



Recap of the BQPA General; Meeting in Chicago. 12 September, 2009

With the BQPA Board of Directors assembled and approximately 70 BQPA members in attendance, the meeting was opened by the current President, Jack Martin. Emit Bossing was asked to direct the Old songs which he did along with a couple other great songs, Down Our Way and Honey, Little Liz. The harmony was great, which left every one in what appeared to be a good mood.

Introductions were made of all the BQPA Board of Directors and appointed committee chairman as well as our new BQPA Webmaster.

Jay Bartley, Secretary. Residing in Phoenix, AZ
Jim Gallagher, serving as the Immediate Past President. Residing in Salt Lake City. UT
Herb Langthorp, Treasurer. Residing in San Antonio, TX
Rex Touslee, Vice President. Residing in Denver, CO and Phoenix, AZ.
Jack Martin, President. Residing in Cumming, GA
Jim Milner, BQPA Webmaster. Residing in Phoenix, AZ
Shel and Rosie Rosenthal, Registration Committee. Residing in San Francisco, CA
Paul Ludwig, Chairman of Western Festival, Residing in Tucson. AZ
Gerry Carroll, Chairman of Chicago Festival. Residing in Chicago. IL

The next thing announced by the President was that the Board of Directors had met on Thursday and resolved that annual dues would be discontinued. There would remain a one time, initial joining fee of \$15.00. The board had decided that we would try to operate with receiving donations at our semi-annual Quartet Festivals. A donation of \$10.00 to \$15.00 dollars per attendee was suggested. This would be used to cover the cost of hosting the Festival and other necessities. This resolution received applause from the BQPA members in attendance.

Herb Langthorp our treasurer commented that we were not staffed to keep track of who was current with dues so we just did away with the dues, hoping we can survive on donations. It was noted that donations were our only source of income.

Rex Touslee our VP stated that our BQPA bylaws were to be adjusted based on what we have learned in the past year.

The BQPA Board of Directors had earlier made the decision that the BQPA would discontinue seeking BHS subsidiary status, at this time, however wanted to poll the members as to their desires. A straw vote was taken and the vast majority of those in attendance voted to withdraw our petition to become a BHS subsidiary.

It was pointed out by the President that those who have dropped from the BHS, and those of the BHS who continue to favor the BQPA way of life was our main source for future growth. It was stressed that we should not badmouth or criticize the BHS, their staff or members on the BQPA Google list, nor would we engage in any kind of piracy.

The President commented that any person that desires membership into the BQPA should be on their time frame, not that of the BQPA. The Board was unanimous in wanting to continue a cordial relationship with the BHS.

Jim Gallagher talked about the availability of BQPA shirts with our Logo. Jim had acquired 40 of the shirts and made distribution of them to BQPA members at the Festival. Jim provided the URL to make contact with the online provider of the shirts so every BQPA member could get one. Jim encouraged every one to spread the word of the availability of the shirts and we should all wear them at Barbershop functions as well as our name tags and BQPA Pins. This info regarding obtaining a shirt was to be placed on the BQPA website.

Rex Touslee then announced that he was heading up an effort to make sheet music and an electronic learning device available to augment the worn Barber Polecat songs. He was working with Dave Lowerre, and Brock Shamberg, to develop this program. You can now go to www.Hometownharmony.com and view the program and progress.

Jack Martin then announced that the BOD was entertaining recognizing groups of barbershop singers around the country that support the BQPA kind of fun and fellowship as well as our kind of music. There are two groups under consideration at this time. A Las Vegas group and a group in the Twin Cities area. Namely, The Friday Lunch Bunch That Meets On Thursday. We are currently corresponding with three other groups in Michigan, the Boston area as well as a group in Florida.

It was noted that we currently have 171 signed up members plus those joining at this Festival. At his time last year we had 41 members. Sounds like we are doing something right! (after report information indicates we signed up an additional 14 members in Chicago)

Jay Bartley spoke on the options we have pertaining to “Going it Alone” or becoming A BHS affiliate. After some discussion and explanation regarding BHS Affiliate status a poll was taken and there was little support for pursuing Affiliate status with the BHS.

There was some brief discussion about the positive effects of wearing the shirts, name tags and BQPA pins could have. It was thought that wearing these articles at barbershop functions would create interest and possibly lead to added BQPA growth.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. Let’s sing!

Jack Martin
For the BQPA BoD