

Minutes August 9, 2014

**Final version approved by the board September 6, 2014**

Palo Alto - Mountain View Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society

Minutes of the Board of Directors' Monthly Meeting, 10:00 AM on August 9, 2014 at John Hinkle's office, 2007 West Hedding St., San Jose, CA.

**Attendance:**

President Jim Sherman, Secretary Bill Faught, Member-at-Large Jeff Harris, VP Development Andy Maurer, VP Music Terry Moore, Program VP Bert Laurence, Member-at-Large John Hinkle, Chapter Member Jim Turner, Coach Paul Eastman, Past President Dave Kocharhook.

The meeting was called to order by the President at 10:05 AM.

**Approval of the Minutes**

Minutes from the previous board meeting on July 12, 2014, were approved with a change: The second-to-the-last sentence under the heading "Director Search and Chapter Rehearsal Day" should read "John Hinkle and Jim Sherman are tasked with finalizing the contract with Sean."

**Reports**

**Treasurer's Report and Financial Review**

The reimbursement check from the spring show expired, so a new check will be needed.

**Music VP Report**

There was an extensive discussion about moving the chapter meeting end time from 10:15pm to 10:30pm. Concerns included members being tired and that the membership should be consulted. The current state of affairs is that the new Director, the Music Team, and the Program VP are experimenting with allowing the meeting to end after 10:15pm but no later than 10:30pm. The board expects to revisit this issue in upcoming meetings.

**Chapter Development VP Report**

There was a discussion on follow up of attendees of the Voice Clinic. Of the candidates for membership, one is singing with us as a guest, two more don't have time, and one is on vacation. The Development VP will look into calling chapter members from previous years.

**Marketing VP Report**

No report.

**Program VP Report**

The board agreed that the emails describing the upcoming chapter meeting are useful and that the content is generally well-received. A suggestion was made to highlight which songs will be worked on.

A motion to accept the reports was approved without dissent.

### **Old Business**

#### **Director Search**

The board noted how favorably Sean is being received and that the energy at chapter meetings is up.

Increased membership – Jim Sherman noted that membership is up, and encouraged Development to contact prior chapter members.

Phone tree – Jim also noted how effective the phone tree was for changing the chapter meeting date and suggested that it be used for contacting absent members.

#### **2014 Cabaret Show 11/15**

Jim Turner reported on several items for the show. There will be a raffle, and he is attempting to enhance the value of raffle prizes (e.g. dinners, golf fees). Raffle tickets will still be \$1. A suggestion for having a silent auction was nixed because it takes a lot of staffing.

Dinner will be pasta (lasagna).

Marketing materials are needed in early September. There will be a focus on marketing to senior centers.

There was a discussion on how to make the beer and wine sales profitable.

#### **2015 Annual Show**

The 2015 spring show will use mostly the current repertoire, so the format will be the traditional theater stage show. The theme has not been decided.

The venue is Woodside High School. The date is 25 April 2015, 2-4 pm, 1 show only. A quartet has not been identified.

#### **San Jose Giants 8/22**

Only two leads have signed up. The chapter will do the event, and will find an additional lead.

#### **Palo Alto Farmer's Market 8/16**

Eighteen guys have signed up with a good mix of parts, and the chapter will do the event.

## **Website and Social Media sites**

Jeff Harris volunteered to keep these updated.

## **New Business**

### **Chapter Name Change (submitted by John Woolridge)**

John suggested that the name "Silicon Valley Chapter" would be more appropriate than "Palo Alto-Mountain View Chapter".

The board had a wide-ranging discussion about locales being in a name, about how lots of chapters have official names having nothing to do with their reputation, and about how difficult it is to change a chapter name.

There was a consensus to pursue a "doing-business-as" avenue as a way to identify our chapter as the Silicon Valley Chapter.

### **Procedure for Chorus for future performances**

Two issues were discussed under this topic.

Who books future singouts? Bert mentioned the position of Chorus Manager and will provide a writeup he did that describes the position. Dave K mentioned that Al Ward is the person that has been the focus for chorus and quartet gigs (except for December holiday gigs, which Bert has been doing). There was a consensus that decisions about the gigs need to be discussed among the chorus manager/booking agent, the Music Team, and the Director. The Music Team will discuss this further.

A second issue was getting chapter members to sign up for singouts. Currently, on Groupanizer and 9 weeks before contest, we have 20 members saying they can attend, 9 saying maybe, and 9 with no response. We could have anywhere between 20 and 38 members on the risers.

Various options for fixing this were discussed:

- a. Insisting that members sign up 8 weeks in advance (if the booking allows for it) to determine if we will do the event or not.
- b. Turning on the e-mail reminder service in Groupanizer for singouts.
- c. Creating riser placement charts that include only guys who have signed up, and others must get off the risers.
- d. Talking to members at chapter meetings who have not responded and strongly encouraging them to decide whether or not they will commit to the event.
- e. Removing the "Maybe" option on the attendance list on Groupanizer.

The idea is to create consequences for (a) not deciding to commit (or not), and (b) for committing and not showing up at the event.

**“Outstanding in Front” program 11/8/2014 hosted by Voices in Harmony**

This program is intended for assistant directors and section leaders. It may be possible for others to attend. Sean will be taking a role in it.

**Next Board Meeting**

The next board meeting is scheduled for Saturday, September 6, 2014.

The meeting was adjourned with the Good of the Chapter at 12:45 PM.

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