

# Monthly Meeting (via ZOOM)

Greater Detroit Chapter, Barbershop Harmony Society

July 26, 2021

## DRAFT

In attendance: **Joe DeSantis, Jim Kunz, Keith Opal, Mike Schulte, Geoff D'Allemand**

Guests: **Steve Sutherland, Dave Montera**

Meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m. by Joe DeSantis

**Jim Kunz** moved and **Keith Opal** seconded to approve the minutes of the June 21, 2021 meeting. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** **Mike Schulte** announced that the chapter's checking and savings account combined balances remain at about \$43,000. During the month a check was received from the City Lights chapter in payment for the old Grosse Pointe chapter's risers. Disbursements were made for the rental of the Sylvan Lake picnic facility and the materials and labor for singing masks for all the chapter's singers.

**Music Team:** The July 19 outdoor chapter meeting at Royal Oak VFW park went well. According to **Steve Sutherland**, 25 guys showed up.

Singing was somewhat rough which was to be expected. Traffic noise was a problem, and much of the available parking was already taken by attendees at a baseball game at the park.

According to **Dave Montera**, the prevailing sentiment at the end of the evening was "When do we do this again?"

The group agreed that if we must sing outdoors we should change venues, moving to Berkley's Jaycee Park. That park will not have the traffic noise or parking issues that VFW park has. Lysle Smith believes we will be able to rent the picnic pavilion at the below-market rate of \$20 for the evening.

But the group was in agreement that outdoor singing is less than ideal even under ideal weather and ambient sound conditions. So we remain on the lookout for an available indoor facility. It is known that the Sweet Adelines' Royal Oak Chapter (Shoreline Sound) has been practicing indoors at the Royal Oak Church of Christ at 11 Mile Road and S. Campbell. **Joe DeSantis** will make contact as soon as possible with someone from that group to eventually get in front of the management of that facility and see if we can rent it to sing indoors. **Mike Schulte** said that the leadership of his church in Berkley will let us know if/when they might make their facility available, but they do not sound encouraging at this time.

**Membership:** According to **Geoff D'Allemand**, two of our newest guys (joined just prior to COVID lockdown) were in attendance at the July 19 meeting at VFW park. One brand new guy, Todd O'Farrell, showed up. He is a 6-year barbershopper recently moved into St. Clair Shores from the Pittsburgh area.

**Programs:** **George Burkett, Program VP**, was not in attendance.

**Old Business:** BHS vs. HFI: **Dave Montera** updated the group on the recent federal court decision on Barbershop Harmony's legal action against Harmony Foundation, Inc. According to Dave, the judge ruled against BHS, basing his decision on two major points: 1) BHS did not properly set up the HFI Board using a nominating committee as called for in its by-laws, and 2) BHS could not name HFI as a plaintiff in this Federal court action since BHS was suing HFI to legally force it to take certain actions. Further, both BHS and HFI are Wisconsin corporations and therefore BHS, if it is to pursue the matter further, must do so in Wisconsin state court.

**New Business:** The group carried on a discussion about what our mask-wearing expectations will be at the August 16 picnic at Sylvan Lake. It was agreed that we must put out the word **before we invite other chapters** that we will expect anyone who attends who is not yet vaccinated to wear a mask at all times, both indoors and outdoors, except while eating or drinking. Even those who are fully vaccinated will be expected to wear masks while singing in groups, either indoors or outdoors. It is about protecting our brothers and sisters in harmony who are attending, as well as their families and friends who are not attending. **Joe DeSantis** will confer with **George Burkett** to make sure he passes that word on to any other chapter that he invites to this event.

**Adjournment:** **Jim Kunz** moved to end the meeting. **Mike Schulte** seconded. Motion passed. Meeting ended at 7:28 p.m.