

Far Western District

Special Board Meeting

February 19, 2021

7 PM ZOOM

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm by President Bill Rosica

Roll Call:

Board Members Present. Bill Rosica, Nick Papageorge, Jim Maass, Rich Owen, Kathy Kileen, Rich Postal, Chuck Roots, Adam Kaufmann, Brett Littlefield, Rob Menaker and Craig Hughes. Kyle Williamson was absent.

Management Team Present: Jeremy Loper, David Melville, Kenny Roos.

Guest Present: Donna Hisey of Expedia Cruise Travel. Judy Galloway from Evergreen District.

Agenda Topic for this special meeting: The Far Western District Contest and Convention at Sea in October....Carnival Cruise.

President Bill began the meeting by introducing David Melville and Judy Galloway for a presentation. The presentation addressed alternatives the FWD could do in the event the October Convention at Sea was called off. David presented options using virtual technologies. His approach was “Anything is better than nothing.” Looking to the BHS virtual model he suggested the FWD could do something similar. One option was to rent the BHS software used for the Midwinter convention. He indicated costs could range from \$3000-\$4000 plus \$10 per participant. A second options is being used by EVG District, Event Farm is the developer, and the title would be West Coast World. It would provide virtual meeting for lectures, group gatherings, virtual conventions etc. and the license would be for the full year. Cost \$27,000 to be shared with EVG. There was some discussion.

It was then suggested that maybe this discussion was the “cart before the horse” since the board had not yet discussed or taken any action on the agenda topic for the evening—The October FWD Convention at Sea. At this time discussion switched to the FWD October Convention and Contest to be held aboard the Carnival Cruise ship.

Donna Hisey, Expedia Cruise Consultant gave an update on the status of the ship that will be used and that it was ready and awaiting CDC approvals. There will be test cruises starting shortly to check out all the Covid related upgrades before the sailing public will be allowed on board.

She also reported that the deadline for passenger cancellation for a deposit refund has been extended by Carnival to March 13, 2021. This will be the last deadline extension.

There were quite a few questions and answers and discussion. This biggest issue: Should there be a contest on board? The discussion centered around those barbershoppers who have registered and that it appears that there is more spectator registered for the cruise and very few contestants—either chorus members or quartet members. President Bill expressed concern that if there is “no contest” many will cancel their booking. After some discussion, the following motion was made.

It was moved and seconded to cancel the contest portion of the convention at sea. Motion Passed, All Aye. There will be no FWD contest on the cruise. However, there was some further discussion that there might be alternate contest/convention plans made. Details to be determined.

After a very lengthy discussion regarding “should the FWD convention on the ship be held at all?”-- the following motion was made by Rich Owen and seconded by Craig Hughes.

The Far Western District will withdraw sponsorship of any contest or barbershop related events to be held on the October 2021 Carnival Cruise. Motion passed. 10 voting yes, and two absent.

General discussion continued regarding how to get the word to the members that there will be no FWD sponsored Contest and Convention aboard the Carnival Cruise ship in October. Donna also indicated a desire to organize a “barbershop event” aboard the ship independent from any official FWD participation. A survey will be developed and sent out within the next several days to see what interested there might be.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Maass
Secretary
Far Western District