Board Meeting Minutes of San Fernando Chapter of SPEBSQSA

DBA: Valley Harmony Singers (VHS)

Meeting Location: St. Mark’s Episcopal Church of Van Nuys

14646 Sherman Way, Van Nuys, CA 91405

Wed Feb 12, 2020 by Kirk Prather, Secretary (r4)

**Attendees**: Jack Press, Dave Kirby, Kirk Prather, Ben Marder, Ross Brown, Tom Raffety,

Jeffery Bunch, Bob Karlin, Kathie Edwards, Shelley Herman, Rochelle Herman, Mark Singer

**Approve Bd Mtg Minutes 1-8-2020** by Kirk Prather. A Board motion unanimously approved the Jan Bd. Mtg. minutes.

**Secretary’s Report** Kirk Prather, Secretary and Dave Kirby, Treasurer together registered our chapter California corporation’s official “DBA” (Doing Business As) “Valley Harmony Singers” for a 5 year term for the first time with the Los Angeles County Clerk Office in Van Nuys. This “DBA” registration with LA County Clerk was required to open our new bank account with Chase Bank in Van Nuys (& for most banks operating in California). Note “DBA” (Doing Business As) registration with LA County Clerk is also called “fictitious business name” registration.

Because Los Angeles County Clerk office’s computer software verified that ”Valley Harmony Singers”, the DBA being used by our chapter instead of our Chapter’s legal California Incorporation name (The Valley Chapter of SPEBSQSA) was not registered by any other California person or organization as a ”DBA” or “fictitious business name, our chapter was eligible to register our chapter’s DBA business name for a 5 year period at which time the registration can be renewed. To prevent our registration being mandatorily expired in the 1st registration year, we were required to buy a paid published legal notice for 6 weeks of our chapter DBA registration with the LA County Clerk Office in an approved LA County public newspaper approved by the LA County Clerk. Dave Kirby is managing this chore.

**Treasurer’s Report** 1.Dave Kirby as VHS official 2020 new Treasurer, 2.Kirk Prather as VHS official 2020 New Secretary (but also temporarily acting as VHS Treasurer for VHS Wells Fargo Bank account until it is closed), and 3. Jack Press, VHS 2020 Chapter President, together opened a new chapter bank account at Chase Bank, 6900 Block, Sepulveda Blvd., Van Nuys, CA on Jan 22, 2020. These three VHS officers are also the three authorized signatories for the new chapter Chase bank account. The new chapter treasurer, Dave Kirby, and chapter President, Jack Press, were both issued Debit Visa Cards tied to the Chase Bank account which facilitates a) paying new purchases or charges to the chapter with our debit card and enables after-hours deposits of cash and chapter-endorsed checks written payable to the chapter. To create a new Chase Bank account balance, Kirk wrote a $2,000 check from our soon-to-be closed Wells Fargo Bank account, and Dave Kirby endorsed and deposited the $2,000 check to the chapter into our new VHS Chase Bank account to establish our first cash balance.

Kirk Prather prepared and distributed to the VHS Feb Board meeting attendees a spreadsheet summarizing the total of the new Chase Bank account balance and the remaining Wells Fargo Bank balance totaling $3,738, less outstanding chapter payment commitments of $1,034 equaling $2,654 of available spendable funds. Note we need to maintain a min daily $1,500 balance to avoid incurring monthly bank charges for each transaction processed.

**Membership report**- VP Ben Marder Ben mentioned that new member Sean Goodman had lost his job in late December and that he had not attended any VHS rehearsals since. Ben has called Sean and visited with him a couple of times to see how his job search was going and had encouraged him to return to chorus rehearsals. Ben has also been talking to prospective new members who have contacted the chapter for more information and expects at least a couple more interested prospective members to a 1st or a repeat visit to our rehearsals.

**Music Report**—VP Tom Raffety Tom reviewed again the planned handout schedule of new 2020 songs via handing out a few new songs to the chorus to learn each month. Tom also reviewed doing hopefully more efficient and effective chorus song-learning rehearsal activities such as:

1. Having more effective opening chorus warmup exercises, focusing on more effective individual forward-placement voice production to achieve a more uniform and more beautiful voice part section blended sound, and thus produce a better chord tuning and blended sound of the whole chorus. Also correcting singing an octave scale in tune.

2. Having a chapter teaching quartet, composed of the 4 voice part section leaders, learn the 4 new song voice parts of a new song’s sheet music being handed out, so that the chapter learning quartet composed of 4 chorus section leaders can demonstrate singing the new song as a live quartet to the chapter.

3. On selected Monday night rehearsals, new songs being learned are scheduled in advance for a chorus run-through followed by having 4 individual part sectional rehearsals and then followed by reassembling the chorus to rehearse the song together again in 4 parts,

4. During rehearsals conduct more 2 voice-part sectional duets between 2 selected voice parts of the chorus. These duets help both the conductors and the participating singers to better hear, identify and hopefully correct a single voice part with a muddled sound blend or tuning problem, and/or to better hear, identify and correct a duet muddled sound blend or tuning problem between the 2 parts of the total 4-part chorus chord.

Tom also reviewed for the Board recent activities that he and Jeffery Bunch have done preparing several pickup quartets that could deliver our chapter’s 2 traditional Valentine Songs in person or by telephone on Valentine’s Day Weekend Feb 14-16. First our chorus practiced singing together our chapter’s traditional 2 polecat songs used for our singing Valentines which helped new members learn the songs and refresh old member memories of the songs. Tom and Jeffery then held several volunteer Valentine quartet singing sessions on Monday nights, 6:30 to 7:30 pm, for those members who were interested in singing in a quartet, and were willing to try singing a specific voice part in a trial quartet on of our chapter Valentine songs.

In listening to the various combination of chapter members singing the 4 parts for our Valentine songs, Tom and Jeffery identified 2 of our better-sounding chapter pickup quartets for delivering our Valentine songs this year, and they also identified individual singers who sounded good and blended well on a specific voice part in various trial quartets. Thus these sessions were also helpful to Kirk Prather & Mark Singer, co-chairs of the chapter Singing Valentine program this year. Members attending these Valentine Quartet session trials got experience singing their voice parts in new quartet singer combinations and got experience regarding which parts singers blended best in singing. Tom and Jeffery’s coaching of individuals as well as the entire trial quartets benefited both the singers singing in the quartets and the singers who were listening.

**Chorus Manager- -** Jeffery Bunch Jeffery mentioned that he has been talking with Activity Directors at two Retirement Homes who are very interested in contracting for our chorus to perform soon at their facility. Unfortunately, but Jeffery and neither of the two Activity Directors have been able to confirm a mutually good performance date in February, but Jeffery is optimistic that at least one March paid concert gig will likely be contracted very soon. Jeffery was again urged to keep up his sales campaign because we need more chapter chorus revenue.

**Program VP**---Mark Singer Our chapter chorus will host Santa Clarita Barbershop Chapter on Monday March 23. Each chapter chorus will perform for the other chorus and each chapter hopes to have one of more of their chapter quartets perform for both of the chapters together as audience.

**PR and Marketing----**Ross Brown reported so far that he had sold several Singing Valentine gigs for both in-person and via phone delivery.

**Communications VP—**Bob Karlin in the last January Board Meeting passed around to the attending Board members a purchased **prospective audio recorder** sample that was small and inexpensive, in the $10 range. Bob and other volunteers working with him have actually used the sample recorder to test record their own voice singing with the other surrounding chorus singers heard singing in the background as desired. The recorded singing test results so far have been technically promising.

The envisioned concept of the chapter section leaders and conductor review of the individual singing recording is: 1. The chapter would purchase a mini-recorder for every chorus singer with the singer’s assigned chorus number stamped on both the singers’ music and their audio recorder. 2. Each singer would record their individual singing of their song part for a particular scheduled song rehearsal and pass their recordings to their section leader. 3. Section leader listens to each individual recording to develop specific helpful feedback which he provides for each singer’s recording. Bob suggested that his committee is convinced that the chapter should buy these recorders and start using them in the near future.

Bob’s session discussion ended with a passed Board motion to authorize $300 from the chapter’s treasury to buy the mini-recorders when the Bob and the Music team are ready to conduct trial procedures and tests to perfect the use of this new rehearsal recording tool for both chorus singers and the Music team.

**Members at Large:** Rochelle Herman, Kathy Edwards: Kathy asked board members to submit names, mailing addresses, and email addresses to her to help her put together a chapter email list and mailing address list to send out upcoming chapter show flyers and chapter publicity to help the chapter sell more tickets and potentially sell more chapter quartet and chorus gigs.

**Old Business**

**---BHS requires all chapter members to take the BHS Youth Training Course ASAP.** Course is available at BHS website. A few Board members have not finished their training

**--2020 Two Show Dates & Location--1st) May 9, 2020 “Spring Fling & Ice Cream Social” &**

**2nd) Dec 12, 2020 “Holiday Show”,** both held at One Generation Senior Center, Reseda, CA

**---Chapter Singing Valentines Co-Chairs Kirk Prather & Mark Singer. Dates**: Friday Feb 14, Sat Feb 15, Sun Feb 16 (before 4 pm) 2 **Songs:** “Heart of my Heart” ”Let me call you Sweetheart”

Singing Valentines **Selling Prices a)** Chapter **Quartet in-person** singing delivery for a San Fernando Valley destination (**Fri Feb 14 or Sat Feb 15 before 4 pm $50, or after 4pm $60) and (on Sun Feb 16 before 4 pm $60), b)** Chapter Quartet Valentine songs via **Telephone Delivery in USA $20**

Mark & Kirk, singing Valentines co-chairs, report that two pickup quartets have been approved & coached and singers identified to form a 3rd quartet to perform if needed, as described in

Tom Raffety’s earlier report on His & Jeffery’s special sessions auditioning and coaching various trial pickup quartet singer combinations.

**---Chapter Historian still needed: Jack Press** has asked for a volunteer to help collect chapter mementos and we need a place to store a box of chapter mementos.

**NEW BUSINESS**-----

**PRESIDENT TOPICS**

---**Next Board Meeting**: Wed. Mar. 11, 2020 7pm, St. Marks Church

**---Next Music Team Meeting:**  Thurs. March 5, 2020, 7 pm, Tom’s House

---“**Barbershopper of the Month”:** Jack Pressselected Ben Marder for his organization, quality & execution of the Chapter Awards & Officer Installation Dinner in January.

---**Good of the Chapter ----**no comments