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 Mar 11, 2020, written by Kirk Prather, Secretary (r 5)

**Attendees**: Jack Press, President/ Dave Kirby, Treasurer/ Kirk Prather, Secretary/ Ben Marder, Membership/ Ross Brown, Marketing & PR (absent)/ Tom Raffety, Music VP & Chorus Director/ Jeffery Bunch, Chorus Manager & Asst. Chorus Director/ Bob Karlin, VP Communications /Mark Singer, Program VP / Kathie Edwards, Board Member at Large/ Shelley Herman, Past President/ Rochelle Herman, Board Member at Large/.

**Approve Bd. Mtg. Minutes 2-12-2020** by Kirk Prather. A Board motion passed unanimously to approve Feb 12 Bd. Mtg. minutes.

**Secretary’s Report** byKirk Prather. As Chapter Secretary I have received BHS membership renewal cards for their 2nd year as our chapter’s first women members.

**Treasurer’s Report** by Dave Kirby As of 3/11/20 chapter bank account is $3,132.00, less estimated payable obligations $1,214.00, leaving $1,918 as available spendable funds. Valentines sales totaled $633 in Feb including $173 for 2020 Valentine online sales paid to Paypal that were transferred to our bank account. Also transferred to our bank account from Paypal were $269 total of 2019 individual online chapter sales for tickets for 3 chapter shows and Valentines.

**Membership report**- VP Ben Marder Six members of our chapter attended Sean Goodman’s memorial service held the day before our Bd. meeting. Sean had tragically died from a fatal fall last week. Sean was remembered by his family and many friends as a superb musician, singer, pianist, and vocal soloist that they will miss.

**Music Report**—VP Tom Raffety discussed the planned upcoming visitation of Santa Clarita chapter on March 23rd  The Visitation will be at 7 p.m. rather than our normal 7:30 p.m. Each chorus will sing 4 songs and various quartets from the chapters will sing for everyone. Tom encouraged our chorus to start forming new pickup quartets and if they need help putting quartets together to contact him. All our quartets in the chapter should rehearse new quartet songs and polish old quartet songs for this upcoming chapter visitation and for many upcoming future performance opportunities.

Quartets should consider performing these songs for the Directors to get free coaching for each song, and to perform their songs at chapter rehearsals where the Music committee can hear their quartet songs, to obtain approval to perform these songs representing our chapter on our chapter our shows.

A discussion was held about the growing Covid-19 virus epidemic affecting our expected audience for planned shows and decreasing our chapter and chapter quartets’ ability to sell additional singing gigs for both the chorus and our quartets in the near future, especially to retirement and assisted living facilities.

Tom emphasized that BHS was attempting to not cancel any national or regional singing events because of the covid-19 virus epidemic, but government health requirements must be met, but clearly their greatest worry is the upcoming International Convention and contest events the week of July 4th 2020 in Los Angeles.

**Chorus Manager- -** Jeffery Bunch confirmed our planned chapter short concert at Windsor Manor retirement home in Glendale Sat Mar 28 2 pm. Jeffery is also trying to nail down paid performance dates with other interested retirement homes.

**Program VP**---Mark Singer Our chorus will host The Santa Clarita Barbershop Chapter on Monday March 23. Each chorus will perform and hopefully their chapter quartets will perform for everyone.

**PR and Marketing----**Ross Brown absent

**Communications VP—**Bob Karlin discussed and reported progress by his committee to explore how best to replace our chapter’s current existing obsolete and defective chapter website hosting software. The national trend is for choruses to license (rent the rights to use and obtain software user support and training) affordable online website integrated hosting software packages designed for chorus organizations. Our website has two kinds of online users 1) General public online users who view chapter website public pages such as a) potential customers for public show tickets or purchasing private chorus/quartet performances and b) potential chapter singer guests and curious chorus singers and directors.

2) Restricted chapter member users (recognized by web software as authorized chapter members via entered email address and password by user).

Bob also explained that chapter pre-paid online Domain registration(s)--- meaning a chapter’s pre-paid registered single-exclusive legal right to use the chapter’s unique organization name(s) and web address(es) on the worldwide web,--- which may or may not, be included as part of an available rental licensed online website hosting software package.

The committee has been exploring the website of “Genius Chorus”, a website online software package that is being used by several chapters in the Far Western District. The committee has been looking at various chapter publicly available web pages of some of the chapters who use “Genius Chorus” software for ideas of how our chapter might want to implement our chapter activities and pictures on our new web site using this software. It is currently thought that the monthly rental cost of “Chorus Genius” the basic chorus software package & data base, will cost only slightly more per year than what the chapter is paying now piece meal for its obsolete website operation software. For example someone mentioned that we might start with a beginning application of this “Genius Chorusl” hosting software for 16-39 chorus members for $31/mo ($372/year) which may not be that much greater cost than our current website hosting software cost.

A motion was passed unanimously by the board for the committee to continue investigating “Genius Chorus” software for potential chapter implementation and regularly report to the board until we have a realistic cost estimate of required implementation tasks as well as ongoing dollar monthly rental estimates and ongoing chapter support hours required.

Audio mini-recorders for chorus singers. Bob and committee has been shopping for the best price to purchase mini-audio recorders for chorus members to make recordings at rehearsals. He thinks it might be Amazon. (Up to $300 was authorized at the last Board meeting in Feb.) The plan is for chorus members to make recordings with the surrounding chorus sound in the background and send them to their section leaders. The section leader will listen to the recordings and prepare helpful comments as feedback to each singer. Mark Wolf is practicing listening to recordings to preview the likely average Section Leader time spent for each new recording and identify any issues that may arise.

**Members at Large:** Rochelle Herman, Kathy Edwards: Kathy has received only 27 names so far for chorus contact list for mailing, emails, telephone calls or texts from the chorus about upcoming performances. Bob Karlin emphasized that Kathy be sure to collect for each name, their mailing address, preferred telephone number(s) and Y/N to receive text messages on their smart phones.

Several suggested we hand out Chapter preprinted cards to chapter show attendees, chapter visitors, and chapter gig retirement home activity directors, etc. for filling out attendee’s and their friends contact information. This customer contact list could be used distributing chorus show flyers, promoting chapter quartet gigs for in-person or phone delivery of quartet serenade engagements (for parties for birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, Valentine’s Day, Mother’s day etc. ), or soliciting chapter donations and the like.

**Old Business ---BHS requires all chapter board members to take the BHS Youth Training Course ASAP.** Course is available at BHS website. Kirk and maybe Ross Brown(?) are the only Board members who have not yet completed the training.

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

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

**---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. April 15, 2020 7pm, St. Marks Church

**---Next Music Team Meeting:**  Thurs. April -9, 2020, 7 pm, Tom’s House

---“**Barbershopper of the Month”:** Jack Pressselected Kirk Prather and Mark Singer, the co-chairs of the chapter Singing Valentine quartet sales events which generated over $600 by 3 chapter pickup quartets.

---**Good of the Chapter**

**Kathie Edwards** brought up for discussion the  **Problem of Excess & Unnecessary chorus member chatter seemingly every time the chorus stops singing.**  Kathie believes unnecessary chatter wastes too much rehearsal time, is unprofessional and disrespectful of our Directors and reduces chorus rehearsal focus and was disappointed to observe that many of the worst chorus chatter offenders are Board members. Tom Raffety added that he believes section leaders are some of the worst offenders. Kathie said she believes that Board members need to take this problem seriously and set an example to all the other chorus members, and further the board should do something constructive to stop this unnecessary rehearsal problem which has been getting gradually out of control.

Many board members agreed with her comments. Jack Press volunteered to talk to chorus members before one or more rehearsals about the need not to talk or chatter with nearby singers unless it is extremely necessary which it rarely is.

Meeting Adjourned