

Greater Detroit Chapter, Barbershop Harmony Society

Monthly Meeting (via Zoom) April 12, 2021

Attendees: George Burkett, Geoff d'Allemand, Joe DeSantis, Carl Jones, Jim Kunz, John Marsh, Keith Opal

Absent: Mike Schulte, Craig Roney, Ted Barbret

Guests: Dave Montera, Steve Sutherland, Kevin Wolf.

Meeting convened at 6:30 PM by President DeSantis

Minutes of March 15 Board Meeting approved: Kunz moved, Opal seconded.

Music Team Report:

- Kunz will set up a Music Team meeting to address the expansion/adjustment of the current GDC song repertoire. The goal is a semi-permanent list of 12-15 songs that we will work on at our Monday meetings to achieve contest-level performance quality for each one.

Chapter Development report:

- D'Allemand reported that the election of a Barbershopper of the Year was conducted and a clear winner emerged. D'Allemand will announce the name of the BotY at an upcoming ZOOM meeting. D'Allemand and Opal will collaborate on a Facebook announcement of the award.
- We have been approached by the people who run the Royal Oak cemeteries about participating in the grooming of U.S. military veterans' graves on May 8 and May 15. D'Allemand has announced the request to the GDC members via email. Several have already volunteered to participate. D'Allemand will follow up with further announcements to encourage more participation.
- D'Allemand reported that two new members, Isaac _____ and Bob Hack, who were not in attendance, have nevertheless continued to affirm their intentions to join the chapter in the future.

Programming report:

- Burkett expressed a desire to run a "Jug Night" event that would function as a kind of Pioneer District-wide kick-off event once the pandemic is behind us. But there can be no planning for such an event until we know when and where we could run it. After further discussion it was agreed that Burkett will send out "feelers" to the other Pioneer chapters to gauge the level of interest in participating in such an event. As to the when and where, Montera volunteered to make his farm available as a venue; however he could only guarantee socially-distanced seating if attendance were limited to 50 people. Burkett will report back to the chapter at our next Board meeting.

Old Business:

- DeSantis updated the group on our previous discussion around creating a “survey” of the GDC members to determine the number of guys who have received, or intended to receive, or decided not to receive, COVID vaccinations. The rationale for conducting such a survey would be that the information could not only help us make a wise decision as to when/where to begin gathering physically again, but also could be of value as a sort of bargaining chip with the Royal Oak School district if, when the time came, they expressed concern about our level of vaccination.

Since our last meeting, further off-site discussion of the issue unearthed several concerns about the wisdom of conducting such a survey. Most of the concerns are about privacy issues both for those who will have been vaccinated and those who will have chosen not to be vaccinated.

The issue is tabled until such time as external circumstances dictate that we should take it up as a project again.

- Dave Montera requested permission from the Board to send some documents he came across in the Grosse Pointe chapter’s older records, which may have some historical value, to the Society. Opal moved to grant permission, Burkett seconded. Motion approved.

New Business:

- Sutherland has purchased a number of N-95 masks which he intends to issue to guests who attend our future in-person meetings.
- (This item was inadvertently skipped during the Board meeting, then discussed towards the end of the subsequent general chapter meeting:) Sutherland requested that for the sake of scheduling continuity, we schedule our general chapter ZOOM meetings on the first and third Mondays of each month, just as we have scheduled our in-person general and Board meetings before the pandemic.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe DeSantis

Approved: May 17, 2021