

PIONEER DISTRICT SPRING CONVENTION AHEAD

By Jim Styer, Convention Public Relations

You've NEVER been to a district convention! Yes, you! There are several hundred of you out there. Seriously consider coming this year. It's the last year for a while that you'll have the conveniences of the Battle Creek site. That includes lots of eateries and shops at headquarters hotel, and competitions just a short walk from the hotel.

Both returnees and new conventioneers, register now to get the best hotel selection. It's only two months away.

Even if your chorus or quartet isn't competing, you still can come and enjoy the best gathering of barbershoppers short of an international convention. And if your chorus is coming only Saturday, consider staying overnight yourself to take part in the full convention experience.

It's Friday-Sunday, April 24-26. Battle Creek Stouffer Hotel is headquarters. It includes meeting rooms, ballrooms, a large lobby for lots of convening and woodshedding, a bar with low-priced meals, an upscale rooftop restaurant and indoor parking.

In the same building, just steps away, is McCamly Place, with an open stage for free entertainment surrounded by two levels of more than 30 shops. Eateries include a Mexican restaurant, soup and salad shop, pizzeria, Coney Island and others.

Competition is at W.K. Kellogg Auditorium, two blocks north, one of the finest competition auditoriums in the state. It's in a school, with convenient dressing rooms.

Other motels are within a few miles. Lakeview Square Mall is nearby, just off I-94, plus many other downtown and mall-area restaurants and shops and there's a nearby zoo. A large student arts and science expo will be at Kellogg Arena next to the hotel. There's a ladies' hospitality room. Bring your family. Get children 12 and under into the contests free.

Quartet competitions will be 8:30 p.m. Friday and 8 p.m. Saturday. Some of the finest quartets Pioneer has had in a long while are expected to vie to represent us at international. At noon Saturday, a new district chorus champ will be selected, and competition will be fierce.

For the first time, the district board will meet Friday morning, and the House of Delegates Friday afternoon, leaving Saturday morning free for other activities and chorus preparation.

Other highlights:

One good reason for staying overnight — the district hospitality room after Saturday-night quartet finals will feature competing and non-competing quartets. Pick-up quartetting and woodshedding are encouraged. And several chapters will have hospitality rooms. There's also singing in lobbies, bars, restrooms and restaurants all over.

- A mass sing at 4 p.m. Saturday at McCamly Place is to be combined with a free show a new college quartet contest, if we have competitors. Chapters are urged to encourage college quartets in their area. (See story in this issue by Al Fisk.)
- A Joe Barbershop Chorus again will be mike-tester for the chorus competition. This a chance to sing on stage even if you're not competing with your chorus. Jeff Gougeon will be the director for the Joe Barbershop Chorus, and he has selected two great barberpole songs, Sweet and Lovely and Wait 'til the Sun Shines, Nellie. He is hoping to have a large chorus this spring because two of our larger choruses are ineligible to compete since they were the champions the last two years, those being Macomb and Grand Rapids. They probably will rehearse Saturday morning, so stay tuned as to the time and place, because the more the merrier.
- A Barbershop Shop will sell catalog items from Kenosha, plus Pioneer District's own sweatshirts and T-shirts.

Convention registration is only \$15 until early April, when it rises to \$20. See the forms in this issue for hotel reservations and convention registrations.

So, new barbershoppers and nonconventioneers, now's your chance to experience a whole new world of barbershopping, the convention fun and camaraderie that's unique to our Society. Register now.

PIONEER TROUBADOUR

Official Publication of the PIONEER DISTRICT S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., Inc.

1992 PIONEER DISTRICT OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

PRESIDENT ROGER J. LEWIS 20125 12 Mile Road Battle Creek, MI 49017 A/C 616 Res. 965-5714; Bus. 979-4343

INTERNATIONAL BOARD MEMBER MICHAEL J. O'DONNELL

1617 Fairlane Drive N.E. Grand Rapids, MI 49505 A/C 616 Res. 363-1368; Bus. 451-2857

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT RUSSELL SEELY 7626 Barnsbury

Union Lake, MI 48387 A/C 313 Res. 363-8977; Bus. 896-5650

> SECRETARY JACK F. SCHNEIDER

1311 Northlawn St. NE Grand Rapids, MI 49505 A/C 616 Res.361-6820; Bus.771-5225

TREASURER
R. STAN WILLIAMS

421 Franklin Street Leslie, MI 49251 A/C 517 Res.589-5586; Bus.322-5996

VICE PRESIDENT DIVISION 1 WILLIAM WICKSTROM

2533 Donna Avenue Warren, MI 48091 A/C 313 Res. 756-4294

VICE PRESIDENT DIVISION 2 LARRY L. PARKER

1416 New York Avenue Lansing, MI 48906 A/C 517 Res.372-8389; Bus.377-5742

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS JAMES L. STYER

72 Allison Drive Battle Creek, MI 49017 A/C 616 Res.965-6456; Bus.964-7161 VICE PRESIDENT DIVISION 3

1970 Pettis Avenue Ada, MI 49301 A/C 616 Res.676-2017 Bus. 247-2377

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1832 Mac-A-Vista Drive Indian River, MI 49749 A/C 616 Res. 238-7462

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DEON MOORE

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DIRECTOR OF MUSIC EDUCATION
JAMES H. STEPHENS

6335 Clarendon Canton, MI 48187 A/C 313 Res. 459-4011

DIRECTOR OF CONVENTION PLANNING AND SPECIAL EVENTS

MICHAEL A. CIRRITO 1714 Vassar Drive

Lansing, MI 48912 A/C 517 Res. 485-0938; Bus. 373-7984

CONTEST AND JUDGING (DACJC)
JOHN W. BAUER

6700 Black Bass Bay Road Alpena, MI 49707 A/C 517 Res. 595-6550

TROUBADOUR EDITOR--HISTORIAN BOB McDERMOTT

1859 Maryland Blvd. Birmingham, MI 48009 A/C 313 Res. 647-4807

DISTRICT LOGOPEDICS CHAIRMAN ALEX WILLOX

38174 S. Rickham Ct. Westland, MI 48185 A/C 313 Res. 728-6865

DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR RICHARD CAMPBELL

132 Blueberry Lane Battle Creek, MI 49017 A/C 616 Res. 968-3238

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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 will result in your not receiving it at all, as we are no longer paying to forward mail.

We're looking for a new editor for the Troubadour

by Bob McDermott

This is probably one of the hardest articles I have ever had to write. I have not been in the best of health lately, having been operated on in November to remove arthritic bone spurs from the back of my neck. About two weeks later I developed pleuresy in my chest and spent the month of December battling that. Xrays taken following that revealed I had developed cancer in my left lung. I had quit smoking quite a while ago, but apparently I had smoked for too many years and it caught up with me. Subsequent testing including a bone scan revealed the cancer has traveled into my left hip and two ribs, making it too risky to operate on the lung. So, consequently, I am to begin taking radiation and chemo-therapy in the next week. Hopefully this will put the cancer into remission, but I'm going to need all of your prayers.

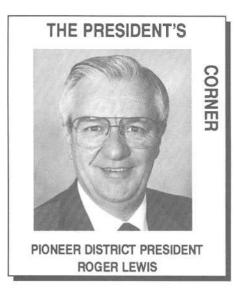
I have talked it over with my wife Dot, and we decided to give up most of my barbershopping duties, including this one as editor of the Troub. I've really enjoyed editing the Troub, but now it's time for someone else to take on the chore.

If you have an interest in editing the Troubadour, contact Jim Styer or Roger Lewis (addresses and phone numbers on this page) and let them know of your interest. A computer and knowledge of desk top publishing would be helpful.

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Pioneer TROUBADOUR



"Best COT School I've Ever Attended! Great Instructors!"

That was the phrase heard over and over again during COTS weekend in Lansing the first weekend in December.

"Best class I've ever had in a COT school! Great enthusiasm and eagerness!" That was the tune the instructors sang in unison, too.

What a super way to kick off a new year. Having been at many COTS over the years, I simply must agree. Something was "extra special" about the weekend--it points to signs of a GREAT YEAR! "Thank you" to everyone who participated.

During the weekend, the district board met and formulated some goals for the new year. Let me share them with you...

First, to have a minimum of one <u>FUN</u> <u>EVENT</u> every quarter at every level: District, division, and chapter.

In relation to the district <u>FUN</u> <u>EVENTS</u>, we see (1) "MEMBERSHIP BEGINS WITH ME," starting with Patrick-Tucker Kelly's visit in February, and culminating with MAY IS MEMBERSHIP MONTH IN PIONEER, hoping every chapter will have a guest night(s) in May; (2) the SPRING CONVENTION, (3) MINI-HEP

SCHOOL, June 19-21, (4) the DISTRICT SEND-OFF, in Lansing on June 20, in conjunction with the Mini-HEP school; (5) the TIGER BALL GAME on August 9; (6) and FALL CONVENTION in October.

Second, to promote more QUARTET SINGING! To get the ball rolling, Ron Thomet has agreed to chair a QUARTET PROMOTION committee, and has selected Myke Lucas of Holland, and Marv Skupski of Wayne to work with him. He'd welcome any ideas and all the help and support you can give him.

Third, to have more BOARD MEMBER INVOLVEMENT in all activities. I hope you agree that we are off to a good start under Mike O'Donnell's leadership. We plan to be more active. PLEASE invite us to your chapter activities, shows, FUN NIGHTS, etc. We'll try our best to come.

It looks like a busy year, a FUN year, a GR-R-R-REAT YEAR! (In Battle Creek, that's the only way we're taught to spell GR-R-R-REAT!) Let's PIONEER again!

WANTED! NEEDED! 1350 Salesmen To Sell: The Greatest Product Ever

Where: State Wide Sales All Possible Sales Aids Available

Customers are as close as your neighbor, your brother, your cousin, your barber, your boss, your brother-in-law, your son, your son-in-law, your bowling team, the guy you work next to, etc.

Working hours are of your own choosing. Your duties will be to spread harmony to every man in the Pioneer District.

Your supervisor is your local chapters membership V.P. <u>He</u> has all of your selling aids.

Every one of you is our "Best Salesman"! You already know how much fun it is to harmonize and socialize together. We must infect all of our friends and buddies with this wonderful

hobby. Don't say, "it's the job of the membership V.P.", or "my job as your Director of Membership Development." We can help to get things organized but it's your guy's who have the friends and buddies that you talk to every day. Your membership V.P. and I talked at length when attending C.O.T. school in December so we could get things ready for you. I'm happy to say, they are all falling in place.

One of the FINEST new men we have at international headquarters will be in our Pioneer District to help us get "geared up!" His names is PATRICK TUCKER KELLEY - Membership Coordinator. He will be here from February 24-29, 1992. He will start way up north in Mackinaw City on Monday, February 24th. He will be in Swan Valley (Saginaw) on Tuesday, February 25th; then he will be in Grand Rapids on Wednesday, February 26th and on to McComb County Thursday, February 27th. Friday, February 28th he has some other duties to tend to but on Saturday, February 29th, he will be in Detroit area at the Troy-Clawson Elk's Club for a fun afternoon of singing and uproarious fun!!!

We have some wonderful handouts that look like brand new stuff (because they are brand new)!! The plan is to kick off the last week of February. We will use "Membership Begins With Me II" as our game plan. It will take twelve weeks to finish. That means that you will have until May to line up and "sell" your prospects. During this whole time you will get much help from your P.R. man.

Let's all get behind, or with, or in, general support of your membership V.P. Make it a point to get one of the aforementioned gatherings (where by the way, we'll have lots of fun!!) with Patrick. If we all (I mean all!) get together we will have 100 new members in the Pioneer District (maybe more).

Just think how nice it would be to have a new man standing next to your chorus. Another guy to sing in a quartet with, or just have fun singing a tag with. Let's make this our best effort yet to help others find this wonderful hobby.

Dick Campbell
Director of Membership Development
Pioneer District

GROSSE POINTE GOES TO SEA

Sponsored By

Grosse Pointe Chapter S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A.

The Greatest Barbershop Entertainers of the Society!

The RITZ



1991 International Quartet Champions

- March 21, 1992
- · 8:00 P.M. (Saturday)



The Lakeshore Chorus

★ 55-Man Chorus ★ Quartets - Octets ★ Entertainers & Comedians



The Mello-Men
A Comedy Quartet

- · Fitzgerald High School
- · 23200 Ryan & Nine Mile, Warren, MI

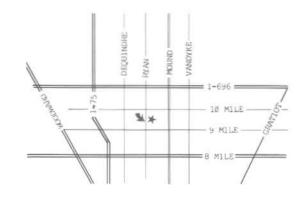
MAIL ORDERS:

Joe Bichler, 1480 Oxford, Grosse Pointe, MI 48230

PHONE ORDERS:

Ray Starette, (313) 559-1350

Name:			
Address:			
City:		State:	Zip:
	QUANTITY	PRICE	
Reserved:		\$11.00	
General Adm.:		\$ 9.00	
		TOTAL:	



ADD-A-LINE



by Jim Styer
DISTRICT COMMUNICATION OFFICER

Membership Drive

A major new membership thrust will involve every chapter in the Pioneer District this spring, and this means all of you reading this, not just the PR people, and not just your Membership VP, but all chapter officers and members. This is the only way it will reach its full potential.

So, keep reading, you non-PR people. You'll see how you fit in. An introduction to this new program is an another article in this issue by Dick Campbell, our new district membership man.

Campbell is sending material to all chapter presidents. I'll also have material in this packet for chapter PR Officers. If you PROs don't get it, see your president or call me.

The program will kick off with a series of division meetings the last week in February. It's important that all Membership VPs attend in their division. But I also urge all chapter PROs to attend. You're key to the success of this thrust. It's you who will coordinate plans to get the word out to the public — to potential new members.

And this is where all you other chapter officers and members come in. The PRO can get out the news. But that's very impersonal. People are much more likely to react to personal contacts. And you have contacts in the community: friends, co-workers, church, club members, etc, etc. ... even strangers.

If you hear someone singing in church or at the bar whom you don't know, introduce yourself and invite him. Bring up music in conversations any chance you get, then lead the conversation into barbershopping and invite the guy.

Your chapter also may send out mailings. Make sure you give your Membership VP the names of men who should receive this material.

So what, you say? You've tried before and gotten nowhere. Or you don't have time available for another project.

Well, here's the other side. The future of your chapter is at stake. The future of our Society is at stake. We're losing members. We're losing revenue. Budgets are being tightened. You're going to have to pay for things your chapter has covered in the past.

The only way around this in the long run is *new members*. And you are the only ones who can help change the trend.

Oh, by the way — there's a contest. All districts are competing to see which has the greatest membership gain this year. Will you help Pioneer win?

COTS: Only nine chapter PROs and a few Bulletin Editors attended. Where were the others?

Lots of new information and material to help you do your job more easily was available. If you missed it, write or call me. Bulletin Editors can contact Roger Morris, one of my associates. We're in the district directory.

And if you chapter didn't get list the names of your PRO and BE with the district, get the word now to me and

District Secy. Jack Schneider. Otherwise, you may miss out on communications later in the year.

WINNERS
WANTED: Two
district PR awards are
awaiting winners.
Chapter presidents
and division officers:
Let us know your PR

people who deserve recognition.

Entries for the district's 1991 Public Relations Officer of the Year are due this month. The award will be presented at the spring convention.

And the new Award of Merit in Communications is available for any deserving chapter PR Officer at any time.

Details on both were in the last Troubadour. Submit entries to me. Any questions? Need help with entries? Call me.

INSIDE DEAL: Any barbershopper want a starter computer? I'm selling my 8088 Leading Edge, 640K memory, 30MB hard drive, keyboard, mouse, monitor. \$1,200 or offer. Includes \$760 of top brand-name software: DOS 3.0, 3 word processors, file manager, backup, calendar, appointments, household & small-business budget, drawing program, Nutshell database, shareware. Write or call Jim Styer immediately.

CHORUS DIRECTOR WANTED

A LIVELY DIRECTOR IS NEEDED BY A SMALL BUT ENTHUSIASTIC CHORUS. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT DEON MOORE, 3835 FEHN, HEMLOCK, MI 48626 (Phone 517-642-8786) OR GENE FISCHER, 8028 EVERGREEN, SAGINAW, MI 48609 (Phone 517-781-3029.



INTERNATIONAL BOARD BRIEFS



By Int'l Board Member MIKE O'DONNELL

I think I should stop writing these articles. If I did, I would at least avoid stepping on someone's toes and sticking my foot in my mouth.

For the record, I apologize (how many times does this make now?) to anyone who took exception to my last article as President wherein I touted the Detroit Chapter for..."putting the Metro excitement back into our district." In no way did I mean to diminish the impact all chapters have on this great district of

Well, I'm off to Long Beach, CA, on the 30th for the mid-winter convention. I will be serving for the first time as the international board member. I really wish this article could be put off until after I get back since I really don't have anything to report about being IBM. One very important fact has not escaped me however. I've come to realize I don't go

there to represent the Pioneer District. I go as a representative for ALL the members of the Society. I'm expected to think and act and vote for the good of the whole Society. I'll do my best to fulfill my duties without letting provincialism creep in but, trying to vote without considering those for whom I just finished serving the last two years will be tough.

In the last Troub I asked you to let me know if there was anything you wanted me to take before the board. I didn't receive any calls or letters so for now I'll presume everything is okay. However, the offer still stands for you to contact me if you think I can help.

Hope to see you at the spring convention!

CONVENTION REGIST 1992 PIONEER DISTRICT CONVENTI	
PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY	
REGISTRANT'S NAME	
WIFE/GUEST NAME(S)	
CITYSTATEZIP_	PHONE ()
CHAPTER NAME	
COMPETING QUARTET? YESNO QUARTET I	VAME
COMPETING CHORUS? YES NO CHORUS N	AME
VOICE PART: TENOR LEAD B/	ARITONE BASS
EARLY REGISTRATION: \$15.00 LATE REGISTRATION: \$20.00 F	
EARLY REGISTRATION MUST BE RECEIVED NO	LATER THAN APRIL 10, 1992
FEE ENCLOSED FOR PERSONS @ \$15.00/\$20.00	TOTAL
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: PIONEER D MAIL CONVENTION REGISTRATION FO BATTLE CREEK VISITOR & CONVEN	ORM AND FEE TO:

34 WEST JACKSON STREET, SUITE 4-B BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN 49017

NOTE: ALL EVENTS PASSES WILL BE AT THE CONVENTION REGISTRATION DESK, LOCATED IN THE STOUFFER BATTLE CREEK HOTEL (HQTRS) SINGLE EVENTS TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED AT CONVENTION REG'N DESK - FRIDAY EVE. \$7, SAT. NOON \$8, SAT. EVENING \$10





I WHEN INCOMINGOUS

Pioneer District totals \$44,375 in '91 Logopedic Contributions Furniture City Chord Company leads quartet contributions with \$3,179!

by Alex Willox, Logopedics Chairman

We may be in a recession in Michigan, but you wouldn't know it when you look at the results of our givings to Logopedics in 1991. I am very proud of all of our chapters and quartets who made our grand total of \$44,735 possible.

A special thanks to the Furniture City Chord Company for their outstanding gift of \$3,179. What a team!

LOGOPEDICS SU	MMARY AS	OF	12/31/91
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CHAPTER AM	MB MB	RS PER	CAP.	AWARD
ALPENA	\$ 931.00	30	\$ 31.03	SILVER
BATTLE CREEK	761.40	38	20.04	BRONZE
BEN.HARBOR-ST.JOE	386.60	28	13.81	BRONZE
BOYNE CITY	598.00	33	18.12	BRONZE
CADILLAC	911.00	38	23.97	BRONZE
COLDWATER	80.00	8	10.00	BRONZE
DETROIT-OAKLAND	2,816.00	94	29.96	SILVER
FLINT	1,119.50	44	25.44	SILVER
GRAND RAPIDS	4,866.77	95	51.23	GOLD
GRATIOT COUNTY	1541.00	50	30.82	SILVER
GROSSE POINTE	1,350.00	90	15.00	BRONZE
HOLLAND	700.00	55	12.73	BRONZE
HURON VALLEY	729.20	39	18.70	BRONZE
JACKSON	50.00	31	1.61	
KALAMAZ00	1,275.00	51	25.00	SILVER
LANSING	3,359.12	75	44.79	SILVER
MACOMB COUNTY	1,848.36	67	27.59	SILVER
MILFORD	674.00	32	21.06	BRONZE
MONROE	380.00	26	14.62	BRONZE
MONROE NORTH	699.00	41	16.32	BRONZE
MOTOR CITY METRO	1,112.50	17	65.44	GOLD
MUSKEGON	1000.00	31	32.26	SILVER
PONTIAC	2,811.50	24	117.15	GOLD
PORT HURON	245.00	17	14.41	BRONZE
ROCHESTER	3,783.45	43	87.98	GOLD
SAGINAW BAY	386.00	31	12.45	BRONZE
SAULT STE. MARIE	1,350.00	46	29.35	SILVER
SWAN VALLEY	1,069.10	21	47.36	GOLD
TRAVERSE CITY	1,085.00	37	29.32	SILVER
WAYNE	5,485.14	101	54.31	GOLD
WINDSOR	460.00	45	10.22	BRONZE
PIONEER DISTRICT	901.00	1375	.66	
GRAND TOTAL	\$44,735.14	PER CA	APITA TOTAL: \$	32.53

PIONEER DISTRICT 1991 QUARTET CONTRIBUTIONS TO LOGOPEDICS

QUARTET	AMOUNT
FURN.CITY CHORD COMPANY THE LAST	\$3,179.00
	#1,825.00
AMBASSADORS	\$ 420.00
STAY TUNED	\$ 320.00
SMORGASCHORD COLLECTOR'S	
CHOICE	\$ 270.00
PATCH CHORDS LONG AND SHORT	\$ 250.00
OF IT GRAND	\$ 220.00
TRAVELLERS	\$ 160.00
HARBORTONES GOOD NEWS	
AMBASSADORS	\$ 75.00
CHORDIOLOGY	\$ 50.00
BRIGHTER SIDE FOUR IN	\$ 50.00
EXCHANGE	\$ 50.00
TOTAL IMAGE	\$ 25.00
VOCAL AFFAIR	\$ 20.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$7319.29

Charity used to be a virtue. Now its a deduction.

The following are from the prolific pen of Bub Thomas...

Minor operation: one that is performed on someone else.

A tornado is a hurricane that can't afford the prices in Florida.

Prospective buyer looking at a hillside home: "What I really want is a split level house."

Real Estate agent: "Give it time."

There's a sensational new hospital in town. If you take your wife in for an operation, they'll give you a loaner.



MONROE NORTH CHAPTER

PROUDLY PRESENTS

CHORDIAC ARREST



1988 \$ 1989 INTERNATIONAL MEDALIST

STAY TUNED

1991 PIONEER DISTRICT

- ALSO BRUCE LEMARTE
DENNY GORE
LEE HANSON
BRIAN KAUFMAN



THE FLORAL CITY HARMONIZERS

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF HUGO DEWINTER

MR. DORAN MC-TAGGART M.C.

SAT. MAR. 14 1992

8:00 P.M.

ST. MARYS ACADEMY MONROE, MI. ALL SEATS RESERVED \$8.00

DALE COUSINO 21783 MC-KINLEY ROCKWOOD, MI 48173

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO MONROE NORTH CHAPTER - S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. - PLEASE INCLUDE STAMPED - SELF ADDRESSED ENVELOPE.

1-313-379-9434 (MONROE AREA CALL 242-4256)

1	ENCLOSE	MY	CHECK	FOR		THE	AMOUNT	
	FOR	TIC	KETS	AT	Ť	8.00	EACH.	

NAME	PHONE
ADDRESS	
CITY / CTATE / 71D	

It looks like the chorus contest at spring convention will feature 150 man chorus

Have you ever had the privilege of seeing or singing in a chorus of this size? YOU will at the spring convention.

Jeff Gougeon (co-director of the Macomb Harmony Heritage Chorus) wants to be the envy of the directors in the Pioneer District and direct this elite--smiling--fun loving--happy--well disciplined (?) chorus. Who are we talking about? Why, none other than the Joe Barbershopper chorus who will be leading off the Saturday afternoon chorus contest. The Macomb chorus (60 men) and the Grand Rapids chorus (50 men) will make up the bulk of this chorus, with the others coming from the rest of us who want to sing on stage. What an opportunity!

Have you ever sang a "polecat" songs from the "Just Plain Barbershop" songbook and made it sound like a competition song? Ieff wants to accomplish this with two great songs, "Sweet and Lovely" and "Wait 'til the Sun Shines Nellie," which everyone knows, and will show other non-barbershoppers (wives, girlfriends, etc.) what fun we have singing.

The same rule apply as in the past--you can't be singing on stage with your own chorus anytime during the competition. We will be in uniform so bring your chorus tux (or whatever) and your best smile. We want to go through the songs on Friday evening (April 24) about 7:00 p.m. in the school gym, so won't YOU join us for the best ever IOE BARBERSHOP CHORUS?

Chapter Editor's class takes back seat at COTS

by Roger Morris

For many years, as a member of the faculty, I taught combined classes for bulletin editors and public relations officers. These classes were always the responsibility of the districts with the instructor hired by the individual districts. We were not a part of the faculty assigned by Kenosha to district COTS seminars.

This arrangement was very unsatisfactory. It is impossible, in the short time allotted, to do justice to either segment. Indeed, there actually is not enough time to devote to the editors or the PR people at COTS.

At the fall session in Lansing last December there was some mprovement in this regard. Our PR, or chapter communications officers were taught by a faculty member designated by the Society.

However, the editor's class was still a district responsibility. For rears it has been a mystery to me why this distinction exists, or the ationale governing this matter.

Apparently our chapter bulletins and their editors are no longer of nuch importance in the grand scheme of things international. Sure, I was pleased to see the PR class get on a par with the rest of the international faculty. I was pleased with the warm reception when I was introduced at the Saturday kickoff luncheon. It's always nice to be recognized by your fellow barbershoppers for whatever reason.

But what disturbed me most was the short shrift for the editor's class once our rooms were assigned, and the fact that the people instructing these classes are still not authentic members of the official faculty family.

Nowhere was this more evident than at the general session on Sunday before adjournment. Every member of the faculty was called to the podium to give an account of progress made in the individual classes and explain how each class interacts with the others. Every faculty member but one, that is. Guess which class was completely ignored?

Are our chapter bulletins so unimportant to the Society? Are they no longer a tool of communication worthy of support by our chapters? If so, who then will fill the responsibility of keeping the membership informed? Is internal PR a dead duck? Can the chapter and the Society rely upon our PRO's to fill the gap? I think this is expecting too much and placing too much of a burden on our communications officers, many without any genuine experience in this field.

Perhaps those of us who have been chapter editors, along with those still serving in this capacity, are somewhat to blame. For some reason Pioneer District chapters are remiss in sending their editors to COTS. Only three editors showed up for the fall class, even though it was given much publicity in the Troubadour. And one of those attending was the Ontario district editor. Bob McDermott assisted in the discussions, adding his expertise for the benefit of those present. This is a sad situation--a discouraging commentary on our district when we have such poor attendance.

What is it with Pioneer? Not only do we fail to show up at COTS classes designed to assist our editors, we also fail to get a showing of interest in our annual bulletin contests.

In 1990, despite much advance publicity about the contest, not one single entry came in. In 1991 we made an even greater pitch to out editors, but only one entry came in. And that one entry walked off with all the marbles in the International Bulletin Editor's contest in Louisville. Now I am awaiting entries for the current contest, with a deadline of January 15. As I write this I have yet to see one solitary entry in my mailbox. By the time you read this the deadline will have passed.

I know of no other district with such a poor track record of interest. Yet I know that Pioneer can do a lot better than this. The time to consider this matter is now. We need not take a back seat to any district. We have great talent in many fields among our members. Let's put it to good use, realize the importance of the chapter bulletin to all members, and show that we have pride in Pioneer.

Detroit-area PR man can help your chapter

A man with decades of experience in advertising and barbershopping is available to help Detroit-area chapters with public relations. He'll also be helping to develop and coordinate area-wide communications and programs to get the word out about our hobby and art form.

He's Marvin Burke, who has been named Associate Director of Communications for Metro Detroit. Please call and introduce yourself to him, and call him with any questions or ideas.

He'll be working with Jim Styer, district Director of Communications. The other Associate Director of Communications is Roger Morris, from the Milford Chapter, who will continue to work with bulletin editors anywhere in the district.

Marvin has been involved professionally in public relations for 30 years. He's had experience with both large and small PR and advertising firms, including work with ABC and with Dick Clark Productions. Yes, he's worked directly with Dick Clark himself. And he has contacts with some of the "movers and shakers" in the Detroit area.

Five years ago, he founded his own Burke Advertising Inc. in Bloomfield Hills. He's in the Grosse Pointe Chapter and has been a barbershopper for 34 years. He is a member of the 4-Fits quartet, our district champs in 1965 and our 1989 seniors champs.

He and his wife Sue have six children and live in Rochester Hills. You can call him 258-1159 (home) or 258-1159 (work). He should be listed in the new district directory, too, along with Styer and Morris.



Pedigree: Barbershoppers

CONTACT: ROGER LEWIS Bus. (616) 979-4343 - Res. (616) 965-5714



MASTER'S

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

HOTEL RESERVATION 1992 PIONEER DISTRICT CONVENTION APRIL 24-26, 1992

MILES TO MOTELS/HOTELS			2 PEOPLE 2 BEDS	
HQTRS STOUFFERS .2 MILES COMFORT INN 5.0 MILES ARBORGATE IN 5.0 MILES BATTLE CREEK	\$38.00 N \$38.45	\$49.95	\$49.95 \$44.45	Deluxe \$44.45
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ONE RESERVATION FORM(S) PER ROOM REQUEST MAIL HOTEL RESERVATION FORM(S) TO:

BATTLE CREEK VISITOR & CONVENTION BUREAU 34 W. JACKSON ST., SUITE 4B BATTLE CREEK, MI 49017

*NOTE: FOR HOSPITALITY/REHEARSAL RMS/PARLOURS, CONTACT: BILL KNOPP AT STOUFFER BATTLE CREEK HOTEL (616) 963-7050

AFTER CUT-OFF DATE OF MARCH 22, 1982, ROOMS WILL BE RELEASED TO THE PUBLICITHE VISITOR & CONVENTION BUREAU WILL NOT ACCEPT RESERVATIONS AFTER THIS DATE!

MANY CHANGES IN ARRIVAL AND/OR DEPARTURE DATES/TIMES, NAME CHANGES OR CANCELLATIONS MUST BE MADE DIRECTLY TO THE HOTEL, AFTER CONFIRMATION IS RECEIVED. DO NOT SEND ROOM DEPOSITS TO THE CONVENTION BUREAU; MAIL THEM DIRECTLY TO THE HOTEL THE HOTEL'S DEPOSIT AND CANCELLATION POLICIES SHOULD APPEAR ON THEIR CONFIRMATION FORMS!

COLLEGE YOUNG MEN IN HARMONY UPDATE

by Al Fisk

As you probably already know from the December Troubadour, the Society has scheduled a quartet contest for college-age men as part of the international convention in New Orleans. The rules are fairly simple: 23 years of age or younger, no Society registered quartets, no more than two Society members per quartet, and thousands of dollars in cash prizes.

Although I have sent letters to 50 Michigan colleges and universities explaining our offer, I need your help as well. Please encourage any and all of your younger people to take advantage of this unique opportunity, and have them form a quartet for our spring contest. (See attached form at right.)

I hope we can have more success with this program than we have had with the high school students. Remember, all of my letter writing campaigns are futile without every Society member's individuals efforts. Please contact me if you have any perspective quartets, high school or college. If you need more information, call me at (313) 651-3796.

The contest is being planned with finals to be held on Wednesday afternoon, July 1, 1992 at the SPEBSQSA international convention in New Orleans. This event is sanctioned by the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America.

Entry forms are available from the SPEBSQSA international office. Contact:

Lani Dieter SPEBSQSA 6315 Third Avenue Kenosha, WI 53143-5199

Entrants will have the remainder of the 1991-92 school year to prepare for the final event.

The final contest will require entrants to sing two songs before a panel of judges. Songs must be sung a capella, four-part harmony, in the barbershop style. Judging will be according to rules established by SPEBSQSA for international quartet competition. Certified Society judges will be used.

A first prize of \$4,000 will be awarded to the winning quartet, with additional cash prizes awarded to quartets finishing in second through fifth places. There are no entry fees.

Deadline for entering the 1992 College Quartet Harmony Sweepstakes is February 15, 1992. This presents kind of a dilemma for our entrants since most of you will not receive this notice until late February. It is believed that some kind of an arrangement will have to be worked out with international concerning their deadline and ours, which is April 18, 1992, and our contest is not held until the following week. Further information will be forthcoming from Al Fisk as to how this will be resolved. It would be wise to send in both blanks early!

COLLEGE QUARTET HARMONY SWEEPSTAKES ENTRY BLANK

Saturday, April 25, 1992, Battle Creek, Michigan SPONSORED BY THE PIONEER DISTRICT S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., Inc.

ENTRANT					
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AL FISK 845 DRESSLER ROCHESTER HILLS, MI 48063 PHONE: (313) 651-3796

NOTE: All contestants must be college men who will not have their 24th birthday until after July 1, 1992.

CHAPTER NEWS

DETROIT-OAKLAND

by Bob McDermott

Our big event of the month of January was our annual C.O.I.N. night held at the Troy-Clawson Elks Club on January 10. Seventy-four members and guest were on hand to help our new District Executive Vice President Russ Seely induct our 1992 officers. After the induction, the presentation of the highly esteemed *Hal Bauer* Award was presented to our Music V.P. G.B. Work by newly elected President Don Stewart. Our outgoing President, Bill Wickstrom, was awarded the *Barbershopper of the Year Award* for 1991. Both gentlemen were extremely worthy of their awards, having worked hard and long over the years for the chapter.

The Detroit-Oakland Chapter is busy preparing for their big show to be held at Clarenceville High School in Livonia. We are putting in plenty of practice to make this one of our best shows ever. The two night show will be held February 14-15 starting at 7:59 p.m. Should be a good one featuring the *The Gas House Gang, Swing Street*, our 1991-92 district champions *Stay Tuned*, and the *Gentlemen Songsters* Chorus under the direction of Paul Bergman.

Of interest to the district, the ever-moving Detroit-Oakland Chapter "Traveling Jug" has been making its way through the western part of the state. The last we heard was that the Muskegon Chapter passed it on to the Cadillac Chapter on January 20, and it still has a long way to go. Keep it moving when and if your chapter receives the "Jug", as it will help our quartets (we could have three) on their way to compete at New Orleans. The "Jug" should be returned to Detroit-Oakland by the chapter holding it on June 5, when DOC holds its annual "Return of the Jug" night gala festivity, with lots of great quartet singing. Plan on it now to be there!

GROSSE POINTE CHAPTER

by Jim Kinner

Well, at this writing I find myself deep in snow and well into the new year. I'm really sticking to my New Year resolution to not eat Pizza when I'm in the shower.

As usual, the *Lakeshore Chorus* was busy with out annual singouts, the earliest being the Lions Club party for the Aged at the Appolo Hall, and the latest being the Nursing Home Bus Tour which stops at ten nursing homes and half-way houses. This year found our senior member, Herb Reed, at the Henry Ford Health Center in Roseville. Herb is around 90 and has been in the chapter from the very beginning. Grosse Pointe Farms sponsored the bus tour and there was standing room only.

Our chapter Christmas party went well. The early evening was a spent caroling for our charities and the later evening spent at the Neighborhood Club in camaraderie and good cheer.

Several of the members saw the New Year in together at Bev and Bill Shier's home.

We're hard at practice for our annual show which this year will be called "Grosse Pointe Goes to Sea." We will feature the International Champion *Ritz Quartet* and the *Mellow Men*. The show will be held March 21 at Fitzgerald High School in Warren.

Our ladies have scheduled their Pot-Luck dinner and White Elephant Sale for January 25th at the Neighborhood Club. A "white elephant" is something almost useless that has been lying around the house or something you bought at the last sale which is almost useless. For instance, John Wearing has been buying a set of salt and pepper shakers that Marge has brought for the sale for five years running.

Our Ladies' Night will be held at Blossom Heath on the 14th of March. This event will probably be open to guests as it has been in the past.

GRATIOT COUNTY

by Jim R. Hall

Hello from the middle of the mitten! Though we have been absent from the Troubadour, for a while, we have certainly been active and want everyone to know what the *Midstatesmen* have been doing.

As usual, we found ourselves busy throughout the holiday season, singing in various downtown businesses and promoting the Christmas spirit as well as barbershop harmony. We also presented our annual Christmas concert for the Michigan Masonic Home, first singing to people in the nursing home area, and finally putting on a program for the rest of the residents.

Our Christmas party allowed us to share barbershopping with our families in a warm, informal atmosphere. We watched the antics of the comedy duo *Pickin'* and *Grinnin'* where two of our members (Mark Abler and Delos MacLaren) entertained with guitars and an unusual sense of humor. The party also featured two new quartets (thus far unnamed) which have father-son duos singing together. One of these duos was Ron Lutz and his son Jim (age 13), who sang to the delight of all. At last count, our chorus has eight father-son combinations, which just shows that barbershopping can be a family affair.

(Continued on Page 13)

CHAPTER NEWS

GRATIOT COUNTY (Cont'd from Page 12)

Our new 1992 board came back from COT school fired up and full of energy. If even half of their wonderful ideas are used, we will have a very successful and exciting year.

We are currently preparing for our annual Ladies' Night on February 14, where we have an opportunity to celebrate the women in our lives. They put up with a great deal because of this hobby, and this gives us a chance to say "thank you."

And we are looking forward to the spring session and what it has in store. In addition to various chorus and quartet performances, the district contest is another exciting challenge. New music and neat stage presence ideas keep us coming back every Monday night ready for more.

Finally, we are happy to see our membership continue to increase, and soon we will be over sixty members! This is a great accomplishment for a "small" chorus which only a short time ago seemed to be struggling to retain its members.

MACOMB COUNTY

by Mike Slupinski

It's a new year and a relatively new board of directors for Macomb. New ideas and goals, but we still have the same focus-fellowship and fun the SPEBSQSA way.

One of the goals for the *Harmony Heritage Chorus* is two shows in 1992. The first is Memorial weekend (that's May 23rd to be exact). The theme is the "South" and will feature our current International Champions the *Ritz*. The second is a Christmas show which is still being planned. We hope to see you there.

Our Quartet Activities Chairman Floyd McDaniel has come up with an idea that has resulted in several new quartets at Macomb. What Floyd has come up with is a contest every three months called *The Macomb County Quarter Quartet Quantest* and we would like to open it up to all in the district. Here's how it works:

The contest is open to any non-registered quartet, that's right, a non-registered quartet. Just grab three other guys, sing one song, sing one tag, and a non-singing part (a joke, an introduction, etc.). The contest is judged by top notch quartets from around the district. The entry cost is two quarters per man and there are certificates for all, awards for some and a travelling trophy for one. The winners will also receive a coaching session from Michael Slamka.

The contest is scheduled for May 12 and we're looking forward to hearing lots of new combinations this quarter and every quarter after! For registration forms or more information call Floyd at (313) 463-1630 by May 1.

Last quarter we had our first quartet from outside the chapter: It was *Today's Lineup* from the Wayne Chapter. They finished in the top third and we hope to see them again if not on our stage then on the district stage.

...and now the tag; On behalf of the *Harmony Heritage Chorus* I would like to congratulate *City Lights* on an excellent job in October. You will be fine representatives in New Orleans. Go get 'em guys!

MUSKEGON CHAPTER

by Gordon Gunn

Muskegon Chapter seeking Aramian's "New World" and will salute Irish Americans on Annual show

Tired? "Yeah." Enthused? "Yes", again. The carload of Muskegon Chapter officers driving home from COTS buzzed with excited discussion. Though the weekend was fast paced and afforded little rest, it also obviously created a desire for chapter improvement while offering practical means of implementing the plans. And incoming District President Roger Lewis had quoted International President Terry Aramian's challenge to "Discover a New World." "If you keep doing things the same old way, you can expect the same old results." Roger advised the COTS general assembly.

It didn't take long thereafter for Chapter President Tom Porritt to meet with M.V.P. Bob Weber and Music V.P. Imre Bryant. That foursome compiled a list of twenty one questions for the membership. The four divided the membership list among themselves and each chapter member was individually interviewed; asked to respond to the questions and add a comment in reference to their views for chapter improvement.

Again, shortly thereafter, President Tom called a day long "Planning for Leadership" meeting with all chapter officers. The four named above were joined by the rest of the board.

There were some surprises when the membership responses were compiled and tabulated. Similar responses were often repeated. When fully evaluated, the membership wishes clearly called for a new direction for many chapter activities and almost universally for an improved chorus performance.

(Continued on Page 14)

CHAPTER NEWS

MUSKEGON CHAPTER (Cont'd from Page 13)

That priority has become the prime objective of the music committee chaired by Music V.P. Imre Bryant. P.V.P. Bob Weber also promised early changes in meeting format, also in accordance with membership wishes.

Many of you have heard the *Harmony Hounds* before. But not all have before witnessed their entertaining performance on the stage of the acoustically fine Frauenthal Theatre in Muskegon, where they will sing March 14.

The Frauenthal is now the home of the acclaimed Cherry County Playhouse. After an extensive search, the playhouse management declared the Frauenthal "the finest theatre in Michigan."

The Show Biz, and outstanding barbershop show quartet from Rochester, NY, will headline our 52nd annual event. Muckegon's Four Score and More and Senior Class quartets with the Shoreline Chorus will complete the program. To be performed almost on the eve of St. Patrick's Day, the show theme will salute Irish Americans. Dick Warner at (616) 894-8374 is the ticket chairman. Advance sale reserved seats are only \$7.00.

PONTIAC CHAPTER

by Bill Pascher

A review of Pontiac's activities calendar for 1991 reveals that we indeed have had a very busy year. From the first of June through the last of December, each and every week (with one exception) was filled with a performance by the *Merry Motormen Chorus*, a chapter quartet, or both.

Concerts in the Park have become summer highlights in Ortonville and in Southfield. The Ortonville-Brandon Courtyard opens their season with the *Merry Motor Men* and the Southfield Gazebo closes their season with the same. Surveys at both sites reveal that several people in the audience look forward each year to "that great barbershop entertainment."

Christmas Carol Chorus: The *Merry Motor Men*, inflated by non-member singers added by public invitation, made their eighth annual tour of Senior's homes, hospitals, apartments, and centers, over a period of four weeks in December. Eleven performances were logged, plus two additional shows by *The Last Goodby* senior quartet. Pontiac Chapter can be proud of their community service. While no stated fee was indicated, several of the performance sites volunteered contributions for the Logopedics kitty.

Pontiac wished to make special mention here of the generous

support of two neighborhood quartets who, in the spirit of the season, gave freely of their time and talent to make a joyous holiday season even better. Three hundred fifty fans turned out at the C.A.I. building in Waterford on Sunday afternoon, December 1, and brought 575 food items, turned over to the Waterford Goodfellows. Stay Tuned, our Pioneer District champions, exemplified the good-will-to-all spirit with their magnificent performance at the fourth annual "Christmas Capers" two hour show.

The Oakland Shores Sweet Adelines, in their best yuletide garb, wowed the audience with their thirty minutes of seasonal songs.

Another full length show was enjoyed by some 200 folks at the Ewalt Recreation Center in Pontiac on December 13. At that show, the featured quartet was the *Good News Ambassadors* gospel quartet with Marv Wilson, D.O.C., Jack Edwards, Pontiac, Chuck Hatch, D.O.C., and Jim Lekander, Motor City Metro Chapter. The Sweet Adeline Chorus and the *Merry Motor Men Chorus* were again in rare form. Non-perishable food items were the means of admittance.

Congratulations to all who helped make these holiday programs such a tremendous success. "It's times like these that make us all proud to be barbershoppers," said Bob Woodward, the Pontiac President.

Don't forget the thirty-sixth annual Pontiac Woodshed contest to be held on Friday evening, March 27, at the C.A.I. building in Waterford. The Society's oldest revolving award, the *Carroll P. Adam's Bennington Trophy* will again be entrusted to the chapter with the greatest percentage of participation.

IN MEMORIAM

A former Pioneer District member, Kenneth L. Gaunt, 61, of Orange Park, Florida, passed away January 10, 1992, at his home. A former member of the Traverse City Chapter before leaving for the Dixie District and then Jacksonville in the Sunshine District, he was well known among PROBE members as an outstanding editor and barbershopper. He belonged to the Jacksonville *Big O* Chapter and had edited their bulletin, the "Orange Spiel" for many years. He also edited the district bulletin "Sunburst" for a number of years.

Word was just received that Harold Ebel, the Land O' Lakes DACJC, burned to death in his home in Fairbault, Minnesota. No details are available. Harold was the Chairman of Judges for our last Pioneer District convention last fall.

Ray Barrett, of Durham, North Carolina and a member of the Research Triangle Park, North Carolina Chapter, passed away late last December. Ray was DACJC for the Dixie District.

PICTURED BELOW WERE THE FACULTY AND THE ATTENDEES AT OUR VERY SUCCESSFUL COT SCHOOL HELD IN LANSING ON DECEMBER 5 - HATS OFF TO A FROM YOUR GREAT FACULTY!





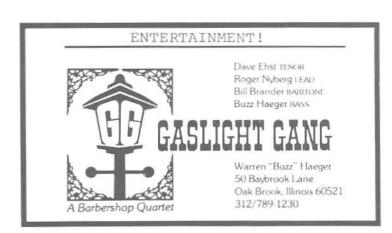


AN APOLOGY EDITOR

In last months issue, your editor began the lead article with the phrase "For the first time in many a year Pioneer has succeeded in producing what should be a viable contender in International competition." It was a bad way of stating it, and my sincere apologies to all choruses in previos contests who read into that statement that they weren't viable. Nothing could be further from the truth.

I guess I got carried away first from the fine performance score of 1174 by the Motor City Metro City Lights chorus. It was a score that ranked them very well with all of the other preliminary scores which had come in at that time.

In no way did I ever feel that our other contestants did not have a chance, but generally their scores were much lower in the preliminary rankings. I'm sorry if I offended anyone! Judging panels differ from district to district as we all know. But I do wish the City Lights chorus success in 1992!





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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.

Coming Events

FEBRUARY, 1992

14-15 Detroit-Oakland Chapter Show Gas House Gang, Swing Street Stay Tuned

29 Lansing Chapter Show

MARCH, 1992

- Huron Valley Chapter Show
 Kalamazoo Chapter Show
 Monroe North Chapter Show
- Chordiac Arrest, Stay Tuned
 Muskegon Chapter Show
- 21 Grand Rapids Chapter Show

Chiefs of Staff, Happiness Emporium

21 Grosse Pointe Chapter Show

Pontiac Chapter "Woodshed" Contest-CAI Bldg, Waterford

29 Monroe Chapter Show

APRIL, 1992

27

4 Milford Chapter Show

24-26 Pioneer District Convention at Battle Creek

MAY, 1992

2 Boyne City BUSH LEAGUE

Contest and Show

2 Swan Valley Chapter Show

9 Pontiac Chapter Show

15 Holland Chapter Show

16 Cadillac Chapter Show

16 Battle Creek Chapter Show

JUNE, 1992

19-21 HARMONY ROUND-UP at Michigan State U.

OCTOBER, 1992

2-3 Grand Rapids Chapter Show 16-18 <u>PIONEER DISTRICT</u> Convention

NOTE: All chapter show activities <u>must be</u> <u>cleared</u> 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

Nominees sought for PROBE "Hall of Honor"

by Wade Dexter

Nominations of worthy individuals for induction into the PROBE "Hall of Honor" in 1992 are solicited. Fully documented nominations may be submitted in writing by any current member of PROBE so as to reach the Selection Committee not later than April 30, 1992.

This will be the third year that PROBE members, current and past, have been picked for this signal honor. Inductees in 1989 were Dee Paris, Wilbur Sparks, and the late Deac Martin. In 1990, selectees were Dick Stuart, the late Staff Taylor, and the late Charlie Wilcox. Last year, Ray Heller, Stan "Stasch" Sperl, and Wade Dexter were the honorees in a presentation ceremony during the annual

PROBE meeting in Louisville.

PROBE "Hall of Honor" membership is limited to those persons whose voluntary contributions to PROBE cover a span of at least 10 years. The service may have been at any level of the Society and must reflect service beyond that required of any office or position held by the nominee.

Nominations need not be restricted to currently living members. A nominee must have been a member of PROBE during the period of recognized service. Nominations must be in writing and must specifically describe the services rendered and the contribution made by the nominee. The nominator must furnish corroborating evidence, if available.

Nominations must be mailed to: PROBE "Hall of Honor" L-2 Regency Place Lawrence, Kansas 66049

Selectees will be formally inducted into the "Hall of Honor" in a ceremony during the annual PROBE meeting at the 1992 International convention in New Orleans.

The 1992 Selection Committee consists of Stan "Stasch" Sperl, Ray Heller, and Wade Dexter (chairman).

NOTICE OF PIONEER DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING AND HOUSE OF DELE-GATES MEETING

Notice is hereby given of the Pioneer District Board of Directors meeting to be held April 24, 1992, 9:00 a.m., Stouffer Hotel, Battle Creek. MI, in conjunction with the district convention.

Notice is hereby given of the Pioneer District House of Delegates meeting to be held April 24, 1992, 1:00 p.m., at the Stouffer Hotel, Battle Creek, MI.

This notice is given as required by Article 7.03 of the Pioneer District By-Laws. All meetings are open to all district members.