

Meeting Notes

GDC Board of Directors

Meeting 11/20/23

Members Present: Joe DeSantis, Geoff D'Allemand, Ted Barbret, Mike Schulte, George Burkett, Keith Opal

Non-members present: John Paul, Cliff Stevens

Absent: Steve Sutherland, Tom Marciano, John Marsh, Craig Roney

The only subject matter for this meeting was to develop an initial plan for an appropriate send-off event for Steve Sutherland, Harmony United's chorus director. Steve has been a barbershopper since his high school days, and music director of the Gentlemen Songsters/Harmony United Chorus for more than 40 years, and for the Wayne chorus before that.

Following are the key elements of the discussion and some of the initial job assignments and assignees for those job assignments:

- Date: We will aim for one of the following Tuesday nights: January 30, February 6, February 13. (Not February 20—I will be away on that date). Geoff will look into the availability of the facilities at ROMS—specifically whether we can use the Gathering Place or, if not, the ROMS cafeteria.
- George will ask Herb Hebner Herb to approach Laurie Sutherland about the above dates and ascertain which of them would be OK/not OK for the Sutherlands to attend.
- We will provide food and non-alcoholic beverages. George will take charge. Thrift & informality (pizza? Sandwiches?) should prevail.
- John will look into an appropriate gift item. No trophies or plaques, please. Something aesthetically pleasing in acrylic or crystal (?) or another appropriate mat bearing an appropriate message (“Take it From the Smile” was suggested).
- Cliff suggested, and will look into, presenting a wide-brimmed hiking hat such as Steve likes to wear in the summertime, signed by all the members of the chapter.
- Joe will take charge of developing an email address list for invitees. Target invitees will be all present and former members of GDC/DOC, and those Grosse Pointe guys who were active at the time of the merger.
- John will contact Al Fisk of Pioneer District to attend and say an appropriate few words.
- Joe will develop an appropriate list of “speakers” who will be invited to attend and say an appropriate few words. Jim Kunz will be invited to be on that list.
- At some point the chapter will sing “That Old Quartet of Mine,” which we know to be Steve’s favorite of all barbershop songs.

Approved: February 6, 2024