



SAGINAW TO HOST SPRING PRELIMS...
APRIL 26 - 27 - 28

SPECIAL CONVENTION ISSUE



MARCH, 1979

pioneer
TROUBADOUR



Fran Durham, Pioneer District Logopedics Chairman
 14851 Stahelin, Detroit, Michigan 48223
 Phones: Business, 313 751-3410; Residential, 313 272-0892

Fourteen chapters won the coveted Harmony Foundation Award for their contributions of \$10.00 or more per man, on a per-capita basis, to the Institute of Logopedics. A special congratulation to the Benton Harbor Chapter with a membership of 45 men who raised \$1250.00 for Logopedics, for a per-capita giving of \$27.77 per man. Twenty nine chapters in the District contributed monies, which is fantastic! In addition, eight quartets made contributions to Logopedics during 1978. The total contributions from the Pioneer District amounted to \$12,266.47. We should congratulate ourselves for such a fine showing. The following is a listing of the Chapters which have won the Harmony Foundation Award plus the quartets which contributed. The awards will be presented during the Saturday Evening Quartet Finals at the Spring Convention.

Fran Durham
 Pioneer District
 Logopedics Chairman

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Contribution</u>	<u>Membership as of 12/31/77</u>	<u>Per-capita</u>
Benton Harbor	\$ 1250.00	45	\$ 27.77
Boyne City	320.00	27	11.85
Detroit	1415.00	131	10.80
Grand Rapids	1541.92	104	14.83
Grosse Pointe	1002.70	99	10.12
Jackson	520.00	52	10.00
Milford	200.00	19	10.52
Monroe	520.00	52	10.00
Oakland County	1315.14	104	12.64
Port Huron	643.88	52	12.38
Saginaw	500.35	46	10.87
St. Joseph Valley	325.00	27	12.03
Traverse City	435.00	43	10.11
Wayne	1210.50	98	12.35

CHAPTER CONTRIBUTIONS

QUARTETS CONTRIBUTING

Cereal City Chord Committee
 Crosstown Exchange
 Danny's Boys
 The Endangered Species

The Major Event
 Motor City Music Company
 The Trolleyville Tuners
 The Very Idea

Pioneer
TROUBADOUR
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PIONEER DISTRICT
 S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., Inc.

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 and sent directly to:

D. William Fitzgerald, SPEBSQSA Inc.
 6315 Third Avenue, Kenosha, Wisconsin 53141

Acknowledgements will be sent to contributors
 and a record of the contribution sent to me.



a message from-

Mr.
President



Pat yourselves on the back, Pioneer Barbershoppers. We were the only district in the Society that increased its membership during 1978. On December 31, we had 1475 members; 23 ahead of 1977. Thanks to our two new charters of Livingston County and Huron Valley.

Another happy thought is that the Troubadour will again be coming to you on a regular basis. I thank Roger Morris who edited the 'Troub' for the past number of years. Roger is extremely busy editing P.R.O.B.E. and had to step down as our editor. For months I have tried to find a replacement. It has not been easy. Who wants another job?

The Troubadour will be put out by four men. The bulk of the work will be done by Rusty Ruegsegger of Oakland County, as its editor. Send all copy to Rusty. The publishing will be done by Dick Barber of Grosse Pointe; mailing by Roger Morris of Milford, and billing for the advertising will be done by John Gillespie of Kalamazoo. Truly, ours is a District publication!

Since this issue is a convention issue, I'd like you to think about my following remarks.

Attending both of our District Conventions each year should be part of the total programming for every Chapter. There is no better place to get rededicated to Barbershop than at a convention. It is an oppor-

tunity to hear some good quartets and choruses, do some woodshedding and tag singing with guys from other chapters, to renew old friendships and make some new ones.

Men who attend conventions don't drop out of Barbershopping!

Let's put winning in the proper perspective. There are always several fine choruses and quartets who have the potential to win any given contest. But there are many more that at the present time are far away from that standard of musical excellence. Is the contest not for them too? It sure is!! The best quartet or chorus is the one that is singing. They are having the fun of participation, while the others must listen. The last time I directed a chorus in a contest, we had fewer than the minimum 20 men. We sang, received the loudest applause (because Barbershoppers know how to "Encourage"), and were "first" in our division - "Ineligible Choruses". Were we happy? Did we have fun? You decide.

My challenge to every chapter is to attend the District Conventions and enter at least one of the contests this year, regardless of the number of men you can put on stage. Under your chapter achievement scores, it does not ask where you placed, but rather did you enter the contest.

If your chapter does not enter a contest, then picket your meeting place with a sign saying, "This Chapter Is Unfair To Chorus Singers".

There is more to Barbershopping than five minutes on a contest stage. Competition should be part of your chapter's yearly programming. Every man who joins the Society deserves the right to stand on stage and soil himself in public. Let's put the results of a contest in the proper perspective.

Doran McTaggart



MARCH, 1979

Coming
Events

- 2-3 - Wayne
- 10 - Huron Valley
- 24 - Grosse Pointe
- 24 - Livingston County
- 24 - Port Huron
- 31 - Grand Rapids

(more next month)

SAGINAW TO HOST SPRING CONVENTION

APRIL 27, 28, and 29

by Fred E. Garrett

SAGINAW -- Saginaw says welcome back to the 1500 Barbershoppers in the Pioneer District of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America (SPEBSQSA)!

It's been a long, long time.

Not since October, 1951 --- 28 years ago -- has Saginaw had the honor of hosting the "MGMMFPHS" --- Mighty Gathering of Men's Magnificent Four-Part Harmony Specialists.

On April 27, 28 and 29, Saginaw will host the 1979 Pioneer District Spring Convention at the Saginaw Civic Center.

Two quartets will be chosen to represent the Pioneer District at the 1979 International at Minneapolis, Minn. (July 2 - 7).

And the top Gold and Silver division men's choruses will be matched at Saginaw with championship trophies and plaques.

"When you all leave," said Paul Ward, president of the hosting Saginaw-Bay Chapter, "we hope it's with a tug on the heart and a smile on your face.

"That's because we're going all out to make our convention's theme and battle cry - 'Leave 'Em Laughin' - a reality," said Ward.

He said his chapter members and hostesses promise to be so truthful it hurts.

"We'll tell you where the best and least expensive meals can be had...We'll tell you where the best and least expensive entertainment can be found...And, if you've got a gripe at any time, we want you to let us know.

"Then, we'll go all out to get those grim looks off your faces...and leave you smiling," he said.

The Saginaw Civic Center is right downtown in Saginaw, at the intersection of Johnson and Washington. All competition will be held in the 2312-seat music hall-theater in the Civic Center called the "Heritage Theater."

And the Downtown Saginaw Mall -- which is attached to the Civic Center by an overhead walkway over Johnson Street -- is where choruses, on Saturday, will be getting into their different uniforms.

Quartets will get clothes-changing accommodations in the Heritage Theater part of the Civic Center.

Housing Chairman is Fred E. Garrett -- 3850 Bellenca, Saginaw, MI 48064...telephone

(517) 753-8034 home or 752-7171 office (Saginaw News). He said he will try to find quarters for everybody.

"We've got 410 rooms reserved. That'll take care of anywhere from 410 to 1,640 Barbershoppers -- if you figure four to a room which is the maximum," said Garrett.

The biggest slug of rooms (120) will be at headquarters, Holiday Inn-East. But -- as you might suspect --- early registrations have almost filled the headquarters.



The headquarters motel for the Pioneer District's 1979 Spring Convention is the Holiday Inn - East (above) at the intersection of I-75 Expressway and M-46. (Saginaw News Photo)

"We've told the seven reserved motels not to accept individual reservations from Barbershoppers. They ALL must be made through me," said Garrett.

"Those reservations have to be in writing...with names. And they have to be complete and in my hands by April 1 -- that's April Fool's Day -- it's a Sunday.

"You'll get return confirmation and directions -- to your chapter presidents or AVPs -- two weeks later," he said.

You will, however, have until April 13 to register your groups through Registration Chairman, Tom Peil, 5389 Two Mile Rd., Bay City, MI 48706...telephone 684-2932. That is the absolute registration deadline, April 13. Costs --- Pre-registration, all events, \$9 each; at-the-door, all events, \$11, and individual show tickets, \$5 each.

Other reserved motels are Holiday Inn-West (100 rooms); Ramada Inn (75 rooms); Red Roof Inn (60 rooms); Best Western of Bay City (30 rooms); Curry's (25 rooms); and Levi's (10 rooms).

Price ranges for the motels, said Convention Chairman David Donnelly, are from \$20-a-day to \$35-a-day... "that's the general price range for motels in Saginaw," he said. "There are no indoor swimming pool accommodations at any of the motels." Dave's address -- 321 S. McClellan, Bay City, MI., 48706...telephone 894-2637.

Donnelly said the Holiday Inn-East (headquarters) and the Holiday Inn-West are about four miles apart -- as the crow flies.

"But the Saginaw Civic Center is right in the middle. So it's two miles (all expressways or one-way) both ways," said Donnelly.

He said the Best Western at Bay City is 12 miles north. "But it is right next to the I-75 Expressway and you have a direct route -- picking up the I-675 By-Pass north of Saginaw -- all the way to the Civic Center," Donnelly said.

There are, he commented, several other motels in Saginaw if you wish to make contact yourself (see map).

"We hope you all have a terrific and rewarding time," said Donnelly. "If you have any more questions, please contact one of us at any time. We'll do our best...but we won't promise miracles."



This is the multi-million dollar Saginaw Civic Center in downtown Saginaw where the 1979 Pioneer District SPEBSQSA Spring Convention will take place April 27-28-29. In the foreground is Johnson Street, an east-west street that fronts the Civic Center. Washington Street -- one of Saginaw's main arterials -- is out of the picture at the extreme left. "Heritage Theater" -- site of the convention --- is the tall building (right) behind the Sports Arena.

Behind the Civic Center is the I-675 Expressway which will make it easy for Barbershoppers to get to the convention from their motels. The Civic Center is attached to the Saginaw Downtown Mall by a walkway (just visible, extreme right) over Johnson Street. Choruses will change and warm up in the mall before competing the afternoon of Saturday, April 28. Quartets will change and warm up in the Heritage Theater. (Saginaw News Photo)

1979 SPRING CONVENTION - PIONEER DISTRICT, SPEBSQSA - SAGINAW
Hosted by the Saginaw-Bay Chapter

-- SCHEDULE OF EVENTS --

FRIDAY (April 27)

12 noon to 5 p.m.	Pioneer District Board Meeting	Holiday Inn - East
5 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.	Convention Registration	Holiday Inn - East
9 p.m.	Quartet Preliminaries	Saginaw Civic Center

SATURDAY (April 28)

8 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Convention Registration	Holiday Inn - East
9 a.m. to 11 a.m.	House of Delegates Meeting	Holiday Inn - East
9 a.m.	Logopedics Meeting (tentative)	Holiday Inn - East
1 p.m.	Chorus Competition	Saginaw Civic Center
8 p.m.	Quartet Finals	Saginaw Civic Center
11 p.m.	Afterglow	Holiday Inn - East

-- CONVENTION OFFICERS --
(All from the Saginaw-Bay Chapter)

<u>Office</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Phone (517)</u>
Chairman	David T. Donnelly	321 S. McClellan, Bay City 48706	home 894-2637 office 776-3134
Housing	Fred E. Garrett	3850 Ballenca, Saginaw 48604	home 753-8034 office 752-7171
Registration	Tom Peil	5389 Two Mile Rd., Bay City 48706	home 684-2932
Treasurer	Leonard Johnson	3477 Bedford, Bay City 48706	home 684-4005 office 755-8121
Secretary	Carl Secor	3317 E. Shane, Bay City 48706	home 686-1150
Auditorium	Gene Weston	706 Sophia, Bay City 48706	home 684-4893
Judges	Bob Loomis	410 W. Maple, St. Charles 48655	home 865-6748 office 865-9945
Programs/Tickets	Fred E. Garrett	3850 Ballenca, Saginaw 48604	home 753-8034 office 752-7171
	and Leonard Grandel	3895 Boeing, Saginaw 48604	home 754-8665
Hospitality	Bob Reisinger	7161 Hospital Rd., Freeland 48623	home 695-9592
Logopedics Raffle	Dennis Keyes	1812 Ninth, Bay City 48706	home 893-3450

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR.....

When Doran asked me to take the editorship of the Troubadour, I immediately began giving him all the reasons why I couldn't. He persisted, and I finally gave him a list of conditions under which I would take the job. One by one he fulfilled those conditions, so now I guess it's time to put up - or shut up!

As I told Doran, I'll do the editing, as long as there's something to edit. As long as you fellows do your part, I'll try to do mine -- fair enough?

When Doran and I examined what lay a-

head, I thought the first issue would be the April issue. We soon realized that that would mean little or no publicity for the Spring Convention, so I agreed to put out this "special convention issue."

Please take into consideration that it is a "rush job" -- there'll be time to "pretty-up" the next one. But the thing to do now, is get the information out -- and quickly! If you have suggestions, criticisms, things you'd like to see included, etc., let me hear from you. OK?

Rusty



BARBERSHOP CONVENTIONS IN SAGINAW --
A HISTORY.

by Fred E. Garrett

SAGINAW -- over 10,000 days!

That's what it will be between the 1979 Pioneer District Spring SPEBSQSA Convention in Saginaw on April 27-28-29 and the last time a Barbershop convention was held in this city.

It was October 13, 1951 - a Saturday, 10,059 days (27 years, six months and 14 days ago) --- that the Pioneer District (then the Michigan District) held its convention in this industrial city on the Saginaw River.

Of course, the site had been chosen long before.

And Saginaw had been the site of SPEBSQSA conventions in 1943 and 1946.

The death nell for Saginaw may have been sounded back in the February, 1946, convention when the Saginaw News said of the "7th annual state contest" which was held at the Saginaw auditorium (now a parking lot just south of the Saginaw News):

The audience was so big (2,000), it almost put bulges in the walls of the auditorium...Popularity of the SPEBSQSA state convention has grown to such proportions that it appears doubtful Saginaw can entertain the organization another year because of the auditorium's limited capacity."

What may have been helpful was that J. M. Dollenmaier, of Bay City, -- only 15 miles north of Saginaw -- on May 5, 1951, in Sault Ste. Marie, had been elected

"state" president. At that time, the paper said, there were 56 SPEBSQSA chapters in the state. Today there are 33 chapters in the District.

At the time, the "Harmony Halls" of Grand Rapids, then a past international championship quartet, were the toast of the state along with the "Tune Vendors" of Dowagiac. Carroll P. Adams, of Detroit, was international secretary in 1951, and shared master-of-ceremony duties during the Saginaw convention with Dollenmaier.

Jarvis B. Albro was acting president of the Saginaw Chapter -- No. 6 in Michigan -- with Charles Sarle, the immediate past-president.

Quartet preliminaries were conducted at 2p.m. that Saturday afternoon in the old Bancroft Hotel. The state's top five were chosen during finals that night in the old auditorium.

Can you imagine? Some 2,000 paying customers jammed in to hear the finals... and they weren't all Barbershoppers!

Oh, the choruses were there. But there was no serious competition at that level until 1953.

The state champs were the "Merrie Men" of Lansing -- Dale Bulek, Douglas Stephens, Louis Bean, and Howard Hawkins. Second place went to the "Bel-Aires," of Grosse Pointe, and third went to the "Crow Matix," of Muskegon.

Novice champions were the "Forefathers" of Muskegon, with the "Town Criers" of Kalamazoo, the junior champs.

And the battle cry of the whole state could be heard echoing down from a Tulsa, Okla., fellow named Owen C. Cash, who -- back in 1938 -- had yelled out the birth of the Barbershoppers:

"Forget the 5-cent cigar...What this country needs is more Barbershopping!"

Our sentiments exactly...



This is downtown Saginaw, showing the Saginaw Civic Center (center) lying along and below the I-675 By-Pass Expressway which goes east-west through the city. The "Heritage Theater," where the Convention will be held, is the taller building (upper right) attached to the rear of the Sports Arena. The Downtown Parking ramp is just south of the Sports Arena and the Downtown Shopping Mall is attached to the parking ramp by walkways. The Mall (in the picture) is just to the right of the ramp. (Saginaw News Photo)



Musical Notes from the Big Bear

W. D. 'Bill' Butler, D.M.E.
33748 Pawnee Drive
Westland, Michigan 48185
Phone 313/721-4747

Well, fellow Barbershoppers, it has been a long, dry spell since you last heard from me. I sincerely hope that our wonderful Troubadour is back to regular publication, and continues to be the great means of communication it has been in the past.

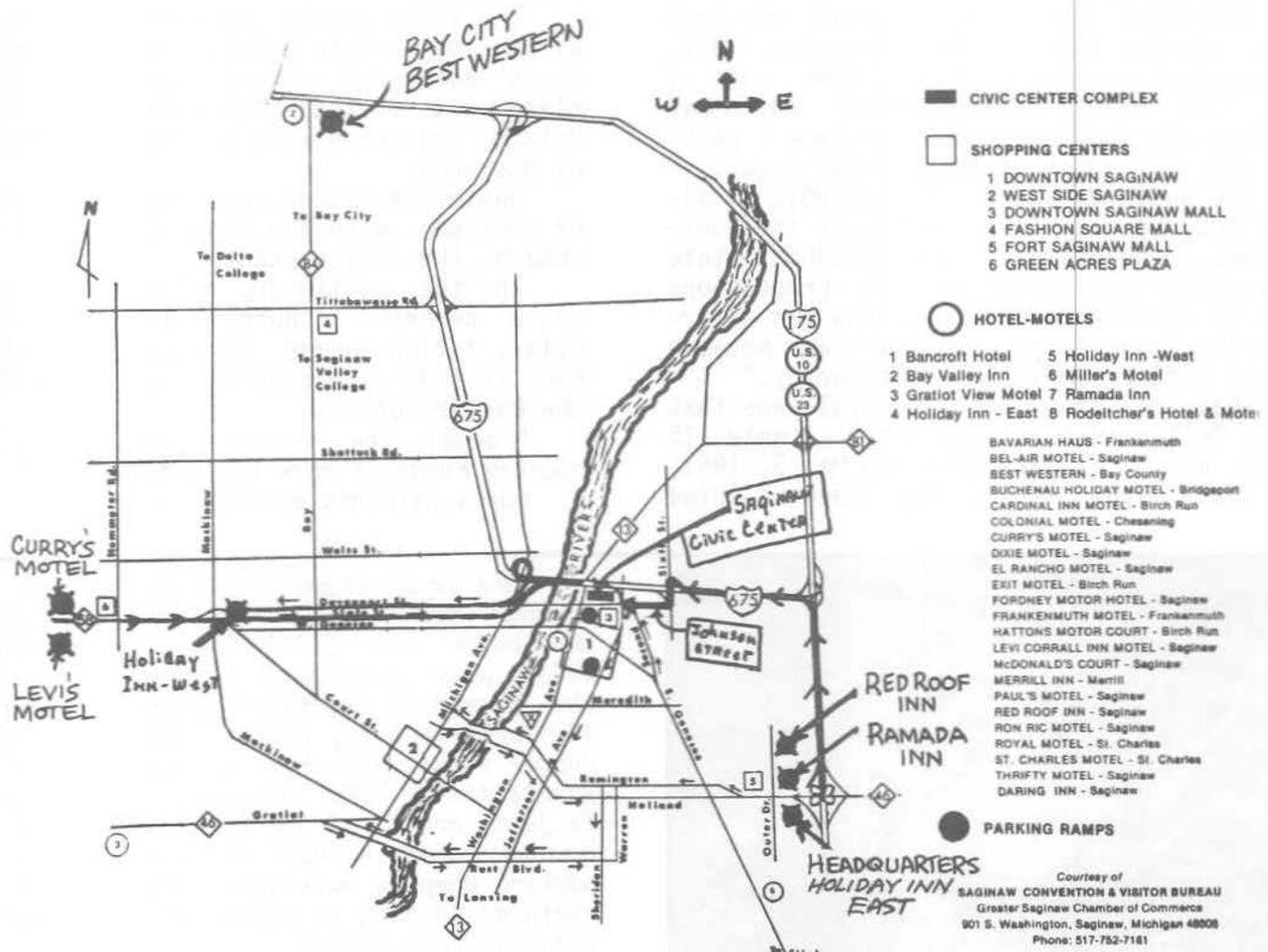
For those of you who attended our very first annual Pioneer Harmony Round-Up (Mini-Hep) last September 15, 16, 17, I'm sure you'll be happy to know that the

second Pioneer Harmony Round-Up will be held September 14, 15, & 16, 1979. Hopefully, those of you who didn't make it last time, will make sure you don't miss it this year. Be sure to keep that date open. It is a fantastic weekend of fun and learning with something for each and every Joe Barbershopper.

Our Quartet and Coaching Clinic, being held March 9, 10, & 11, 1979, should be all filled by the time you receive this, but if you really are interested in attending, call me at (313) 721-4747, and we will probably be able to squeeze you in. It will be an unforgettable learning experience for you, either as a quartet or coaching student. Your cost is only \$35.00 per man. That includes two nights lodging and four meals and all fees. Bring your tape recorder and be there.

Yours in Harmony,

W.D. 'Bill' Butler



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PIONEER DISTRICT CHARTER FLIGHT

1979 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION - S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., INC.

JULY 2, 1979 - JULY 8, 1979

FROM DON FUNK TO ALL PIONEER DISTRICT MEMBERS, FAMILIES, & FRIENDS

Yes, the PIONEER "Charter" is on, (this year, because of the distance) none of the "Carriers" would charter, but with persistence, and the help of VILLAGE TRAVEL, an excellent opportunity is available to fly to the Convention in Minneapolis.....
HERE'S THE SCOOP.....

ROUND TRIP - DETROIT / MINNEAPOLIS...AND...GROUND TRANSPORTATION

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FARE.... \$ 117.00 PER PERSON (based on recently approved Group Rate for NORTHWEST ORIENT AIRLINES), and here is what it includes,..ROUND TRIP (DETROIT METRO - MINNEAPOLIS), SURFACE TRAVEL (THAT'S BUS) VIA JEFFERSON BUS LINES, (They are the wonderful folks who lugged us around Kansas City - BOOTH AND ALL)...by the way, (so we don't have to come back and ask for more money....5% has been added to the AIR TICKET as an INCREASE is anticipated July 1, 1979, (Fuel Clauses, Etc.). AS USUAL ON ALL PIONEER CHARTER EFFORTS, SHOULD THE RATE INCREASE NOT OCCUR, A REBATE WILL BE MADE...

DEPARTURE..... DETROIT METROPOLITAN AIRPORT

JULY 4, 1979 - NORTHWEST FLIGHT # 55

CHECK IN TIME 9:00 AM - DEPARTURE 10:00 AM
(YOU MUST BE ON TIME FOR CHECK-IN)

RETURN..... LEAVE MINNEAPOLIS

JULY 8, 1979 - NORTHWEST FLIGHT # 54

CHECK IN TIME 1:30 PM - DEPARTURE 2:30 PM

THIS SHOULD PUT US INTO DETROIT BY 5:30 PM

DEPOSIT FOR EACH PERSON OF \$ 50.00 MUST BE MADE BY MARCH 15, 1979

BALANCE OF FARE MUST BE PAID BY MAY 15, 1979

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND MAIL, (1) WITH DEPOSIT, (2) ADDRESSED, STAMPED ENVELOPE

VILLAGE TRAVEL, c/o PIONEER CHARTER FLIGHT, 750 FOREST, BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN 48008
(313) 646-4181

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_____ \$ _____
ADDRESS AMOUNT

_____ CITY, STATE, ZIP ZIP CODE

_____ MEMBER'S SIGNATURE PHONE NUMBER

Grand Rapids—

It sure is great to have the "Troub" back in action again and we hope it enjoys a full and long life.

I guess the biggest event in our chapter has been a new and exciting Director, Clay Shumard; yep - the Bari of the Vagabonds, and exciting he is! Needless to say, a lot is happening in our chapter since Clay took over. You'll see it all this Fall.

Bob Buffham, who was our very capable Director, had to step down due to starting a new business which needed his full attention. Bob, along with Fran Jones, though, are assisting Clay and doing one heck of a job.

The chorus is working very hard learning new music, moves, etc. for our March 31st Great Lakes Invitational which will feature the ever-popular Suntones and the OK Four. The date is March 31st, and tickets will be \$3, \$4, & \$5:00.

They may be purchased from:

Bob Jeltema
4357 Briar Ridge
Rockford, MI 49341
Ph (616) 866-4881

Also, for any of you Bulletin Editors, if you would like to receive our bulletin, "The Four Cast", contact:

Dick Williams
504 Leonard NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

We are looking forward to seeing you all at the Spring Convention, and we wish to thank everyone of you that came to Grand Rapids for making that another successful Convention. We were thrilled and honored that you came and hope that you had as much fun and enjoyment as we did - Thanks.

It's great to be a Barbershopper.

Dick Williams

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PIONEER  DISTRICT

SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION AND ENCOURAGEMENT
OF BARBER SHOP QUARTET SINGING IN AMERICA

It's time to enter Pioneer bulletin contest

We are off to a late start, as usual, but Pioneer District bulletin editors desiring to compete in this year's contest should get their entries in the mail by March 20th so they can be judged and entered in the Society's competition.

While there are four categories to be judged on the district level, the International contest will be judged by the new 3-category format. Editors should have published a bulletin in their chapter for past year on a regular basis. Send four copies of three consecutive issues to district PROBE chairman Roger Morris, 325 E. Wardlow Road, Highland, Michigan 48031. The two bulletins judged as best in the district will be automatically entered in the International contest, with winners to be announced at the general PROBE meeting in Minneapolis in July.



Quartets! Choruses! COACHING BY TAPE

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contact:

Mac Huff
11721 Parliament #1703
San Antonio, Texas 78213

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