



pioneer TROUBADOUR



S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A.



APR·MAY 90



VOLUME 41 NUMBER 2

PIONEER TO CELEBRATE 50TH

Historically...

It all started on June 8, 1940 when two historic events took place. The first was the organization of the Michigan Association of Chapters which we now call the Pioneer District. The second event was the first "Parade of Quartets" ever held in the Society that same evening.

At the time there were four chapters in existence in Michigan, including Detroit, Lansing, Grand Rapids, and Flint. All of these chapters were organized in 1939. Joe Wolff, who was the president of the Detroit Chapter, issued invitations to the other three chapters to join it in organizing a state association of chapters. The meeting was arranged in Detroit at the Book Cadillac Hotel. It was at this meeting, with all four chapters in attendance, that the Michigan District (now Pioneer) was born, the first district in the Society.

A constitution was adopted and officers were elected. These officers were Carroll P. Adams, President; Ed Schwoppe, Vice President; Guy Stoppert, Secretary, and Roscoe Bennett, Treasurer. It is interesting to note that each of the four chapters had one officer elected, with Adams representing the Detroit Chapter, Schwoppe the Lansing Chapter, Stoppert the Flint Chapter, and Bennett the Grand Rapids Chapter. (CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

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Exciting Spring Convention Planned

CONVENTION PLANS

by Jim Styer

Cards, Cash, and conviviality--that's the 50th Anniversary Convention of the Pioneer District.

The district--the Society's first--celebrates its 50th birthday at its spring convention April 27-29 in Battle Creek.

A display of all the birthday cards received from barbershoppers and fans will be unveiled at 5:30 p.m. Friday in the Stouffer Hotel Lobby--reminiscent of the 50-foot birthday cake celebration two years ago.

Some very special and unique cards will be included. Betty Ann Cash, daughter of Society founder Owen C. Cash, will unveil the display. Quartets will provide appropriate music, including "Our Golden Days," especially prepared for the district by prolific songwriter Einar Pedersen of New Orleans.

The new song also is to be sung by the Wayne RENAISSANCE Chorus, outgoing champs, after the quartet finals which start at 9 p.m. Saturday; copies will be provided to all chapters.

Betty Cash will be introduced to barbershoppers during the Saturday afternoon competition, and says she wants to meet as many barbershoppers as possible at the convention. Arrangements are being attempted to have an interview with her aired on TV sets in all Stouffer Hotel rooms during the weekend.

Continuing what has become a convention tradition, a free barbershop show will begin at 5 p.m. Saturday at McCamly Place, adjacent to the hotel. The Wayne chorus will lead off, followed by a mass sing, then quartets until 7 p.m. when the Phoenix Big Band will take the stage for listening and dancing. (CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

A TIME FOR CELEBRATION!

by Mike Cirrito

A 50th Anniversary represents a significant milestone, one that deserves attention and proper recognition. This year, the Pioneer District will be celebrating its Golden Anniversary as will several chapters. Various events will be taking place, both at the chapter and district levels, to commemorate this special occasion.

Since the summer of 1989, I have been working on plans for a singular event to honor the Pioneer District for its 50 years of barbershop harmony. That event will take the form of a week-long barbershop exhibit in the magnificent new State Library and Historical Museum in Lansing which is located four blocks west of (behind) the State Capitol Building. The exhibit will feature a barbershop quartet made up of four mannequins in appropriate attire, an audio-visual sequence of quartets and choruses singing at an international convention in addition to a variety of items that will also be on display at our April Convention in Battle Creek.

Opening day for this exhibit is scheduled for Monday, April 30, 1990 (on the heels of our spring convention), commencing at noon and running through Saturday, May 5th. Plans for opening day include the presentation of a proclamation to the district from Governor James Blanchard (we hope to see him there in person), as well as the presentation of a concurrent Senate/House resolution.

Of course, such an event would not be complete without quartet entertainment, so several quartets will be scheduled to perform during the lunch hour. If your quartet is interested in participating on opening day, or perhaps during lunch hour on another day during

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

LOGOPEDICS



PIONEER DISTRICT LOGOPEDICS CHAIRMAN

Alex Willox
38174 S. Rickham Ct.
Westland, MI 48185
Res: (313) 728-6865

At this time I wish to thank all of our chapters for the great response to Logopedics in 1989. A special thank you to the 15 quartets who took part in the giving. Top honors go to the FURNITURE CITY CHORD COMPANY who collected \$1,065.67 which is \$266.40 per man, a wonderful effort. (Editors Note: Last year they contributed over \$2000 to Logopedics. That's over \$3000 in two years! WOW!)

I would like to encourage all our quartets to take part in this program. When you are performing don't be afraid to ask for a donation to Logopedics. As you know, both your chapter and quartet get credit for your work. Why sing for free when you can raise funds?

Did you know that the Pioneer District leads all others in per capita at \$28.16 per man? However, there is always room for improvement and I believe we can do better than this. Please support your Logopedic's Chairman and give regularly. The Institute does wonders with our dollars, as "We Sing That They Shall Speak!"

QUARTET LOGOPEDICS CONTRIBUTIONS

CALENDAR YEAR 1989

QUARTET AMT. CONTRIBUTED

FURN.CITY CHORD CO.	\$1065.67
THE LAST GOODBYE	500.00
LONG AND SHORT OF IT	500.00
THE IVY LEAGUE	250.00
LEGACY	150.00
COLLECTOR'S CHOICE	142.50
SONGS 'R' US	136.00
THE VOCAL GENTRY	100.00
SOUND AMBASSADORS	75.00
BLUE PLATE SPECIAL	64.00
THUNDER BAY CLASSICS	50.00
HARMONY SEEKERS	44.37
SMORGASBORD	30.00
PAST TENSE	30.00
THE VERY IDEA	25.00

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS \$3162.54

A BARBERSHOP QUARTET



John, Jerry,
Ken, Gene

Call: GENE BEATY
(H) 313 522-7040
(B) 313 584-3900

Pioneer TROUBADOUR

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



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CHANGES OF ADDRESSES

The TROUBADOUR is mailed with labels supplied by our International Headquarters. If you have moved, or plan to change your address, please notify your Chapter Secretary and International Hdqtrs., SPEBSQSA, 6315 3rd Ave., Kenosha, WI 53140-5199. Give them your name, Member Number, Chapter Number, your old address, and your new address. This will insure your continued receipt of the TROUBADOUR. DO NOT CONTACT your editor, as he cannot effect a change of address, and this will only cause unneeded delays in the delivery of your TROUBADOUR and your HARMONIZER. Failure to notify in this manner results in your district paying the U.S. Post Office forwarding and return postage fees!

THE PRESIDENT'S



CORNER

PIONEER DISTRICT PRESIDENT
MIKE O'DONNELL

Recently I purchased a set of tapes authored by Earl Nightengale entitled, "Lead the Field." The first tape was about "The Magic Word" which is none other "ATTITUDE". His thrust of ideas was that our attitude toward ourselves and others can shape our lives. Excellent attitudes, excellent results. Good attitudes, good results. Poor attitude, poor results. How often this has been true in my own life and, I suspect, in yours as well.

There is an ATTITUDE I'm going to ask all of you to change (if it applies) and it is an attitude that our audiences want nonbarbershop music sung in the barbershop style. My friends, there is nothing further from the truth!

Already this year I have attended a number of chapter shows in the district at your invitation. I have seen good choruses (not great--just good) get a standing "O" for their "barbershop" presentations. I've seen excellent singing choruses get polite applause for shows made up of 80 percent nonbarbershop music. I heard an International Championship Quartet (1982) singing a show and glow without so much as one barbershop song! Again, polite applause even though they are beautiful singers. The newest tape from our 1978 champs is mostly a collection of nonbarbershop songs. Lovely singing, but the one song that will really get you excited is "pure" BARBERSHOP.

Burt Szabo recently sent an open letter to all quartets in the winter 1989-1990 Quartet Newsletter. In it, he detailed how at a recent district convention, quartet after quartet sang non-barbershop. He closed with this: "If barbershop music dies, ceases to exist, or fades from view, it will be the quartets who have killed it--not the audiences, not the judges, not the people who attend conventions and purchase tickets. No, it will be the uncaring, uneducated, and foolish quartets who deliver the final coup-de-grace to an American art form. Wake up before it's too late!"

I suggest that our choruses might be just as guilty! But it is not too late to change our ATTITUDES! Insist on

singing barbershop! Insist that the quartets you hire sing barbershop! If they won't--don't hire them! We do not have to apologize for this. We bill ourselves as barbershoppers. Our audiences pay good money to hear barbershop music! Yes, it's fun to sing nonbarbershop now and then, but we owe it to our audience to inform them if it isn't barbershop. If we are going to bill ourselves as a barbershop chorus and sell tickets, we'd better sing mostly barbershop.

Will you join me in "PRESERVING" our hobby? After all, that is what we are all about and we should never lose sight of it. Fill all the world with song but, for me, let those songs be barbershop!

We are rushing headlong toward another convention in Battle Creek on April 27-29, 1990. It is then we choose our quartet reps to international, conduct the business of the district, select a district chorus champ and gather in song with our friends from around the district. It is also one of the main ways the district raises money to pay for the services we provide the chapters. We need your support to be at the convention and make it a success.

Each chapter is required to send representatives to the House of Delegates meeting on Saturday morning and everyone is invited to attend the District Board Meeting at 1 p.m. on Friday. Saturday evening, after the dust has cleared from the finals, will be another sensational chorditorium under the direction of Russ Seely. For me, this is the highlight of the weekend.

Progress Report: Pioneer District Five Year Plan. Well under way with seven or eight Past Presidents indicating a willingness to help. We hope to have this ready to present by the Fall Convention.

Many of you have called to offer your support or help. Thank you! This is what truly sets our organization apart from others--volunteers who help without being asked first. They are the ones who make it easy for me to keep an excellent ATTITUDE about barbershopping and for whom the saying "It's great to be a Barbershopper" really is for, just that! See you all in the spring.



the... FURNITURE CITY CHORD COMPANY
...barbershop quartet...with:

contact: ray grutter	ray grutter - bass
5407 claudia se	dave kutter - bari
kentwood, mi 49508	rom thomet - tenor
hm 534-4273 bus 451-6358	iim westveld - lead

ERNE NICKOSAN TO REPRESENT INT'L AT DISTRICT CONVENTION

Ernie Nickosan from the Cardinal District will represent the International at our spring convention in Battle Creek on April 27-29. Ernie was recently elected to the Executive Committee of the International Board with his term beginning in January of this year.

Ernie retired from International Business Machines after 30 years of service to that corporation. Prior to retirement, he was an administrative assistant to the manager of the maintenance department.

A 25-year member of the barbershop harmony society, Nickosan has sung in a number of quartets in the Lexington Chapter and won an international championship singing with the THOROUGH-BREDS Chorus of Louisville. He has served as an officer of both the Lexington and Louisville Chapters.

In 1972, Nickosan became a vice president of the Society's Cardinal District, composed of the states of Indiana and Kentucky. He became district president in 1976 and served on the international board of directors in 1978 and again in 1984. He currently serves as chairman of contests and judging for the Cardinal District.

Ernie is married; he and his wife, Norma, have one daughter. Be sure to welcome Ernie and his wife Norma when you see them at our spring convention. They are most welcome to help us celebrate our fiftieth year as a district, the first in the Society.

1991 midwinter venue changed

As a result of the Super Bowl dominating the entire Tampa Bay, St. Petersburg and Sarasota areas on the dates our midwinter convention was scheduled, arrangements have been made to change the dates and the location.

According to Ken Buckner, manager of conventions and meetings, the convention will be held in Tampa instead of Sarasota and the dates will be Monday through Sunday, January 28 -February 3, 1991. Make your vacation plans accordingly.

SAN FRANCISCO SOLD OUT!

Ken Buckner has also advised us that the 9400 registrations for the 1990 International Convention in San Francisco have been sold out. Registrations received after March 13 will be held and filled on a space available basis. Those sending in registration requests after the cutoff date will be so advised and will have the option of canceling their order or leaving it in queue.

The Executive Pitch



by our Executive V.P.
ROGER LEWIS

Whenever someone sits down to write an article, armed with only a blank sheet of paper, the first question is, "How do I start?" From somewhere a voice says, "Start at the beginning!" So I will.

In 1954, the Grand Rapids Chapter visited high schools in the area, encouraging the music teacher to form barbershop quartets in the school, and have them enter a contest the night prior to the Great Lakes Invitational. The winner would get to sing their two songs on the show, in addition to receiving a clothing allowance for uniforms. I sang in a quartet in that contest and finished in the top ten (as I recall, there were only eight quartets competing.) And the "bite" by the "barbershop bug" has stuck!

But there's an honest-to-goodness reason for this story. This April, we're holding a Junior Quartet Contest on the weekend of the spring convention. It's a tremendous opportunity to get youth involved in our Society. They are our future--the growth and continuing existence of this great hobby of ours. Just listen to our current district champs, POWER PLAY, and you'll see how good three young voices can make some of us older guys sound. (Sorry, Jack, I just couldn't resist it!)

A few weeks ago, I had the privilege of attending the Louisville THOROUGHbred's rehearsal on a guest night. They had 90 members present and 60 guests! When I commented to Allen Hutton that I'd like to meet their membership VP, he replied, "It isn't just one person. It's all of us and each of us that invites others, pick them up, follow up, etc." What better proof that President Charlie McCann's "Membership begins with Me" approach really works.

If our editor hasn't run out of space and "edited" some of this, let's turn our attention to just one more item, the HALL OF FAME. If you have a member that is deserving of this prestigious award, nominations are due to me, Roger Lewis, prior to the spring contest. A nominee must have been a member of the district for over 10 years, and made contributions to the chapter, district, and international in the areas of administration, music, and other service activities.

CORRECTIONS TO 1990 PIONEER DISTRICT DIRECTORIES

PLEASE MAKE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES IN YOUR NEW 1990 DIRECTORIES:

Richard "Stan" Williams' business phone should be listed as 517/322-5996 under the officer's listing of District Treasurer, under District Committees as convention committee and finance chairman, and under the Lansing Chapter as their treasurer.

Jack Sidor, 1483 3 Mile Road N.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49505, phone (R) 616/361-1198, (B) 616/456-1466, should replace Ron Thomet as Area Counselor for the Holland and Muskegon Chapters.

Ron Thomet should replace Darrell Vande Hoef as the Area Counselor for the Kalamazoo and St. Joseph Valley Chapters.

The GREAT LAKES CHORUS from the Grand Rapids Chapter should be listed as the chorus representative to Kansas City, finishing 15th in 1989.

The spelling of Wichita for Fran Jones' address under Past Presidents and COTS Faculty should be corrected and his business phone direct dial should be 817/855-7217.

Bob Mulligan's address under Judges should be 29611 Ford Road, Garden City, MI 48135. His home phone should be 313/422-0586 and his business phone should be 313/422-0585.

Larry Parker's home phone should be 517/372-8389 under District Officers.

Len Schweitzer's address should be changed to 16014 Spencer, East Detroit, MI 48021, under Division V Area Counselors.

Mike Cirrito's home phone under District Officers should be changed to 517/485-0938 as well as under committee appointments.

Roger Lewis' address should be 20125 on page 7 under District Officers and page 17 under A.I.C. and Area Counselor of the Year Committees.

Jeff Gougeon is the new Music Director of the Macomb County Chapter. His address is 38421 Harper, Mt. Clemens, MI 48043. His phone number is (H) 313/465-2794 and (B) 313/264-5700.

Steve Sutherland should be deleted as Music Director of Detroit-Oakland.

Jim Dugan's Area Counselor responsibilities should be Dearborn, Monroe, and Wayne. (Page 13)

James Carter, President of the Huron Valley Chapter should have his address corrected to 212 S. Revena, Ann Arbor, MI 48103. (Page 32)

(CONVENTION PLANS - From Page 1)

A district historical exhibit will be displayed during the convention, then shown the following week at the Michigan Historical museum in Lansing. A kickoff ceremony will be held during the lunch hour Monday, April 30, at the museum.

A district sponsored chorditorium will be held in the Branson Ballroom after the Saturday night finals. Space will be provided for quartet performances, woodshedding and just plain conviviality. Admission is \$2, which includes refreshments.

A Barbershopper's Shop will be operated throughout the convention by Detroit-Oakland, the host chapter. The district will provide a ladies' hospitality room.

(TIME FOR CELEBRATION - From Page 1)

the exhibit, please call me by April 20! I can be reached during the day at 517/373-7984 or in the evening at 517/485-0938.

If you have the opportunity to be in or near the Lansing area during the week of our exhibit, please be sure to stop by and see it. You will not only be impressed with the facility, but will be proud of our display which will be viewed by by thousands of visitors who pass through the museum each week.

MIKE CIRRITO is the Immediate Past President of the Lansing Chapter having served in that post for four consecutive years. He currently is Vice President for Public Relations for the chapter and was recently elected to the Pioneer District Board as the Director of Convention Planning and Special Events.

CHORUS DIRECTOR WANTED

THE LANSING CHAPTER IS SEEKING A NEW CHORUS DIRECTOR. THE CHAPTER BOASTS A HARD WORKING MUSIC TEAM AND AN OUTSTANDING ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM. ANYONE INTERESTED SHOULD CONTACT:

FRANK RICHARDS @ (517) 321-0404

INTERNATIONAL BOARD BRIEFS



By International Board Member
EARL BERRY

The Mid-Winter Convention was held in Tucson, Arizona January 22-27. Having to attend a board meeting in the middle of winter in a warm climate isn't all that bad.

Some of the important items discussed included the following:

A change was made as to the minimum requirements needed for licensing and chartering chapters. Henceforth, it will be possible to license a chapter with 12 members and only 16 will be required for granting a charter; 75 percent of these must be new members--men who have never been members or have been out of the Society for more than a year. The minimum number of men on stage to comprise a legal competing chorus was reduced from 20 to 12, including the director if one is used.

Changes in the Contest and Judging System. A score of 1828 shall qualify a quartet to compete in San Francisco in the 1990 International Quartet Competition. Beginning with the spring contest in 1991, the Sound Score will be multiplied by 1.5. This will be conducted as a two-year experiment and then reevaluated.

A provision was adopted directing each district to install a plateau system for its fall chorus contests. Each district will have a minimum of three plateaus.

The non-singing time has been eliminated in the Stage Presence Category beginning with the fall contests. The Stage Presence judge will have 100 points per song, the same as in Sound and Interpretation.

The origination of special effects is restricted to the "on-stage" area and any such effects are to be operated by the quartet members only.

Membership late renewal fees have been increased to \$3.

The barbershop credit card in its initial debut has generated almost \$8,000 in 1989. If you have not already signed up for a barbershop credit card please consider it--we receive a commission of 1/2 of 1 percent on all purchases from this "new found" money and it gives the Society financial support to maintain our dues and fees and implement new programs.

Bids from Atlanta, Detroit, and Pittsburg for the 1994 international convention were voted upon, with Pittsburg winning on the second ballot. Personally I was quite disappointed. I felt that Detroit was the city for 1994. We owe a big thank you to Bob McDermott and crew who put on a first class presentation in trying to obtain the bid.

The next recipient of the prestigious Honorary Membership in the Society is Bill Hanna of Hanna-Barbera Productions.

Harmony Round-Up

by Jim Stephens

Gentlemen, now is the time to start planning to attend the PIONEER DISTRICT 1990 HARMONY ROUND-UP. Friday evening, August 24, 1990, begins the round-up at the Michigan State University campus in East Lansing, Michigan.

The week-end school ends just before noon Sunday, August 26, 1990. That allows plenty of time to get home and cut the grass before dark. MSU provides all the bedding, towels, washcloths, soap and glasses plus three meals

Saturday and breakfast on Sunday. Most of the classrooms are air conditioned, at least the big ones.

DME Stephens has already secured the coaching services of Ken Buckner and Dave LaBar. LaBar is well known here in Pioneer as the energetic quartet promoter from the Society staff. However, he now lives and works in Florida and is the lead singer in the SIDEKICKS. Buckner comes from a brilliant Louisville background of quartetting, directing and coaching in THOROUGHbred country. He is presently working for the Society in Kenosha.

In addition to the quartet coaching opportunities, individual barbershoppers can sign up for a variety of classes. Fundamentals of Music I, Vocal Techniques (a very popular class), History of Barbershop, and Arranging. For the chorus director, assistant directors, section leaders, and anyone who might have an interest, we have a class called "Motivating a Chorus" which is a seminar-like approach to solving director's concerns.

The site is set. The faculty is being hired. The prices are based on 120 men in attendance. \$80 per man covers everything except your Friday night/Sunday noon meals. These are on your own since you will be traveling. Refreshments at the Saturday evening "bash" are also extra.

Make this a chapter project! Get your chapter board to subsidize all or part of the cost for you. (A legitimate chapter expense, by the way.) Quartets, sign up early! This helps determine how many coaches to hire.

International Seniors Quartet Champions, 1988

Tenor:
Bob Reidenbach

Lead:
Bill Brooks

Bass:
Ralph Shank

Baritone:
Sam Love



The Silvertones

Contact:
Sam Love
(216) 477-7847
1718 Woodlawn
Ave. N.W.
Canton, Ohio 44708

<p>INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATIONS Individual registration fee includes two nights lodging, coaching fees, materials, all meals Saturday and breakfast Sunday. Full Payment \$80.00 - Commuters pay only \$50.00 - Minimum deposit \$30.00</p> <hr/> <p>QUARTET REGISTRATIONS Quartet registration fees includes the same as individuals. Full payment \$320 - Commuters pay only \$200 - Minimum deposit \$120 for all four members.</p> <hr/> <p>Fees not refundable after August 1, 1990</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">APPLICATION FOR PIONEER DISTRICT MINI-HEP "HARMONY ROUND-UP"</p> <p>YES! I want to be included in Pioneer's weekend school "Harmony Round-Up" being held at MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY, East Lansing, MI on August 24-26. Enclosed is my deposit/full payment of \$_____. Make checks payable to the Pioneer District.</p> <p>NAME _____ Chapter _____</p> <p>or QUARTET _____ Phone () _____</p> <p>ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Number Street City</p> <p>Mail to: JIM STEPHENS, 6335 Clarendon, Canton, MI 48187 (PH 313-459-4011)</p>
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SPOTLIGHT
on
LOGOPEDICS



Dr. Fran Durham

In previous issues I talked about how we happened to adopt the Institute of Logopedics as our United Service Project. In these articles I will provide answers to questions that barbershoppers frequently raise about the Institute. I will answer four additional questions in the next issue.

1. What is the enrollment? There are a variety of programs at the Institute. Students enter and leave programs any time during the year and the length of stay varies depending on the nature of the child's impairment. As a result, there isn't a simple one-number answer. Here are some figures provided by the Institute.

A. Residential School - 1988, total served - 100; 1989, total served -93. During this two year period, students were enrolled from 30 states.

B. Other programs: Clinics; Infants, toddlers, preschoolers - 1988, total served - 599. 1989, total served -531.

Audiology Services (primarily older adults): 1988, total served -3645. 1989, total served - 4645.

2. Are there any students from the Pioneer District? The answer is no. This is why I've said several times, "We need to be 'active', not 'passive' recruiters." The Illinois District, for example, has 21 students, the Southwestern District 19. In my next article, I'll talk a little about the kinds of students (types of impairments) the Institute serves.

3. What portion of the Institute's budget do SPEBSQSA contributions cover? It covers about 15 percent. In recent years, Harmony Foundation has provided between \$650,000 and \$750,000 annually. The Institute budget has ranged between 4.5 and 5 million dollars. The Society's Golden Anniversary Fund Drive of 1988 brought in \$1,024,000, which was 20 percent of

the Institute's budget for the year. 1989 brought in \$700,000.

4. How are barbershoppers funds used? The monies are used to "fill the gap" between fee revenues and total expenses, primarily in the form of financial aid (fee subsidy scholarships) to families enrolling children in the residential school. Virtually all students receive some financial aid which ranges from \$800 to over \$2000 per month, per student.

5. Does the Institute charge fees? Yes. Fees are essential to the Institute operation comprising roughly two-thirds of the revenues. Contributions provide most of the rest. Neither fees alone, nor contributions alone, could cover the full costs.

6. How much are the fees? Fees are based on costs, and vary from one service to another. Fees for residential school placement average about \$200 per day, depending on the individual program needs.

From the pen of Your Editor



WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO OUR CHAPTER BULLETINS?

Does your chapter have a bulletin which is published on a monthly or on a regular basis? If not, why not? It seems that for some reason or another our chapter leadership teams just don't put the emphasis on good communications at the chapter level. That is where Public Relations should start, right in our own chapters! We've added public relations courses at COTS and public relations officers to our administrative teams to expand our overall image in the community in which we live, yet we fail in the one area which is of prime importance and that is communicating with our own members.

Why? In this age of computers, it's hard for me to believe that you can't find one member in the chapter who isn't capable of putting out a bulletin on a regular basis. Keeping your members informed is an obligation of the chapter officers. To not keep your members informed is a dereliction of duty, in my book!

There are many advantages for a chapter administrative team to have an ongoing news bulletin. It can cut down on all the announcements at chapter meetings allowing more time for what we do best, singing. It keeps the wives informed as to what we're up to and that's important. It can be used to entice prospective members of our chapter and our Society to come enjoy our singing and camaraderie. And the list goes on...

And that leads up to my next point. This year, for the first time in thirty years at least, we did not have one entry into the district bulletin editor's contest! What a shame that a district as progressive as ours has let this slip. The contest is a learning experience for the editor. His bulletin is critiqued by some of the best editors in the country with the ultimate objective of improving the message to our chapter members. Even if the bulletin is only one page, it still is important to keep our members informed on what they need to know and the format we use can always be improved.

It seems the mere fact that we call it a contest intimidates many editors, and it shouldn't! If I had my druthers, I would call it a bulletin editor's review rather than a contest, just to get away from the stigma attached to so-called "contests."

For the last two years I have taught Bulletin Editor Classes at COTS, and we've had six or seven new editors in each class. What bothers me is that of those who attended, only about two or three are publishing regular bulletins that I know of. What's become of the others? It may be that they're not sending me their bulletins if they are (and I hope that's the case).

The important point in all of this is that we have to keep our members informed on a regular basis, and that good PR starts at home. Remember, a successful chapter is an informed chapter, and you can only do that with a regular bulletin!

HOST CHAPTERS STILL NEEDED FOR CONVENTIONS

by Mike Cirrito

The District is urgently in need of chapters to host the Spring '91 and Fall '92 Conventions. If your chapter is interested or wishes to co-host with another chapter, please let me know as soon as possible. This is a great opportunity to learn while you earn extra bucks for your chapter. Won't you please help?

Contact Mike Cirrito, Director of Convention Planning and Special Events, 1714 Vassar Drive, Lansing, MI 48912. Phone (H) 517-485-0938 or (W) 517-373-7984.

Attention: New Quartets

COME TO BOYNE CITY FOR BUSH LEAGUE!

by Bill Woodbeck

Do you belong to a novice quartet which is looking good but is short on experience? Would you like a taste of competition but aren't yet ready to plunge into District competition? Well, there is an event right here in Pioneer District which is made just for quartets like yours. It is the Boyne City Bush League Contest and Show, now named the Loton Willson Bush League in honor of its founder.

The Boyne City Chapter proudly announces the 45th Annual Bush League to take place at the Boyne City High School on Saturday, May 5. The Quartet Contest starts at 2:00 p.m. and the big variety show starts at 8:00 p.m.

This event was born 45 years ago to give novice quartets an opportunity to compete in a regular contest against other inexperienced quartets. Any quartet can enter provided it has never placed in the top three in district competition and provided it has never been in international competition. The rules are the same as for regular international competition with one exception--there is no penalty for not being in costume.

Bush League gives your quartet a golden opportunity to get valuable experience under real-life competitive conditions. You are judged by qualified judges who hold a clinic immediately after the contest to give you their evaluation of your performance. Many past district champions won their first contest at Bush League. One Bush League Champion quartet went on to become International Champions.

Last year's champs, the EXPANDED SOUND from Grand Rapids, will appear in the Saturday night shown as will the new 1990 Bush League Champs and the Runners-Up. This years feature quartet will be the BLUE RIBBON COALITION from Gratiot County.

There is no entry fee. To enter simply send the name of your quartet, the names of your members, the name and address of your contact man, your chapter affiliations, to Bill Woodbeck, 7234 Barney Rd., Alanson, MI 49706. Deadline for entry is the morning of May 5, the day of the contest. However, if you want your quartet's name to appear in the show program, then enter by April 16. Registration (9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on May 5) is at the Dilworth Inn in Boyne City.

Why is Bush League still going strong after 45 years? Maybe it is because, in this wonderful hobby of ours, there is no thrill like winning or placing in your first competition. This is the excite-

ment of Bush League. The quartets love it. The audience loves it. This is barbershopping at its best.

Whether or not you compete in the contest, come on up to Boyne City on May 5. It is a fun-filled weekend of barbershopping, and it is a lovely time of the year up here in Boyne Country.



MANY PIONEER DISTRICT CHAPTERS WILL BE CELEBRATING THEIR ANNIVERSARIES IN 1990!

The following are chapters in our district who will be celebrating anniversaries during the coming year.

CHAPTER	CHARTER DATE
<u>50 YEAR ANNIVERSARIES</u>	
Saginaw, MI	Sep. 28, 1940
Muskegon, MI	Oct. 1, 1940
Lansing, MI **	Dec. 7, 1940
<u>45 YEAR ANNIVERSARIES</u>	
Grosse Pointe, MI	June 25, 1945
Holland, MI	Dec. 31, 1945
<u>35 YEAR ANNIVERSARIES</u>	
Battle Creek, MI	Oct. 5, 1955
<u>15 YEAR ANNIVERSARIES</u>	
Clinton Valley, MI	Aug. 14, 1975
<u>10 YEAR ANNIVERSARIES</u>	
Coldwater, MI	Mar. 27, 1980

** An error exists in Kenosha's records. Lansing was chartered in September of 1939, and they were one of the four chapters who helped organize the district on June 8, 1940.

DETROIT LOSES IN VALIANT BID FOR '94 INT'L CONVENTION

Despite a valiant effort on the part of SMAC (Southeast Michigan Association of Chapters) organization and the Metropolitan Convention Bureau, our bid to host the 1994 International Convention in Detroit was turned down by the International Board at the Tucson Midwinter Convention in favor of Pittsburg. The final tally on the second round of voting was 14 for Pittsburg and 10 for Detroit. Atlanta had been eliminated in the first round. The meeting took place during the week of January 24-28, 1990.

The convention bid team was headed up by Bob McDermott, Earl Berry, and Bill Warner representing SMAC and Rick Moses and Bill McLaughlin who represented the convention bureau. A solid business package was presented to the board, but most of them apparently preferred Pittsburg. John Gillespie was present also to help represent the district.

The wives, Mimi Berry, Dot McDermott, Nell Warner, and Betty Gillespie did a tremendous job in hosting the delegates in the hospitality room the night prior to the board meeting. All in all, the overall presentation went well, but the voting in our favor didn't. This was our fourth year in a row in attempting to host the convention.

While we are not willing to throw in the towel, we will probably not attempt another bid at least for another two or three years. Who knows, someday we may get lucky!

NOTICE OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND HOUSE OF DELEGATES MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN OF THE PIONEER DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING AND THE PIONEER DISTRICT HOUSE OF DELEGATES MEETING IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SPRING CONVENTION:

THE DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 1990, AT 1:00 P.M. AT THE STOUFFERS HOTEL, BATTLE CREEK MICHIGAN.

THE DISTRICT HOUSE OF DELEGATES MEETING WILL BE HELD SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 1990, AT 8:00 A.M. AT THE STOUFFER HOTEL, BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN. ALL CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD BE IN ATTENDANCE.

This notice is given as required by Article 7.03 of the Pioneer District Bylaws. All district board meetings are open to all Society members.

CHICAGO NATURAL GAS

RAY HENDERS
KEN EIDSON
PHIL SCHWARZ
LYNN HAULDREN, 929 Central Wilmette, IL 60091 (312) 251-8346

"The Barbershop Quartet with the Built-in Beat"

Benton Harbor-St. Joe**DISTRICT NEWS**

by William Riekels

The Benton Harbor-St. Joseph Chapter has gotten off to a good start for 1990.

The new officers for 1990 are: John Strunk, President; David Cole, Program Vice President; Roger Valentine, Music Vice President; Dr. David Bors, Secretary; David Emerson, Treasurer; William Riekels, Public Relations Chairman; Gordon Kesterke, Membership Vice President; and Vern Tollas, Logopedics Chairman.

Thanks to Dave Cole, a new schedule of activities at our regular meetings has been established.

We continue to get invitations to sing in April and May. One of our members, Ralph De Vries, recently retired from work and we sang at his church in his honor.

A unique event is coming for our chorus. The newly named ladies' group, the SHORELINE SOUNDS, has invited us to sing with them in a show scheduled for May 19. The ladies are handling the main part of the preparations. Believe me, these gals can sing and are really enthused.

Starting this year Stub Kesterke will take attendance at each meeting and will give special recognition to individuals with the best record at the end of the year. Another innovation is a monthly newsletter put together by Dave Bors.

Thanks go to all those who are working in various capacities to make our chapter vibrant.

Clinton Valley

by Al Fisk

The Clinton Valley HEART OF THE HILLS Chorus is alive and well and continuing to grow (membership near 40). Our new officers for 1990 include Don Reddy, President; Ron Peters, Program VP; Bob Brown, Membership VP; Gary Glomstead, Music VP; Marey Latvilippe, Secretary; Wayne Andrews, Treasurer; Burke Cueney, Publicity VP; George Schmidt, Board Member at Large; and Bill Taggart, Past President.

We are also very proud of our own James Masalskis. This talented young bass is now singing with the up and coming quartet--GREAT ESCAPE.

Finally, we wish to announce our Logopedic's donation is a whopping \$70 per man (right behind the district leader--Pontiac). The last issue of the Troubadour erroneously reported our donation as \$20 per man.

Watch for our new young quartet, the ULTERIOR MOTIVES at contest. The chapter supports our young men and we wish them all the best.

Detroit-Oakland

by Tom Uicker

DOC rose to the occasion and put together another great show for our 50th annual Parade of Harmony. Near capacity crowds braved the icy weather to hear those old "Broadway Memories" sung by the GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS Chorus. Of course, how can you lose with headline quartets like SECOND EDITION, IVY LEAGUE, and ACCOLADE. The only note to dampen the festivities was the announcement by Steve Sutherland that, due to job pressures, he would regrettably have to step down as director and pass the baton to someone else.

Despite the loss of our primary director and the hospitalization of associate director Don McDaniel, the show must go on. Assistant directors Darl Wiley, George Bartlett, and Paul Bergman led us through a well received performance at the Greenfield Presbyterian Church on March 16.

Now we are gearing up for the district convention and contest. This year we will display our talents on stage and off as we serve as your convention hosts. Chairman Terry Webner assures us that everything will be running like clockwork before he hightails it to Australia, dumping the last minute details on his assistant Rene Le Blanc.

Though the convention is the next major hurdle, it can't be the end of the story. We come back immediately to perform at Tel-Twelve Mall on April 30. In addition, May 21 is the target date for a much needed membership drive.

Mark down June 8 as the night for the "Return of the Jug". This is always a big event at DOC as we feature the two quartets that will represent our district in international competition in San Francisco. The "Jug" has been traveling from chapter to chapter throughout the district, and is supposed to be returned to us that night by whichever chapter has possession of it at that time. The money in the "Jug", plus an additional contribution of \$50 from DOC, will be divided between the two representative quartets for travel expenses to international competition. This year we plan to hold these festivities at the Bonnie Brook Golf Club on Telegraph Road just south of Eight Mile Road in Detroit.

Looking forward to serving you in Battle Creek!

(Edit. Note: Tom Uicker is the new co-editor of the Detroit-Oakland "Gentlemen's Songster" bulletin. Tom has been doing a terrific job of editing our weekly "Update", and has agreed to replace old Herman Schwarzenegar as the reporter for DOC to the "Troubadour.")

Grosse Pointe

by Jim Kinner

Well, it must be almost the fifteenth of the month, 'cause here I am pushing to get the article over to McDermott before the deadline.

We had our Past President's and Old Timer's night last month. It was quite humorous to see that the old timers were also the presidents and vice versa. Each past president had to select his own quartet and enter competition. The singing was judged by "ole tin ear," Eric Ernst. He really did an excellent job. Herb Reid, the oldest member and past president, led his quartet to victory. John Wade told us all how it was in the old days. It made me envious of the fun those guys had. The dinner fare was linguine el Franko. I had to leave early because I'm on a diet.

We had our Ladies' Night at the Blossom Heath on Lake St. Clair again this year. The party was great, as always. One important ingredient of Ladies' Night which isn't strictly for the ladies is naming the recipient of the Grosse Pointe Barbershopper of the Year. As pointed out by the nominating committee, this isn't for the best singer in the chapter, nor can one decide on January first that he is going to work and earn this award. It is given to a guy who is a leader and a contributor to the advancement of the chapter. This year, Mike Proffitt was bestowed the honor of being the Grosse Pointe Barbershopper of the Year. I know the committee had a tough time narrowing down to one selection, but they did an excellent job. Congratulations, Mike!

I see that CAN-AM is back, and this I like, but I don't see the Send-Off on the schedule. Are we alternating each year now? (Edit. Note: Yes!)

By the time this is published our annual show will be over and so will the spring convention. It was a great show and a fabulous convention! (Edit. Note: This edition will hit the streets about the first of April. Your show is April 20-21, and the convention is a week later. Have you checked with your physician concerning this memory problem you have had lately Jim? By the way, I expect a full report on the North Carolina Golf trip next issue from you, since I won't be along to win all the trophies!)

DISTRICT NEWS

Huron Valley

by David Spizarny

It is an exciting time at Huron Valley. Our March 3 show was a unanimous success, and the compliments keep coming in. The extra rehearsals payed off as spirited choreography, considerable variety, and outstanding solos by Kelly Brummett and Lyle Hanson set a standard of excellence for future shows.

HERE COMES TREBLE, a comedy quartet from Canada, charmed the audience with music and humor. The CHIEFS OF STAFF certified their International Champion status with performances that astounded and delighted. The Huron Valley HARMONIZERS left the auditorium smiling, content in a job well done.

Although the list of people deserving gratitude after a chapter show is lengthy, we owe special thanks to Ed Aluk. Ed's creativity, teaching skills, and tolerance formed the backbone of the show, and his skills are beginning to bring us to our potential. Pete Theisen, Afterglow Chairman, also deserves special thanks. Turning a near disaster into our most successful afterglow in years was no easy trick, and Pete deserves much credit.

The hard work continues at Huron Valley, as we prepare for April's chorus competition. See you in Battle Creek.

Kalamazoo

by Lee Snow

Last night our chorus, for the 49th time in our history, walked onto the stage and sang, from the heart, to a large and delighted audience at Chenery Auditorium in Kalamazoo.

The Kalamazoo MALL CITY Chorus, lead by Ed Fritzen, opened our performance of "Grandpa's Attic." The AIRE-DO-WELLS, the KEYNOTE ADDRESS, the BLUE PLATE SPECIAL, the GENTLEMEN'S QUARTERLY, and an octet called EIGHT IS ENOUGH, sang barbershop music to all. We had the audience really enjoying our harmony judging from the applause.

CHECKMATE, doing their first show as a quartet, started the second half of the evening. Hey, these guys are the one's to watch for in competition, after KEYNOTE ADDRESS of course! Thanks men, for a great performance.

The headline quartet NOTE-WITS, after much trouble with foggy weather, flew into town, missing what else, a piece of luggage. Not to be deterred, they tramped out on stage and knocked the socks off the crowd.

Now we can relax again with a feeling of having performed well, and as we start practice of our songs for our part in the spring competition, we feel the emotion and desire to sing as a unit growing.

The Kalamazoo Chapter, with Dan Connor as Membership VP, will be implementing the "Membership is Me" program which will be implemented in late May. He hopes to achieve around 10 or more new members. The plan is to bring in as many former members and new members as we can, and along with our present members form a neat chorus to headline our "50TH ANNIVERSARY" show.

The Kalamazoo Chapter wishes well to all chapters, and we'll see you in Battle Creek in April.

Muskegon

by Imre Bryant and Fred Kendall

January was an active month here in Muskegon trying to maintain schedules for our 50th Anniversary show at the Frauenthal theatre on March 31. Gordon Gunn, our show chairman, has been on top of all his show committees making sure that no one is lagging.

One example of his concern is our show program. This year it is in the form of a twelve page tabloid newspaper. It will carry nostalgic articles on the early days of barbershopping in Muskegon. Eight thousand copies of the paper will be printed and distributed in our West Michigan area.

Our director, Webb Scrivnor, has organized the show music and we are progressing in good shape--Webb is having assistant director Mart Bomers lead one number on the show and guest director Al Burgess will front the group on an old goodie. Al Burgess was the director of the Muskegon PORT CITY Chorus in its hey days from the mid 50's to the mid 60's. Under director Burgess, Muskegon represented the Pioneer District at International five times in a seven year period.

Fred Kendall, our PR Director, was in charge of our January money raiser. We manufactured and sold 1300 submarine sandwiches. On the evening of January 24 the chorus assembled in the Dr. Martin Luther Lutheran Church kitchen, and with speed and expediency, the sandwiches were assembled and packaged in a little over three hours. This is our fifth go at submarine sandwiches and our group is now becoming very professional.

Our Barbercat Pole program is a constant, under the able direction of Ed

Bont and Imre Bryant. Imre has kept records on those members complying with the program and the result is a lot of fellows are singing in quartets who otherwise would stay seated.

In January, our chorus signed an agreement with the NBD Bank in Grand Haven to appear on the 200th Anniversary Program for the U.S. Coast Guard Festival in Grand Haven, MI. Grand Haven is known nationally as Coast Guard City, U.S.A.

On February 1, Jack Sidor, our new area counselor, and two members of the Grand Rapid's Chapter, paid us a visit, and, along with Webb on tenor, the three participated in our Barberpole program. We appreciated their coming. On February 7 Jack also attended our February board meeting. He was able to add words of wisdom to the board from his vast past experience in barbershopping.

Sault Ste. Marie

CHORUS GETS STUCK!

by Graham MacHattie

Twenty-three members of the Sault Ste. Marie Chapter Chorus spent an unscheduled half hour on an elevator half way between the first and basement floors of the local General Hospital at Christmas time. They had planned to sing to patients all through the hospital, but had to settle for singing in the elevator. The attractive young lady who was to have guided them around was a captive audience, you might say.

By the time an elevator maintenance man reached the hospital and released the captives, the chorus was twenty minutes late for their performance in front of the Hospital Volunteers Dinner.

Now they know that 23 barbershoppers are too many for that elevator!



"It translates to, 'Chorus practice at 8 o'clock!'"

Coming Events...

APRIL, 1990

- 7 GRAND RAPIDS Chapter Show
- 7 WINDSOR Chapter Show
- 7 SWAN VALLEY Chapter Show
- 8 PONTIAC Chapter Show
- 20-21 GROSSE POINTE Chapter Show
- 27-29 PIONEER DISTRICT Convention and Contests, Battle Creek, MI

MAY, 1990

- 5 BOYNE CITY "Bush League" & Chapter Show
- 12 CADILLAC Chapter Show
- 19 MILFORD Chapter Show
- 26 ALPENA Chapter Show

JUNE, 1990

- 2 WESTERN MICHIGAN SEND-OFF Show, Big Rapids, MI
- 16 CAN-AM Jamboree - Chatham, ONT
- 16 TRAVERSE CITY Chapter Show

JULY, 1990

- 1-8 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION AND CONTESTS -San Francisco, CA

AUGUST, 1990

- 24-26 HARMONY ROUND-UP - Michigan State University, Lansing, MI

NOTE: All Chapter Show Activities must be cleared through the District Secretary, and the appropriate ASCAP, BMI, and CAPAC (Canada only) fees paid. Only shows that are cleared through the District Secretary will be listed above.

PLEASE NOTIFY:

Jack Schneider
1311 Northlawn, N.E.
Grand Rapids, MI 49505
Res. (616) 361-6820
Bus. (616) 771-5225

BUCKEYE INVITATIONAL II

by Mark Pomeroy

The second Buckeye Invitational will be held August 10, 11, and 12, 1990, at the Palace Theatre in Columbus, Ohio. The first annual Invitational in 1989 was a rousing success!

Detroit Oakland Chapter, S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A.
Robert McDermott
1859 Maryland
Birmingham, MI 48009

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AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE PIONEER DISTRICT ASSOCIATION OF CHAPTERS OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF BARBER SHOP QUARTET SINGING IN AMERICA, INCORPORATED.

The Buckeye Invitational features the choruses and quartets from around the Society which fell just short of competing on the International stage. The weekend is more than just another competition, with the participants being judged in the ENTERTAINMENT category. Each competitor will sing for about 12 minutes, a "mini-show" with two of their numbers judged in the standard judging categories. This format received rave reviews last year for having turned barbershop competitions into entertaining shows.

The LOUISVILLE THOROUGHBREDS will play an exciting part of this year's Invitational. On Friday evening, they will fill the air with great barbershop harmony at the Ohio State Fair. On Saturday evening they will close the quartet competition at the Palace Theatre.

Competing quartets will be determined once the line-up for International is set at the spring preliminaries. Expected to join their North American quartet counterparts, and adding international flavor to the event, is the GENT'S QUARTET from Hertogenbosch, The Netherlands. This is believed to be the first time a quartet from the Dutch Association of Barbershop Singers has competed against SPEBSQSA quartets.

The Wayne RENAISSANCE CHORUS will again represent the Pioneer District.

(HISTORICALLY - FROM PAGE 1)

On the evening of the same day, the Detroit Chapter staged the Society's first Parade of Quartets. This was staged in the ballroom of the Book Cadillac Hotel to start a series of shows that is still going on today. (Detroit-Oakland just staged their 50th Parade of Harmony in February.) Almost all of the quartets on this first show were from the Detroit Chapter which, although having about sixty members at the time, put eight quartets on the stage. One of the nice things about this show was that it proved that people enjoyed our kind of music and were willing to pay to hear it. And that's how it all began...

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S.M.A.C. CALENDAR

SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF CHAPTERS

APRIL, 1990

- 6 MACOMB PRE-BOYNE Quartet Contest

MAY, 1990

- 10 SMAC MEETING - At the home of Bill Warner, 23531 Meadowlark, Oak Park, MI 48237. All SMAC Chapter representatives are requested to attend this meeting! 8:00 p.m. sharp!

JUNE, 1990

- 8 DETROIT-OAKLAND "Return of the Jug" Night @ Bonnie Brook Golf Club, Telegraph Road just south of Eight Mile, Detroit.
- 16 CAN-AM Jamboree - Chatham, ONT

JULY, 1990

- 22 SMAC PICNIC - Camp Dearborn
- 28 BOB-LO MOONLIGHT CRUISE - Leaves Bob-Lo Dock at 8:30 p.m.

AUGUST, 1990

- 11 SMAC GOLF TOURNAMENT - Sponsored by Macomb County

NOTE: The above dates have been cleared by Chapter SMAC representatives. If you have any other dates to be listed or added, please contact Bill Warner @ 542-0581, Bill Wickstrom @ 756-4294 or Earl Berry @ 277-7130.



HIS MASTER'S VOICE
GRAMMOPHONE

Contact: Don Gray
9 Filson Place
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
(513) 421-2413

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