the auditorium people spent 12 hour days. They used to have 10 people for their staff and are now down to four so they aren't doing this anymore, told us we're here at an old contract at old prices. Would like to be back in four years, trying. Concession stand sold a LOT more than anticipated. Used to do that years ago so this was something hadn't done in recent years. Realized need to have coffee at this. Signage for rooms in a place like this is a huge issue. Saturday night the doors were not properly manned. People were just going in and out. Mostly obeyed food and water rule but need people manning doors. Friday was great. Not so much Saturday evening. A word about the video: know colors are wrong on screen but comes off great on the DVD. Alan just does us and Sweet Ads, it's not a business for him anymore. His equipment is getting some age on it. We had a new photographer. Didn't hear any negative comments. Worked so hard to make the outdoor photos work. Andy is very high-tech, is able to do a lot of things. He was able to do a lot more because of his equipment but the true test will be after the guys get their photos. The big screen had 10 advertisers, \$590, in the black. Seventeen district slides and 39 paid slides. Have to make slides are off when competitors are up there. In Mount Pleasant, will have a flat floor, build your own stage. Hope you enjoyed the auditorium, it's pricey and will get more pricey.

**JUDGE'S SERVICES:** Nothing but kudos, a stellar panel, the green room stuff was delicious. No issues with to and from airport. Shuttle was right there loading them up. Don't think we can praise Ron Eubank highly enough. The judges were ecstatic. Lighting and sound great, wall between stage and auditorium fantastic, didn't need as much door guarding

**HARMONY FOUNDATION RAFFLE:** Sold all the tickets. Had 2,010 tickets, sold in packets

\$1434 in income (compared to \$1,450 in the spring). Did not sell out. Saturday night had limited time to sell so didn't open it up but should have. Sold very well on Friday. First was Judy Pucha, second Ted Padga and third was Greg Oliver. Any special considerations for next time since we will be on Indian land. Make sure Marv Skupski knows.

**BARBERSHOPPERS SHOP:** Nice selection of stuff . \$2984.88 was taken in (down from \$3,412 in the spring). Ordering process from Nashville was good. John and Shirley worked with Kalamazoo in spring Barbershop Shop to get a springboard for fall. Get a great advantage that way. Willing to help Mount Pleasant. They just ordered what they wanted as opposed to standard package used to get. Put out an email to ask people what they would like to see.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

Joe Barbershopper Chorus was well-attended with 70-80 guys singing on stage compared to 85 in spring. seemed related to logistics/being in two buildings. Thinking of using same two songs plus adding one in future. Rob was great. They sent out 1,100 tracks. Lot of districts have just 15-20 guys on stage. Thinking this is something to do every fall and do Pole Cats in the spring.

Saturday show finished early.

Worship service. Set out 75 chairs and only about eight to 12 were empty so attendance was good. Clue to getting good attendance is good advertising.

Hospitality row: bar opened till 2, know they sold enough that the bar tenders were happy. Have done this before, it's just been a while. Were able to bring our own food and pop and water into these rooms, a REAL plus for this hotel. Doesn't happen often. The evals done in these rooms worked really well. Going to try to continue this in future years. Choruses really enjoyed this, being able to sing things judges suggest. Normally have 17 choruses, just 14 this time. Might consider moving contest up permanently if we want to consider these evils like this. Does get tough for people driving in.

Thanks to Don and Chuck and Grand Rapids chapter. Heard many people say why haven't we been to Grand Rapids before, enjoyed all the restaurants. Thanks to Roger and Ron for all you do,. Pioneer runs for smooth because of the leadership we have: Brian, Robb, Greg.

Greg: Traveled for three years a Society board member, 25. Culture of the weekend always comes from the host chapter and is fostered by the District itself. You guys have a nice system. This kind of wrap-up meeting only happens in three districts I've been to, really helps. Great script for flow of meeting works tremendously. Adding classes for Friday doesn't happen in all districts. Keeping that involved is really nice. Great job! Roger: other districts that have wrap up meetings learned that from us, brought that idea back from international. Ology Cat is a great concept, a struggle society wide. Gave people something they could spread beyond standard Pole Cats. Central States does a Gospel Chorus package they learn and then sing at local churches.

Future conventions:

2011: Mount Pleasant, spring

Kalamazoo, fall

2012:

Battle Creek, spring

Battle Creek, fall

2013: Traverse City, spring

Kalamazoo, fall

2014:

**ADJOURNMENT:** After thank-you's to the hotel and to the QCA, and the singing of "Keep the Whole World Singing," the meeting was adjourned at 11:22 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Serwach  
Pioneer District Secretary

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