



PIONEER DISTRICT TROUBADOUR

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



DEC '90 - JAN '91

VOLUME 41 NUMBER 6



Checkmate wins District Championship Macomb County Chorus to Louisville

The Pioneer District Fall Convention and Contests held in Battle Creek October 20-21, 1990, proved to be both exciting and interesting. The number of quartets (10) and choruses (11) competing, although down from previous contests, still produced some fine barbershop sounds, and the district can be extremely proud of all of them.

The *Checkmate* quartet from the Wayne Chapter rules as the kings of barbershoppers in the Pioneer District for 1990-91. They were crowned Pioneer District champions in one of the most warmly contested quartet contests this district has seen in quite a while.

In all there were ten quartets of all abilities and experience that appeared before the staff of judges chairmanned by Dearborn's *Larry King*, with two emerging to give terrific battle to the winners right up to the end. In the semi-finals *Broadcast* from the Flint, Grosse Pointe and Macomb County Chapters trailed the leaders by only 27 points, with Gratiot County's *Blue Ribbon Coalition* trailing by 67 points.

In the final set, however, *Checkmate* really pulled away from their rivals with their fine versions of "I Wish I Had My Old Gal Back Again," and "M-A-M-M-Y." The *Blue Ribbon Coalition* scored well enough in their second set to pull ahead of *Broadcast* to take second place overall by just four points. *Blue Ribbon* sang the medley "Baby, Won't You Please Come Home?" followed by the old timer "Heart of a Rose." Apparently *Broadcast's* "How's Every Little Thing in Dixie?" and "In the Heart of My Hometown" didn't impress the

judges as much, although they gave it a good "go."

In the overall totals, *Checkmate* ended up with a grand total of 1767 points, 109 points ahead of the *Blue Ribbon Coalition* and 113 ahead of *Broadcast*.

Other quartets appearing in the order of their finish included the *Great Escape* from the Clinton Valley, Grosse Pointe, Wayne and Windsor Chapters in fourth, Lansing's *Collector's Choice* in fifth, the *Brighter Side* from the Wayne Chapter in sixth, *Gran Prix* from Battle Creek in seventh, *Four Part Formula* from Wayne in eighth, *The Lucky Chances* from Kalamazoo in ninth, and the *Fast Pitch* from the Macomb County Chapter in tenth. *The Lucky Chances* were declared the Novice Champions of the contest, having never competed before.

All of Pioneer's hopes for a fine showing at the international chorus competition in Louisville, Kentucky next July, will be riding on the mantles of Macomb County's *Harmony Heritage Chorus*. The chorus, under the direction of *Jack Slamka*, executed brilliantly in their Irish songs to score 903, 40 points higher than their nearest rivals, the Wayne Chapter *Renaissance Chorus*, under their new director and Pioneer District D.M.E. *Jim Stephens*.

The Holland *Windmill Chorus*, under the direction of *Myke Lucas*, missed the second place spot by a mere two points. Their "soft

shoe" routine with their wooden clodhoppers proved very popular with the audience.

The Grosse Pointe *Lakeshore Chorus*, under the direction of *Russ Seely* and *Carl Uridge*, garnered fourth place, while the Lansing *Capital City Chordsmen* under the direction of *Jim Johnson*, tied with the Detroit-Oakland *Gentlemen Songsters* under their new director *Paul Bergman* for fifth, with the tie breaking for fifth going to Lansing based on their better sound score.

The Cadillac *Inter-Lakes Chorus* under the direction of *Jim Carey* wound up in seventh followed closely by Milford's *Mill Valley Chorus* under the direction of *Darl Wiley*. Rounding out the field of eleven were the Kalamazoo *Mall City Chorus* in ninth, the Benton Harbor-St. Joe *Fruitebelt Chorus* in tenth followed by the Windsor *Sun Parlour Chorus* in eleventh.

In This Issue...

| | |
|------------------------------|--------|
| ADD-A-LINE | 6 |
| ADVERTISEMENTS (SHOWS) | 4,10 |
| BULLETINS | 7 |
| COMING EVENTS | 16 |
| CONVENTION PHOTOS | 8,9 |
| CONVENTION SURVEY | 13,14 |
| DISTRICT NEWS | 11,15 |
| EXECUTIVE PITCH | 5 |
| FALL CONTEST RESULTS | 1 |
| FUTURE CONVENTIONS | 16 |
| LOGOPEDICS | 2,5,12 |
| PRESIDENT'S CORNER | 3 |
| PR OFFICER AWARD | 3 |

PIONEER TROUBADOUR

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CHANGE OF ADDRESSES

DO NOT SEND CHANGE OF ADDRESSES TO YOUR EDITOR! 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 first, then notify International Headquarters, **SPEBSQSA, Inc.**, 6315 3rd Avenue, Kenosha, Wisconsin, 53143-5199. Give them your name, member number, chapter number, your old address, and your new address. This will insure your continued receipt of the *Troubadour*. By doing this you will avoid 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.

LOGOPEDICS



PIONEER
LOGOPEDICS
CHAIRMAN

Alex Willox

We still have a ways to go...

We are again in the last month of the year and contributions have been going well in the Logopedic's corner. We still have a long way to go to reach our goal of \$40,000. It will take every chapter and the help of their quartets to reach this lofty goal. Remember, contributions have to be received at the Institute **before December 28** to count for this year, so don't hold your contributions until the last minute. Get them in as soon as possible!

The Last Goodby and the *Furniture City Chord Company* quartets are in a tight race for the trophy in the quartet section. Here are the quartet standings up until now:

| QUARTET | AMOUNT |
|----------------------|------------|
| THE LAST GOODBY | \$1,500.00 |
| FURN.CITY CHORD CO. | 1,285.48 |
| COLLECTOR'S CHOICE | 369.50 |
| SOUND AMBASSADORS | 270.00 |
| CHECKMATE | 250.00 |
| IVY LEAGUE | 200.00 |
| HARMONIC PROGRESSION | 190.00 |
| KEYNOTE ADDRESS | 150.00 |
| SMORGASCHORD | 100.00 |

I would like to wish all in the Pioneer District a safe and happy holiday seasons and best wishes for the coming year.



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
hmn 534-4273 bus 451-6358 jim westveld lead

THE PRESIDENT'S

CORNER



PIONEER DISTRICT PRESIDENT
MIKE O'DONNELL

Dedication pays off for Macomb

It is fun to see and experience the reactions of the winning chorus after their names are announced as our representatives to the international chorus contest. This year was extra special because it marked the culmination of many long years of hard work and dedication on the part of the men from the Macomb County Chapter. I don't quite remember being hugged so much as I was when I stepped into the lobby of Kellogg Auditorium to congratulate the men who had just had their dreams come true.

It goes without saying that they really have their work cut out for them now as they begin the long journey toward that day in July when they will be announced as the representatives of the Pioneer District in Louisville. Those of us who have been there before know what challenges they have in front of them as they prepare to fine tune their package for what will be the quickest six minutes of their lives. On behalf of the Pioneer District, I congratulate Macomb County for their victory and wish them well. I hope all of you will join me in doing the same.

Not to be forgotten are our new District Quartet Champs, *Checkmate*. They came out with guns a blazin' (so-to-speak) and ran away with the contest. They will be true champions for the coming year. (Edit. Note: Unfortunately the quartet will have to replace their bass, *Scott McNutt*, who has taken a new job which will take him out of the state to Kentucky. Mike didn't know this when he wrote the article.) Congratulations, *Checkmate!*

In the Senior Quartet Contest, the clear winners were *Senior Class*, (renamed the

Senior Connection subsequently). This quartet blew everyone away and, had they sung in the regular district contest, might have won this as well if both sets had been as strong as the one they sang Saturday afternoon. It is my sincere hope they will be able to represent us at the Mid-Winter Convention in Tampa next January.

Our first "Joe Barbershopper" chorus performed well

Our attendance at the convention was not as great as we had anticipated. One of the highlights, however, had to be the performance of our first *Joe Barbershopper Chorus*, under the direction of *Don Bazely*. Thirty or more men sang in the chorus, and with the help of *Mike Slamka*, even managed to put in a little SP as well. All the men who participated enjoyed themselves. We hope this will become a regular feature of our Fall Conventions (who knows--maybe Spring as well).

By the time you receive this, COTS will have been held and your officers will have returned to their chapter meetings full of ideas and pumped up for the coming year. I hope you will give them your support and help if they ask for it. This is a volunteer organization and nothing gets done until someone says he is willing to help. Give these guys all the help they ask for and you should have another great year of barbershopping.

Progress begins with PR!

One of the things your chapter officers are going to hear a great deal about is the theme for the coming year of International President-Elect, *Bob Cearnal* (pronounced Ker-nal). His theme is: PROGRESS BEGINS WITH PR! Bob wants all of us to shed the thought that barbershopping is the best kept secret in town. He's asking us to increase our membership by a minimum of 2%, our attendance at Mini-heps to 12% of the district membership, and have 10% of our chapters involved with DYNAMO. In addition, one of the goals is to have every chapter publish a bulletin (even if it is only one sheet). Finally, we should increase our outside performances by 10%.

I happen to think these are reasonable and attainable goals. Let's remember we are trying to preserve an ARTFORM called Barbershop Singing for future generations. We can only do so if we get out there and introduce new men to our style of singing.

Area Counselors eliminated

In closing, let me remind you of the new changes in the district administration. Effective January 1, 1991, we have eliminated the Area Counselor positions in favor of an Assistant Division Vice President. We will be asking the chapter leadership to meet at Divisional Conferences at least once a quarter to share ideas and to get the help your chapter needs. The DVP's will be scheduling these at the COTS meeting in Lansing.

We have also strengthened the District Music Educator's staff. These men are ready, willing and able to come out to your chapter to help in whatever MUSICAL area (including show production and scripting) you need help in. However, you must ask for them! How? Call DME *Jim Stephens* and tell him what area you need help in. He can get the right man to you. Please use these fellows! That is what they are getting paid the big bucks for. Remember--YOU MUST CALL THEM! Until next time...

Pioneer to offer 1990 Public Relations Officer of the Year Award

You can now get some recognition for that good job you've done as a chapter PR officer. Entries are now being accepted for the Pioneer District's 1990 Public Relations Officer of the Year Award. The award will be presented at the spring convention.

You will also get a professional evaluation of your work and it could be used as a teaching example for other PR officers. The entry can relate to a single project or a program comprised of several different activities.

Begin now compiling your clippings, letters, brochures, tapes, etc. Submit them with a description of your PR program (because all your behind-the-scenes work isn't obvious) and why we're proud of what you accomplished. No minimum or maximum length on this.

Mail entries as soon as possible. Deadline: February 28, 1991. Get started before the Christmas crunch. All DVP's, Area Counselors and chapter presidents are urged to help identify good PR and encourage PR officers to participate in the program.

Submit entries to *Jim Styer*, Director of Communications, 72 Allison Drive, Battle Creek, Michigan 49017.



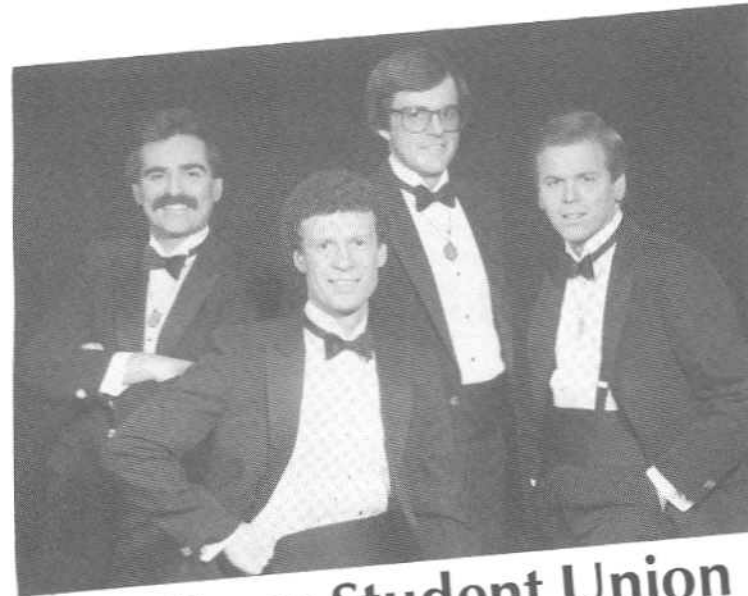
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| _____ Sat. Feb. 16 @ \$10.00 _____ | |
| Total amount enclosed _____ | |
| Call for Friday Group Rates - 562-1989 | |
| *Saturday Afterglow Tickets \$9.00 (Sold only with Show Tickets) | |
| Call Earl Berry for information - 277-7130 | |

THE EXECUTIVE PITCH



by our Executive V.P.
ROGER LEWIS

Hotel deposits required

Those of you who made your hotel reservations for the spring convention may receive a letter from the Battle Creek Visitor and Convention Bureau. It will ask for credit card information or a deposit to confirm and hold your reservation.

For a longtime, we've had concerns about the "no-shows" at our conventions--people who made reservations, then just didn't show up--without calling or notifying the hotel. There's always been a small percentage of this, and the convention committee has discussed it on several occasions, and considered the need for a deposit or credit card guarantee.

This convention was much worse than usual, and the hotels are now requiring a guarantee. It's simply a good business practice, and we have been one of the few conventions who haven't required it in the past.

Most of you have already guaranteed your room(s) with a credit card, so this isn't a new practice for you. You still have the freedom to cancel your room reservations without a penalty, but we must stop the "no-show" situations.

Society credit card a winner

Should I close this article without putting in a plug for using the new Society credit card? Of course not! What attention it gets when you present it. What a great way to stir up interest in the Society--good PR, and who knows, maybe new members? What a convenient way, too, to keep good records of your expenses, usually deductible if you compete or are a delegate, etc. (Your tax preparer can advise you, but let me note that my barber-shop deductions held up through several IRS audits over the years.) Thanks for your cooperation. I hope to see all of you at the spring convention!

CHAPTER LOGOPEDICS CONTRIBUTIONS

| CHAPTER | AMOUNT | MBRS | PER CAPITA | AWARD |
|-----------------|--------------------|------|------------|--------|
| Alpena | \$775.00 | 31 | \$25.00 | SILVER |
| Battle Creek | 429.00 | 45 | 9.53 | |
| Ben Har-St.Joe | 57.75 | 28 | 2.06 | |
| Boyne City | 525.00 | 32 | 16.41 | BRONZE |
| Cadillac | 114.00 | 37 | 3.08 | |
| Coldwater | 52.00 | 13 | 4.00 | |
| Dearborn | | | | |
| Detroit-Oakland | 4628.40 | 98 | 47.23 | SILVER |
| Flint | 1108.75 | 46 | 24.10 | BRONZE |
| Grand Rapids | 2854.03 | 105 | 27.18 | SILVER |
| Grosse Pointe | 607.00 | 84 | 7.23 | |
| Holland | 680.00 | 68 | 10.00 | BRONZE |
| Huron Valley | 700.20 | 47 | 14.90 | BRONZE |
| Jackson | 290.00 | 26 | 11.15 | BRONZE |
| Kalamazoo | 675.00 | 46 | 14.67 | BRONZE |
| Lansing | 2580.32 | 68 | 37.95 | SILVER |
| Macomb County | 12.60 | 63 | .20 | |
| Milford | 700.00 | 25 | 28.00 | SILVER |
| Monroe | 25.00 | 26 | .96 | |
| Monroe North | 46.50 | 39 | 1.19 | |
| Muskegon | 600.00 | 35 | 17.14 | BRONZE |
| Pontiac | 2561.00 | 22 | 116.41 | GOLD |
| Port Huron | 975.00 | 20 | 48.75 | SILVER |
| Rochester | 200.00 | 37 | 5.41 | |
| Saginaw Bay | 738.55 | 35 | 21.10 | BRONZE |
| St. Joe Valley | | | | |
| Sault Ste.Marie | 150.00 | 41 | 3.66 | |
| Swan Valley | 5.60 | 21 | .27 | |
| Traverse City | 500.00 | 35 | 13.89 | BRONZE |
| Wayne | 5110.80 | 93 | 54.95 | GOLD |
| Windsor | 410.00 | 40 | 10.25 | BRONZE |
| Pioneer Dist. | 100.00 | | .07 | |
| TOTAL | \$28,211.50 | | | |

6th Seniors Quartet Contest highlight of Mid-Winter

Applications are now being accepted for the sixth Annual Seniors Quartet Contest to be held at the Tampa, Florida Mid-Winter Convention, January 27-February 2, 1991. A seniors quartet is one in which each member is a minimum of 55 years old and the combined ages total at least 240 years.

Under the present rules, there is no preliminary contest required for the international contest. Applications are available at the international office. Participating quartets must be registered to participate.

As of this writing, there is a very good chance that the Pioneer District Seniors Quartet Champions, *The Senior Connection*, will be competing in this contest. We have not yet had a seniors quartet from our district compete. If you are in Tampa for the mid-winter be sure and support our champions.

New position added at International Office

Mel Knight, the Director of Music Education and Services, has announced the addition of *Patrick Tucker-Kelly* to the international staff, effective December 3, 1990. Patrick will be filling a new position as Contest and Judging Coordinator and Membership Development Assistant.

Because of the expanded programs and services at the international office, there has been a need for some time to provide more assistance in both the C&J and membership areas. Patrick will spend one-half his time assisting the international contest and judging committee in processing inquiries, paperwork and forms; maintaining vital records; and providing administrative support for C&J meetings and schools. He will devote the other half of his time in membership recruitment and retention, developing membership materials and assisting in all COTS activities.

ADD-A-LINE



by Jim Styer

DISTRICT COMMUNICATION OFFICER

Do you want more enthusiasm and fun in your chapter? Do you want a stronger image in your town? Do you want more members?

These all can result from 1991 International President Bob Cearnal's theme: "PRogress begins with PR."

This program affects PR officers and Bulletin Editors, but it also involves Membership VPs, Presidents, Division VPs and their new assistants.

Even if you're not directly involved in PR, it affects you, too. Public relations isn't just news stories. It's communication and cooperation, both internal and external. And we're all involved in that. And you may be able to help next year with a communications idea or two.

Here are our 1991 communications goals in the Pioneer District:

- Every chapter should have an **ACTIVE PR officer**. He can help make your chapter more well-known, and help the Membership VP do his job better.

- A district associate should be named to help chapters coordinate communication and PR in the Detroit metro area, as has been done in some other metro areas in the Society.

- Every chapter should have a bulletin - even if only one page, handed out at meetings, to inform members of chapter happenings and goals, board actions, member news. It can help unite and enthuse all of the members.

- A district associate should be named to help Bulletin Editors with any questions or problems. Until then, I'll help.

More chapters should contribute news to the Troubadour.

- As Director of Communications, I will:

- 1) Offer general ideas through this column.
- 2) Communicate by letter, phone and in person with chapter PR officers.
- 3) Use Division VPs and divisional meetings of chapters (which are replacing Area Counselors) to answer communications questions and help on a personal or small-group basis. DVPs and their new assistants are a key to this effort. We want to encourage communication both down to chapters and back to the district level.
- 4) Help publicize conventions and other district news.
- 5) Offer, as a follow-up to COTS, a PR forum at convention or mini-HEP.

These goals can be met only with your help. I can provide general information, but I can't help with specific chapter concerns unless you tell me what they are. Please write or call; I'm in the district directory.

We also can use this communications network to share successes with all the chapters and recognize those who are doing a good job.

This is just a bare-bones summary of a communications program based on ideas developed at a forum in Kenosha. All districts plan similar programs. And, a network has been formed to share ideas and successes among districts--just as we want to share among Pioneer District chapters.

Our district has approved a PR budget. District President *Mike O'Donnell* has given his support. Now we need participation in the divisions and chapters. We'll have even more fun, and our Society will grow.

PRIME IDEA: ■ To promote your chapter

show, ask your guest quartet if it can provide pins or badges like they use at competitions. Chapter members can wear them, and sell more tickets when people see them. Or, you can make your own. Can be a winner!

WHY COMPETE?

by District President Mike O'Donnell

While lamenting recently at our District President's meeting in Kenosha, I related to *Bill Rashleigh*, on the international staff, how I felt that the district was a little stagnant right now. He asked me how many choruses/quartets competed, and he then related a story to me about a new chapter he had directed in Iowa. He stated to the chapter early on that "we have to go convention and compete!" These are the reasons he gave them.

1.) To sing on the stage! 2.) To get the A&R from the judges. 3.) To get to hear other choruses sing. (Back when you still could, he registered the chorus late so they could sing first.) 4.) To get to sing with the other guys at the convention. (He went to all the chapters and asked them to sing a song or tag with his "new" guys if they ran into them.) The guys sang all weekend long! 5.) To have fun!

His chorus finished last with the lowest score ever recorded in Society history. They were two minutes short of the time for two songs, which resulted in a 976 point penalty, and they ended up with a minus 450 points. Still, Bill and the guys felt like winners because they had accomplished ALL of their goals listed above.

Last October, only 10 choruses chose to compete in Battle Creek. Ten out of 32. I know we can do better in Pioneer. I'm asking you all to look at those five reasons again and make a commitment to be in Battle Creek in April (two will be ineligible). If your chapter has not competed in three years, I will do everything in my power to get your chorus on early so your men can enjoy the other choruses. It really is worth the effort, and is another part of the barbershop experience. Hope to see all of you in Battle Creek in April!

INTERNATIONAL FINALIST

BUSTIN LOOSE

QUARTET
513-984-4089

Tom Rouse
7013 Summit Ave.
Cincinnati, Oh. 45243

You say you threw a party and nobody came?

by Roger Morris

How embarrassing!

That's exactly what happened last year when Pioneer District invited its chapter bulletin editors to its party. No one showed up . . . nary a one! Were we embarrassed? You bet your masthead we were.

You say "No one showed up?" Yep, no one. Not even the guest of honor--*Joe Bulletin editor*. Woe is me! What ever happened to the Pioneer Spirit? Not a single editor sent in an entry to the district PROBE CHAIRMAN. The trophy, or plaque, went begging for lack of someone to claim it. It's still gathering dust on the shelf, waiting for someone to claim it. (Well, we saved money on that one!)

Come on, you chapter editors, you can do better than that. Pull down the old eyeshade and get those hands blackened with printer's ink. We need entries for this year's contest. Don't leave your old chairman twisting in the wind again. Do you realize how disappointing it is to the district when our beloved Pioneer is the only no-show at the international level? Not to mention the district contest.

We can do better than that, men! This is your one big chance to get recognition for all your hard work and to be honored by your peers throughout the Society.

What do we need from you? We need editors who have published at least 10 issues in the year for starters. Then we need at least 9 original copies of the three consecutive issues you think were your best during the year. Send those to the address below by January 15, 1991. They will be forwarded to certified judges for their scrutiny and returned to the district chairman by the end of February.

Then I will forward by April 1 the nine copies of the top two bulletins to our International Bulletin Chairman who will in turn forward them to a different group of certified judges for the international contest.

What's in it for me, you ask? First, there is the satisfaction of a job well done in serving a vital need of your chapter. By entering the bulletin contest you have an opportunity to have your publications judged by qualified barbershoppers who will critique your bulletins and make recommendations on things you can do to improve them where needed.

If you are fortunate enough to win one of the top two spots in the Pioneer contest you will be recognized at the district convention and awarded a unique plaque designed by one of our own members in the Milford Chapter. **PIONEER DISTRICT EDITOR OF THE YEAR!** Try that one on for size.

But wait! That's not all.

If you are fortunate enough to take top honors in the IBC contest, you will again be honored at the international convention in Louisville next summer and presented with the PROBE trophy as **THE EDITOR OF THE YEAR**. A coveted trophy, indeed, and it, too, was designed and presented by a member of our district. And, of course, there are plaques for the winner to keep, and also for the runner-up.

There is also a plaque in Harmony Hall, Kenosha, bearing the names of all the past winners. Your name could be entered on that plaque for generations to see in coming years. What greater recognition could you ask for?

So, chapter editors, what are you waiting for? Let's get involved. Your chapter needs you, your district needs you.

And, a note to you chapter presidents: We all gripe about the lack of communications, don't we? Well, you have your most important tool right in your chapter. Put it to good use! Get your man busy, and make sure he is someone who will do the job. Don't burden your newest member with this position unless you know he is well qualified by experience in this field. We can't expect our youngest members to be the most knowledgeable people in barbershop affairs. This is not to discourage our new members who hold such positions, but a matter of being familiar with our Society.

If you have a new man on the job, give him all the help you can. Chapter officers should support him with an article every issue and make the work as pleasant as possible, then enjoy the results.

The big "E" in SPEBSQSA stands for ENCOURAGEMENT. And that's exactly what your editor needs. Give it to him! Build enthusiasm and excitement. Watch your chapter grow in stature, and hopefully in membership. The most successful chapters have an active bulletin editor. You can have a chapter without a bulletin, but why keep it a secret? Keep your membership informed.

Let's have a party this year! And, this time, I hope every bulletin editor in Pioneer joins in the fun.

Sermon ended. Amen!

Send your entry to **Roger O. Morris**, 325 East Wardlow Rd., Highland, Michigan 48356, by January 15, 1991. 1990 issues only.

One more thing. Since I am retired, I will be available to any and all of our chapter editors desiring assistance in matters of composition, layout, reproduction, grammar and style, or just about anything to do with improving your bulletins. As former district editor and PROBE editor, I would like to help any who feel a need for my assistance. I am a retired printer by trade and journalist by education, and have taught editors in many COTS sessions.

If you would like a session in my home, one-on-one or in a group, just give me a call at 313/887-4272. I will be glad to assist you if possible.

SMIH activities growing

by Ray Heller
Int'l Manager of Communications

We are hearing more frequently of chapter activities aimed at promoting barbershop to Senior Men in Harmony (SMIH). (Well, why not?) Anoka, Bloomington, Hilltop, St. Paul and Minneapolis chapters in Land O' Lakes District recently performed, handed out materials and displayed information about barbershopping at a Senior Options Expo.

More than 1,400 information packets were distributed and 2,000 names were added to show ticket mailing lists of chapters in the area as results of the event. A quartet, **Random Sample**, wandered amongst the crowd, entertaining exhibitors and spectators, and warmed up the audience prior to an appearance by entertainer **Tony Randall**. It was a tremendously successful event.

Chapter elections are news

Having just elected your new officers, make sure that your chapter public relations officer informs your local area newspapers including their names and addresses, in addition to the international headquarters.

District quartet contestants in action



CHECKMATE - Bruce LaMarte, tenor; Craig Pollard, lead; Scott McNutt, bass; Brian Kaufman, baritone.



BLUE RIBBON COALITION-Mark Wilson, tenor; Jeff Rayburn, lead; Randy MacLaren, bass; David Rayburn, baritone.



BROADCAST - Len Johnson, bass; Scott Houghton, baritone; Tom Conner, lead; Jeff Gougeon, tenor.



GREAT ESCAPE - John Wearing, tenor; Frank Lopez, lead; James Musalskis, bass; Don Humphries, baritone.



COLLECTOR'S CHOICE - Art Cardy, tenor; Jeff Marks, lead; Bob Fox, bass; Don Horton, baritone.



BRIGHTER SIDE - Bob Riedel, tenor; Rick Koblinski, lead; Bob Wisdom, bass; Marv Moran, baritone.



FOUR PART FORMULA - Wayne Oberstadt, tenor; Gary Francis, lead; Herbert Hebner, bass; Ron Reingardt, baritone.



THE LUCKY CHANCES - Bill West, tenor; David Dolph, lead; Herm Dykema, bass; Jim Sell, baritone.



FAST PITCH - Mike Slupinski, tenor; Stephen Charleston, lead; Donald Van Vieson, bass; David Anderson, baritone.



GRAN PRIX - Mark Spear, tenor; Dick Spear, lead; Don Burrill, bass; Bob Jerzky, baritone.



CHECKMATE receiving well earned trophies!

Photos by
Tom Uicker
and John
Neighorn

Quartets not
necessarily
shown in order
of finish.

Fall Convention happening



Photos by John Neighorn, Dot McDermott, and Tom Uicker



THUMB AREA CHORUS

Saturday
February 16, 1991
8:00 p.m.
Whiting Auditorium
E. Kearsley Street, Flint, Michigan

Afterglow: Fuddruckers
I-75 and Miller Road, Flint



featuring
THE ACOUSTIX
SPEBSQSA INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONS
from Dallas, Texas

Advance Sale Ticket Prices:

Main Floor \$10.00 (*Seniors, Students \$9.00*)
Balcony \$8.00 (*Seniors, Students \$7.00*)
Afterglow \$6.00
At The Door \$11.00

QUANTITY PRICE

| QUANTITY | PRICE |
|----------|-------|
| | |
| | |
| | |

My check is enclosed for a total of \$ _____

Please make check payable to:

Thumb Area Chorus, Harmony International.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Mail form, payment, and self-addressed stamped envelope to:
Mary Nellenbach, 4292 Slattery Rd, North Branch, MI 4846

DISTRICT NEWS

DETROIT-OAKLAND

By Tom Uicker

Plaudits go to *Bill Wickstrom* for arranging another great Canada Night on November 16 at the Lathrup Village Hall. The final count was 184 members and guests representing 15 chapters from the Pioneer and Ontario Districts. A special recognition goes to the London, Ontario Chapter who came with a bus load of 38 members including the *Oct-tones* (current champions of the Wayne-St. Thomas octet contest).

Other talent for the evening included four choruses, four quartets including our current district champions *Checkmate*, and three senior quartets including current district champions *Senior Connection*. (Note: They had to change their name from *Senior Class* which was already registered.) One quartet, *The Very Idea*, arrived in costume directly from a performance as "The School Board" in THE MUSIC MAN. With a couple of mass sings and plenty of woodshedding, the fun lasted into the night. Yours truly escorted the last quartet out the door at 1:30 a.m. in the morning.

The one sad note of the evening was the announcement from *Checkmate* that they were losing their bass, *Scott McNutt*. He has a new job which is taking him to the blue grass hills of Kentucky. In fact, he leaves for there on December 1. All the best, Scott.

DOC has a busy schedule ahead as we try to balance our time between Christmas carols and our new show tunes, but we still know how to have a good time at a party. Maybe we will see you at SMAC's Chapter Officer Installation Night on December 7 at the Clawson-Troy Elks Club. In not, we will meet you at UNCLE SAM NIGHT in Windsor, next January.

And, for heaven's sake, don't miss our show next February 15-16. We are featuring *Blue Grass Student Union* and *Power Play*. I am sure that an ad has been included elsewhere in this bulletin giving details of that event.

Before I close, let me offer heartiest congratulations to *Bob McDermott* on being elected to our district's Hall of Fame. That's it, guys. Have a joyous holiday season, and we will see you in the new year.

FLINT CHAPTER

by Ken Rice

What's the greatest thrill a Pioneer District barbershopper can experience? Why, to see his name in print...and italicized, no less...in the *Troubadour*, of course.

Well, the Flint *Arrowhead* chorus is privileged to have several new members who've not yet been cited in these columns. This issue offers a good opportunity to give them some recognition. Here goes.

Jim Christensen of Flushing had always had a yearning to sing. Seems that one of Jim's insurance clients *Art Winkles'* sister. She hooked Jim up with Art, and Art brought Jim to a guest night. Jim has been singing lead to Art's bari ever since.

Jim Cousins of Flint was another *Art Winkles'* find, with help from membership chair *Frank Joban*. Jim retired recently, felt that he needed a hobby, and decided that lead singing would be just the ticket.

Randy Lett of Swartz Creek is our newest edition and the only baritone. He attended our concert last summer at the Clio Amphitheater and spotted his neighbor, *Mike Majeske*, in the chorus. Randy hadn't sung since his high school and college choral group days, but it didn't take Mike long to get him active.

Paul Nielsen, from Saginaw, is the veteran of the bunch, having been around for well over a year. Paul is a student at GMI Engineering and Management Institute and was singing lead in a student quartet when we met him at a local show. He's been "hangin' around" ever since...good thing, too, because Paul is front-row caliber.

Bob Olivier wandered down from Frankenmuth with *John Voss* for last spring's guest night. He used to sing with the Frankenmuth Community Chorus until it folded. Then he joined his church choir, which he still attends, but he was hungry for some non-religious music, and barbershop proved to be the answer. Bob is a lead.

Don Wills of Ortonville is a business associate of our prez, *Ed Wracan*. Don's lead-singing days go "was back," he tells us. Credit to Ed for getting Don fired up.

A warm Pioneer welcome to these new members. We believe their enthusiastic pres-

ence illustrates that the Flint Chapter is alive and well and on its way to bigger and better performances.

GROSSE POINTE CHAPTER

By Jim Kinner

Congratulations to *Bob McDermott* (Troubadour editor) and *Russ Seely* (Lakeshore Chorus director) on being elected to the Pioneer District Hall of Fame.

Our congratulations go to the Macomb County *Harmony Heritage Chorus* for their resounding victory to become Pioneer's representative to the International Chorus Contest in July of 1991. Likewise to the Wayne *Renaissance Chorus* as the alternate representative. Also, congratulations to the *Checkmate* quartet for winning the district championship.

We are particularly proud of the third place finish of *Broadcast*. Our *Scott Houghton* sang a lot of baritone (did you notice how he picked more cherries than the combined total of all the other competing baritones?) *Johnny Wearing* and the *Great Escape* also acquitted themselves well.

Our Senior quartets were also prominent in competition. *Russ Seely's* quartet (*John Wearing, Bert West* and *Gordon Dubrul*), the *Old Neighborhood Guys* placed second to *Jim Stephens'* "ringer quartet" and the *Barber Poles* (*Dick* and *Dale Barber, Bill Shier* and *Carl Uridge*) finished fourth.

Once again the resounding entertainment success of the chorus competition was provided by our fifty "meatheads." Someday, they'll let the audience score the performance or judge on the points per hour of rehearsal and we'll spend more time on the international stage as district champs. Incidentally, this convention marked *Carl Uridge's* debut as a chorus director and he did a great job.

We celebrated our installation of officers on Tuesday night with a dinner dance at Imperial Hall. As usual we had a large turnout to honor our 1991 officers and board. Our officers for 1991 include *Ed McCarthy, President; Eric Ernst, Membership V.P.; Chris Miller, Program V.P.; Mike Proffitt, Music V.P.; Len Schwietzer, Secretary* and *Nick Piccions, Treasurer*.

(Continued on Page 15)



SPOTLIGHT
on
LOGOPEDICS



Dr. Fran Durham

Pioneer chapters can be extremely proud of their 1990 contributions to our unified service project, the Institute of Logopedics. We are well ahead of our contributions made last year at this time. We already have 19 Harmony Foundation award winners, nine bronze, seven silver, and two gold winners. Several additional chapters are "knocking at the door" and can easily be an award winner providing the monies are in Kenosha by December 31, 1990. Special congratulations to the Pontiac and Wayne Chapters for having reached the gold level.

I'd like now to propose something for your consideration. As you recall, the "Future II" report recommended putting more emphasis on "local" giving. It did not suggest withdrawing support from the Institute of Logopedics, but supplementing that with support of local projects.

The Ontario District has done this for years, with their own "Harmonize for Speech" fund as well as supporting the Institute of Logopedics through the Harmony Foundation. *George Shields*, the Ontario District Logopedics Chairman, feels strongly about it. Let me quote a few of his statements. "Sure would like to see a little money being spent to promote the Institute (and the Society) among students of recognized universities offering a degree in communicative disorders, because the benefits are tremendous. Local chapters could make the presentations. Where this has happened in Ontario, local giving has increased dramatically." "We have the big advantage of putting as many bequests as possible through the local chapters, which raises their profile in the community. A

relatively small amount of money put into helping students pays big dividends."

"...The Future II report recommends "decentralization of charitable contributions." It would be a shame if the emphasis didn't continue to be on communicative disorders, through programs such as those initiated in Ontario (satellite treatment centers, scholarships, research, equipment donations to hospitals and clinics, etc.) These could be administered jointly by the Institute of Logopedics and Harmony Foundation and would provide much needed exposure to the Society and for the Institute."

Certainly in your community there are colleges or universities offering students programs on communications disorders. There are clinics and hospitals that treat patients with communication disorders. There are school districts that offer programs to the communicatively handicapped. I'm sure they would welcome our interest in and support of their programs. In turn, it could provide recognition of the efforts of local barbershop chapters. Think about this, and let me know of your feelings. If this is something we might want to pursue, Ontario's program is a model. I'm sure *George Shields* and the

trustees of the Harmonize for Speech Fund would be happy to provide information and assistance. I have more specific information about the kinds of information the Harmonize for Speech Fund lends financial support to which I can include in my next article if there is interest expressed in pursuing the matter. Let me hear from you!

Incidentally, before I leave this article, I think special recognition should be given to the Pontiac Chapter with a per-capita contribution of \$116.41. A good portion of that amount was raised by the *Last Goodby* quartet, who advertise themselves as "Four Seniors...singing the old songs...with a chuckle." Isn't that great for a 22-man chapter?

Congratulations should go also to the *Furniture City Chord Company*, who have raised \$1285 and are second place at this stage of the good natured competition for the quartet trophy. This quartet has successfully raised over \$1000 each year for the past several years, and have had a lot of fun doing it.

I'm looking forward to seeing the year-end figures of our contributions, but I'm confident we will surpass anything we've done in the past.

Two inducted into Pioneer District Hall of Fame

by Jim Styer and Jim Kinner



BOB McDERMOTT



RUSS SEELY

The above pictured two men were inducted into the Pioneer District *Hall of Fame* at the House of Delegates Meeting held during the recent district convention in Battle Creek on October 21, 1990. Both men have outstanding records of service to the district, the international, and to their chapters, and are truly deserving of this prestigious honor.

Russ, a 36 year barbershopper, has sung with three district champion quartets and has competed on the international stage eight times. He has directed the Grosse Pointe *Lakeshore Chorus* for 21 years. He has held most of the chapter offices from president to bulletin editor. He also has served as an Area Counselor, Hospitality Chairman and district vice president, a post he has held for the past several years. Russ is particularly proud of his part in developing the *Mark Roberts Award*, the International Senior Quartet trophy and the Hugh Ingram International Quartet trophy. He has done much more than we have space for here, but the CONSUMMATE BARBERSHOPPER has been appropriately recognized.

Bob has been a barbershopper for 30 years, and has held most of the chapter and district offices over the years. He was district president in 1985-86 and the International Board member in 1988-89. His editing skills have been recognized nationally in bulletin contests and he is our present *Troubadour* editor. He also serves as our district historian, is a member of the International Archives Committee, a certified Secretary in the Contest and Judging program as well as being a certified judge and vice president of PROBE for bulletin editors.

PIONEER DISTRICT CONVENTION SURVEY

Your district officers are concerned with the declining participation and attendance at our Spring and Fall District Conventions. We felt that we should ask you, the district member, what you felt about our conventions, and how we can improve them. We need to know the good, the bad, and what changes you feel we need to make them even better. Filling out the attached survey will help our district convention planning committee in planning our future conventions, so that you will participate and attend our future conventions.

You may win two free nights lodging by participating

By filling out completely and mailing this survey to **Michael Cirrito** by January 31, 1991, your name will be entered into a drawing of all respondents. If your name is drawn, you could win two nights free lodging at the Stouffer's Hotel in Battle Creek during the Spring Convention, April 27-28, 1991. The drawing will be held at the pre-convention committee meeting in March, so you will be notified in plenty of time to make your plans accordingly. What a deal!

Would you please take the time now to complete the form, fold along the dotted lines in thirds, affix a stamp, and send it to Mike. We've already pre-addressed it for you.

I have been a barbershopper _____ years _____ months.

How many district conventions have you attended in the past five years? _____ (or since you've been a member if less than five years.)

Did you attend the last convention? ____ Yes ____ No

If not, would you share some of the reasons why you didn't attend. _____

Mark the items below in order of importance to you in relation to conventions:

| | Very Important | Somewhat Important | Not Important |
|------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------|
| That I compete in a quartet | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| That I compete in a chorus | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| The cost of hotel rooms | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| The cost of tickets/registration | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Other related costs (Food, trans.) | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Family activities | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Ladies activities | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Craft Programs for me | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Other contests (Senior, Junior) | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Other (Please list) _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

I'd never miss a convention, if it offered _____

(OVER)



PIONEER DISTRICT CONVENTION SURVEY

Please indicate your thoughts of preferred starting times. Please number in order of preference, i.e., #1 is the first choice, #2 is the second choice, etc.

FRIDAY QUARTET PRELIMS

9:00 P.M. (Current) _____
 8:45 P.M. _____
 8:30 P.M. _____
 8:15 P.M. _____
 8:00 P.M. _____
 Other _____

SATURDAY CHORUS CONTEST

11:00 P.M. _____
 11:30 P.M. _____
 12:00 P.M. (Current) _____
 12:30 P.M. _____
 1:00 P.M. _____
 Other _____

SATURDAY QUARTET FINALS

9:00 P.M. (Current) _____
 8:45 P.M. _____
 8:30 P.M. _____
 8:15 P.M. _____
 8:00 P.M. _____
 Other _____

How long should we stay in one location for contests?

___ 1 YEAR ___ 2 YEARS ___ 3 YEARS ___ LONGER ___ PERMANENTLY

Do you have any comments about location? (Current or desirable locations)

(Please fold here)



MR. MICHAEL A. CIRRITO
1714 Vassar Drive
Lansing, MI 48912

(Please fold here)

Please share any thoughts you have about conventions. (Positive, negative, critical, constructive, and new ideas are all welcome.)

If you could change just one thing about conventions, what would it be? _____

If you could keep one thing forever the same, what would it be? _____

YOUR NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

(This coupon will be removed immediately for drawing and insures confidentiality of survey)

DISTRICT NEWS

GROSSE POINTE NEWS (Cont'd)

On October 7 a mob of about 100 Grosse-pointers met at *Bev and Bill Shier's* Haus to partake of German sausage and sauerkraut. We also partook of some great pies and cakes. (There he goes again.Ed.) The weather turned out a little wet, but the picnic area was covered by a large tent (nobody went home early). We were entertained by *Seely, Sullivan* and *DeMars* who led the sing-a-long. As an added treat, the ladies had an elephant sale with none other than *Jim Rutt* serving as the auctioneer. Jim really should audition for Eddie Murphy's next movie.

Future activities include performances at the Grosse Pointe Academy on November 30, and our annual nursing home bus tour on December 16.

HAPPY AND HOLY HOLIDAYS TO YOU ALL OUT THERE IN BARBERSHOP LAND FROM THE GROSSE POINTE CHAPTER!

MUSKEGON CHAPTER

By Gordon Gunn

"You all looked like you were really enjoying yourself," was my wife's immediate comment after our performance with the *Joe Barbershopper Chorus* at the fall contest. Margaret was never more right! We really did have fun! But we must thank *Mike Slamka* for enabling us to project our emotions. Our great director, *Don Bazely* from the Soo, had asked Mike to teach us a little dance step and another move. But most importantly, Mike insisted that we smile. "Sell the song with your face," he emphasized.

It worked! We were certainly thrilled with the response of the judges and the audience. Director Don told us earlier that we were a historic first in the district, just appearing as the *Joe Barbershoppers*. Fourteen chapters were represented in the chorus plus our International Representative from the Cardinal District *Lowell Shank*.

Only a handful met for rehearsal, sans any tenors or baritones, on Friday evening. Director Don put it all together in the morning rehearsal. The response from the audience plus many compliments heard throughout the weekend attest to the remarkable accomplishment on the part of Don and Mike as well as the chorus. Many thanks, guys. We certainly did enjoy ourselves in our first experience.

ROCHESTER CHAPTER

by Al Fisk

The Rochester Chapter has just finished another fantastic annual show. We had two near sell-out performances featuring our *Heart of the Hills* Chorus, our own *Ulterior Motives*, the *Great Escape* with our own *James Masalskis*, the *Hi-Falutin'* quartet (1990 Quarter Finalists from Toronto), the *Chiefs of Staff* (1988 International Champions from Chicago), and the irrepressible *Doran McTaggart* as the M.C.

Kudos to the following guys from our chapter for their immeasurable contributions: *George Schmidt*, as Show Chairman; *Art Kasik*, tickets; *Bayard Lawes*, Program; *James Masalskis* and *James Troeger*, staging; *Ron Peters*, Afterglow; *Bill Taggart*, ads; *Bob McCaffrey & Wes Tomlinson*, hosts, and *Burke Cueny*, publicity.

And finally, as we prepare for Christmas performances with the Rochester Community Chorus, in the Rochester Christmas parade, and for the Notre Dame Alumni Association of Michigan (in the Ford Mansion), we'd like to announce this year's *Barbershopper of the Year - Mr. Don Reddy*. He has been a leader, quartet man, president, and an all around nice guy. Congratulations, Don!

Happy holidays to everyone!

School music programs need our support

Executive Director *Joe Liles* reminds us that every chapter should have received a copy of the petition sheet entitled, "Music Makes the Difference." Chapter presidents were asked to make enough copies of this sheet so that members who want to support music education in schools could sign it and take copies to their friends to sign.

"Let's help save music and the arts in the public school system," Liles said. "It would be great if we could get a million signatures from friends of music in our communities!"

If you haven't seen or heard of this petition from your chapter president, ask him about it.

Junior Quartet Contest still on tap for spring event

Plans are still in the mill to have a Junior Quartet during the spring convention. Our first attempt at the Spring '90 convention was canceled because we had no quartets. This coming year we want all of our chapters to become involved, so that we can hold a successful contest.

Entry blanks will be included with the February/March issue of the *Troubadour*. But don't wait until then to contact your local high schools to seek out quartets.



COMING EVENTS

Detroit-Oakland Chapter
S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., Inc.
Robert T. McDermott
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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.

**UPCOMING PIONEER DISTRICT CONVENTION
DATES FOR YOUR PLANNING CALENDAR.(Mark
them down now for future reference!)**

April 26-28, 1991

October 18-20, 1991

April 24-26, 1992

October 16-18, 1992

April 23-25, 1993

October 15-17, 1993

April 22-24, 1994

October 14-16, 1994

April 28-30, 1995

October 20-22, 1995

HERE'S A REAL OPPORTUNITY!

We're looking for someone to run the District Barbershopper's Shop

Pioneer District is considering a district barbershopper's shop and are in need of an interested barbershopper or barbershoppers to run and manage it.

Duties will include ordering and inventorying merchandise: displaying and operating the shop at district conventions and other events such as Mini-Hep schools, COTS, special district and chapter events.

Could be ideal for a retired barbershopper or retired couple.

Background in retail or merchandising would be a plus. Expenses will be reimbursed. Please send letter with a brief summary to **Roger Lewis**, 20125 12 Mile Road, Battle Creek, Michigan 49017.

If you enjoy meeting people, here is your chance...

HAVE A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

FEBRUARY, 1991

- 9 Macomb County Chapter Show
15-16 Detroit-Oakland Chapter Show

MARCH, 1991

- 1-2 Wayne Chapter Show
2 Lansing Chapter Show
9 Kalamazoo Chapter Show
9 Monroe North Chapter Show
16 Huron Valley Chapter Show
17 Monroe Chapter South
23 Grand Rapids Chapter Show

APRIL, 1991

- 5-6 Grosse Pointe Chapter Show
13 Macomb County Chapter Show
13 Muskegon Chapter Show
14 Pontiac Chapter Show
26-28 PIONEER DISTRICT
CONVENTION-Battle Creek

MAY, 1991

- 4 Boyne City BUSH LEAGUE
Contest & Show
18 Battle Creek Chapter Show

JULY, 1991

- 1-7 SPEBSQSA International
Convention, Louisville, KY
14-21 DIRECTOR'S COLLEGE, Carthage
College, Kenosha, Wisc.
28- HARMONY COLLEGE - St.Joseph,
Aug 4 Missouri

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

SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF CHAPTERS (S.M.A.C) CALENDAR

Representatives of the S.M.A.C. Chapters will establish the schedules at a meeting of the chapter program vice presidents at the Chapter Officer Training School in Lansing. New schedule will appear in next *Troubadour*.