



pioneer TROUBADOUR



Official Publication of the Pioneer District,
SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF
BARBER SHOP QUARTET SINGING IN AMERICA, INC.

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NUMBER 4

Convention attendance/participation up! Grosse Pointe Chapter will host October, 14-16

Grosse Pointe returns as convention host

by Rick Schaefer, host chapter coordinator

It's growing near! Convention time! The chorus and quartet competition, the raffles, woodshedding, the mass sing, the jamboree and all the shopping and sightseeing available. All in all, it's gonna be one heck of a weekend.

We at Grosse Pointe are really excited about hosting this fall. The last time we hosted was the spring of 1985. It's been a long time coming again and everyone is eager to be involved. We have a lot of time tested ideas from our seasoned members and inspiring ideas from our newer members. Detroit-Oakland, who did a great job hosting in the spring, has offered help in any area where we have need. (That's one class chapter folks.)

I have been assured the Barbershop Shop will be full of new and exciting items. We will also try to have the "Musical Parade of Champions" on CD's and cassettes, that you might have missed in the spring.

I find it hard to believe that there are district barbershoppers who haven't been to a convention and others who haven't attended in quite a while. Now is the time to get there and share the fun. As President Russ Seely stated in the June/July *Troubadour*, pre-registration in the spring was up 17%. That should tell you something. And you never know what might happen in October. After all, we are Grosse Pointe.

Fall convention
registration forms -
page 6
Hotel reservations -
page 9

International contest...

A Pioneer perspective

by Jim Styer, District Communication Officer

In its swan song, *Power Play* soared.

Pioneer Districts favorite family quartet last month equalled its best placement in five years of international competition, coming in 14th among the top 53 foursomes in the Society.

They had been ranked 23rd based on scores in the 16 spring district contests.

Dad Jack Slamka, sons Mike and Mark and nephew Don announced in April this would be their last performance together. But word is, a few of the Slamkas who represent the Macomb and Motor City Chapters, could show up in other quartets.

In the contest quarter-finals, *Power Play* wowed the international audience for a third time with "Dear Old Dad" and "The Little Boy I Used to Be." The strong emotion propelled them to 14th place right at the start.

They followed in the semifinals with "May I Never Love Again" and a "Dream/Dream a Little Dream of Me" medley, placing an even stronger 14th.

Through both sets, the Slamka sound again was well-blended, well-modulated and mellow, a pleasant contrast to many quartets which tried to impress judges and the audience with the raw power of sound.

Several barbershoppers felt it was the best *Power Play* ever sounded.

On some of the numbers in selected categories, the Slamkas scored in the top 10. Their Presentation score on "Little Boy" beat 2nd place *Nightlife's* "Beautiful Dreamer" score in the finals.

Continued - see page 5

pioneer
TROUBADOUR

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

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Contents

Seely and Lewis	3
Parker	4
Take Note	5
ADD-A-LINE	7
Int. bulletin contest	7
Travelin' jug	8
Recruitment	9
Show review	10
singAmerica	10
Chapters In Action	12-13
Keep your life in tune	14
Ed notes	15

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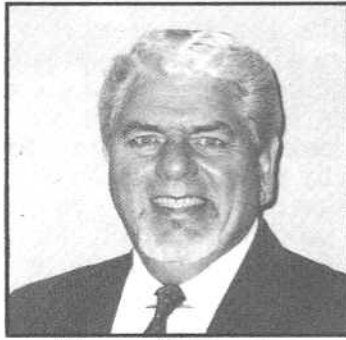
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**Russell Seely,
President,
Pioneer District**

The last time your's truly was in Pittsburgh - some 12 years ago - I was nearly run out of town, when my quartet, *Pointe Classics*, decided to drag a full sized *bar* across the International stage. We...ll, maybe we were just a little ahead of our time (and maybe we could have sang a whole lot better too). But none-the-less, After witnessing what happened this year, it appears anything goes in the competition. We saw a quartet leaving stage for a costume change between songs, a quartet jumping into the judges pit to take a picture of a working judge, a chorus who refused the director's plea "one more time," by shouting *no* and leaving the stage helter-skelter. In fact, our third place medalist performed a Pirate set - in the finals - that would have made Gilbert and Sullivan proud. Even the harmony on their "Pirate King" song sounded a little like G & S.

Well, all of this *did* happen and much, much more, in a contest that included songs like "Ain't Misbehavin'", "Dream", "When You Wish Upon a Star", - definitely not of the PD variety. All-in all, the visual productions were spectacular with promises of great things to come. When you couple that with the finest accapella singing we've heard, maybe, just maybe, more universal acceptance is just around the corner.

The **Vocal Majority** from Dallas won the chorus contest again, but not without a super push from **New Tradition** of Northbrook, Illinois, whose military presentation appeared flawless and exercised the emotional level of the audience.

City Lights performed a difficult package very well (and finished 16th) but when I hear through other district presidents that their would-be reps to Miami next year are already *polishing* their presentation, well, what can you say but to ask; Is this what we're all about?

Unlike the Calgary quartet contest where the **Gas House Gang** won all three sessions with a large margin over their nearest competitor, this years contest was a squeaker for **Joker's Wild**, our 1994 Champions. Strangely, they carried enough points from the quarter finals to their championship, even though they finished third
Continued - see page 4



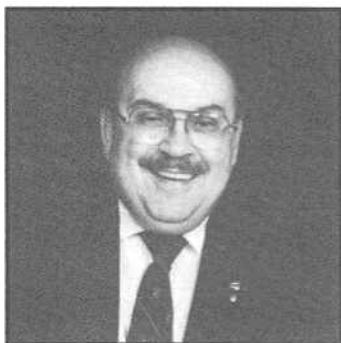
**Roger Lewis,
International
Board Member**

As I write this, the glow of a great International Convention still lingers. Our Pioneer representatives, **Onyx**, **Power Play**, and the **City Lights Chorus** did us proud. **Onyx** put on an excellent performance, finishing in a group of quartets where just a few points might have moved them up many positions. **Power Play**, in their last International, captured 14th place in a contest where the level of singing was the best ever, and right behind two quartets who have finished in the top five in past years. **City Lights** stirring performance grabbed the audience a little better, perhaps, than it did the judges. But wait 'till next year.

Let me pass on some highlights of the International Board meeting. 1995's budget was approved, projecting a positive net of just under \$5000, on an income of just over 4.3 million. Incidentally, our dues represent only about 1.6 million of that total. The rest is derived from conventions and such as the credit card and toll phone programs and other incidentals. the approved budget does project some enhancements that we have done without for a couple of years. Some of the staff, for example, have had negligible or no increases in three years, and many programs have been cut or reduced. This doesn't replace them all, but it helps.

From now on, a quartet that wishes to compete in a district other than it's own must have the unanimous approval of the DACJC and president of *both* districts--- their own and the one they wish to perform in. Also from the International Contest and Judging Committee wa a recommendation to have 22 competing choruses rather than 20, in Miami Beach. I voted against the motion, but it passed. This years chorus contest was 5 hours and 39 minutes long. It doesn't need to be longer. As Chairman of the Convention Management Committee, I am also concerned about all of the administration and time of handling two additional choruses.

Related to that, four affiliate choruses and seven affiliate quartets are invited to Miami Beach. All of course, may not be able to come.
continued - see page 6



Larry Parker,
Executive V. P.

Tigers are victorious

A total of nine hundred ninety-two enthusiastic barbershoppers, family members and friends attended the fourth annual Pioneer/Ontario Districts day at Tiger Stadium, Sunday, June 19. This year, an invitation was extended to the Johnny Appleseed District to attend the game. The Fostoria Lake, Ohio Chapter sent thirty-two fans. Nineteen chapters represented the Pioneer District and seven chapters attended from the Ontario District.

The day began with plenty of sunshine and a cool breeze. Two hundred and seventy-seven barbershoppers gave a rousing pre-game performance singing 5 songs with 5 directors. That was followed by the mass chorus singing the Canadian and American National Anthems, with Ontario President James McDougal and Rochester Chapter's Al Fisk, directing. Pioneer's President, Russ Seely threw out the first pitch and the game was on.

The game moved rapidly and without much fanfare. The highlight of the game was Mickey Tettleton's home run that tied a fifty-three year old major league record, held by the New York Yankees, of team home runs in twenty-five consecutive games. The 3 to 1 final score brought smiles to the happy Tiger fans.

The baseball/barbershop series is now tied at 2 games each for the Toronto Bluejays (Ontario District) and the Detroit Tigers (Pioneer District). We'll soon (next spring) have tickets for the 1995 tie breaker contest.

Seely - continued from page 3.

in the semi's and second in the finals. **Night Life** from the Far Western District, finished a very close second for the silver medal.

Johnny Appleseed District garnered 3 medals with four earned by Far Western contestants. Between the two districts, they gathered them all.

Power Play did us all proud when they achieved 14th place, but *darn*, they're calling it

quit's. Thanks for the memories to all the Slamka's. **Onyx** will probably not consider their first International appearance as a highlight of their young career, but we are very proud of them and look forward to future fine performances by the foursome.

The confusion over our college reps ended in a good news/good news conclusion. **Real Deal**, the quartet from Bowling Green who won our contest in April were declared the National Champs and claimed the \$4000 prize. The other good news, the **Top Left** quartet who entered our April contest from Western Michigan U, accepted a late invitation to compete and left for Pittsburgh on the spur-of-the-moment. They didn't make the top 5, but were so enthusiastic they can't wait to represent us in Miami next year.

District Presidents addressed both the International Preliminary contests and the college contest issues with regard to crossing district lines. In a 16 - 0 vote, it was decided that *no* collegiate quartet will be allowed to cross district lines for a preliminary contest and that the rules in general regarding the college contest will be reviewed.

Of course we want to encourage all young people to participate in our contests, but we also seem to form district ties which are important to the support of our young aspirants.

The "show" or presentation of most quartets and especially the choruses, were very pleasing to watch. Numerous parodies were well received and I expect more imagination and public acceptance of what we do to enhance our music.

We haven't found it necessary to stand in line for a copy of "The History of the Pioneer District", by Bob McDermott, and that's disappointing. Maybe you ladies are waiting for the convention to get that singing partner of yours a copy for Christmas. But you may order by mail through the *Troub*.

The loss of a great friend and Hall of Famer, Bill Warner, will be felt by all who knew him. This Past Pioneer President, IBM and generally all around contributor would probably like to be remembered as the bari of **Parts Unknown**, his perennial Bush League quartet. Thanks to Nel for allowing us so much of Bill's time and talent and our deepest condolences in her loss.

During convention week, when so many were away, Doran and Margaret lost their young daughter Heather, to cancer. Many of us were aware of the lengthy struggle by the McTaggarts and we are really sorry that we were not near to offer our support to the fine family.

take note

by Fred Kienitz,
District Director of Music Education

Holey Moley!

I've been told the '94 Roundup was one of the largest in Pioneer history. In fact, there are around 160 district members who know the significance of that comment. If you have never

been subjected to a vocal production class conducted by Jim Casey, you have missed one of the greatest experiences of your barbershop life.



Fred Kienitz

In attendance, our spring Roundup set a society record of ten years duration. No district has drawn ten percent of their membership at any

Harmony Roundup for the last decade and Pioneer drew 12% in May. Eleven quartets and two chapter choruses put us over the top.

I honestly think the secret is early planning and quality faculty. And, I pledge to keep striving for the best we can possibly get. However, the real driving force behind all this talent is you, you and you.

Keep in mind the Casey's, the Nau's, the Marquis', the Gentils, the Szabo's, et al, of our society have egos as big as the World Trade Center and they fed off your response and enthusiasm. Gentlemen, we brought in ten of the society's finest and sent home ten zombies and all 160 of you are to blame. If we could double our enrollment, we could ship them all home in a box.

A few paragraphs back I mentioned "early" planning. So this might be a good time to mention that I've already sent my request to MSU for May 19-21, 1995. I have a letter out to a International Champion Quartet and three faculty members committed. I'm also going to take this opportunity to invite you to be there. Be sure to put the date in your '95 calendar and we'll see you there.

I also have some good news for October's members of the Joe Barbershop Chorus. Jim Johnson from Grand Rapids will direct the group at the fall convention. He is a fun guy to sing for. Then our spring JBC will be under the capable direction of our new district champion director, Jim Pollard.



International contest - from page 1

Power Play scored 2,438 in the quarter-finals, 2,454 in the semi-finals, and were just 61 points short of the finals. Because of the change in categories, scores aren't comparable to last years.

Pioneer's other quartet representative, **Onyx**, placed 51st in their first International outing. The Motor City/Wayne quartet of Bruce LaMarte, Craig Pollard, Mike Woodruff and Tom Conway sang a medley of "I'm In Love Again/Them There Eyes" and "If You Were the Only Girl in the World."

In the chorus competition, Motor City's **City Lights**, with 66 men, placed 16th with a Civil War medley and "Break the News to Mother," from their spring show. The set marked Mike Slamka's first time on the International stage as a chorus director, succeeding Bob Whitledge, who is now singing with the Louisville **Thoroughbreds**.

Joker's Wild from Buckeye/Columbus, Ohio, are the new quartet champs by a bare 20 points out of 7,963. Nearly champion was **Nightlife** from Foothills Cities (**Masters of Harmony**), 154 points ahead of **Yesteryear** from Maumee Valley, Ohio, followed by **Marquis** from Cincinnati and **Standing Room Only** from Phoenix.

Chorus champs for the umpteenth time is the **Dallas Vocal Majority** with 2,813 points. But the perennial winner almost lost. Just 20 points behind was **New Tradition** of Northbrook, Ill. The second number of their military package featured a young lad who expressed incredibly intense emotion through facial expression alone, presented at the end with a folded flag, the symbol of a fallen soldier.

The next places went to former champ **Alexandria**, the surprising **Ambassadors of Harmony** of St. Charles, Mo. (12th last year), and past champ Phoenix. The phlasy **Phoenicians** took presentation to the heights, with break-away costumes, a kick-line with chairs and somersaults and risers rimmed with flashing gold lights.

Past champs Louisville scored sixth, followed by the **Big Chicken Chorus** of Marietta, Ga., who wanted to "Get out of This Chicken Outfit." They did at the end, splitting from the stage in disarray.

Lewis - continued from page 3

Miami Beach! And it is *Miami Beach* not Miami. It is safe, there is usually a trade wind that makes the days very comfortable, and besides you can spend most of the week in a swim suit. The convention hall seats only around 9500+ so register early.

Sacramento, CA., is the site of the 1987 midwinter convention. For those who do really advanced planning, the dates are January 20-26.

Tiered pricing (the best seats at higher prices) was defeated. I was disappointed that it failed, as it would have given everyone a chance to choose the seat location and price they desire rather than catch-as-catch-can. It seemed more fair than an across the board increase, which is inevitable.

The name of the Logopedics and Service Committee was changed to International Services Committee, and an ad hoc committee will be appointed to study the recommendation that it be an umbrella committee over other programs such as Sing America/Sing Canada.

Thanks to a lot of work by a team of district presidents, including our own Russ Seely, a much improved DP work plan and year end report was approved. Good job, Russ.

Finally, the AIC show closed with an outstanding medley, arranged and directed by Jay Giallombardo, and during the tag, the dome of the Civic Arena opened and fireworks exploded above our heads. How they gonna top that?

Pioneer District convention attendance has increased by 17% over the past two years. Our assigned blocks of rooms were filled in four of the five hotels in April. Contest were performed before nearly full auditoriums.

We suggest it would be wise to make your hotel reservations and convention registrations early.

Forms to do both are in this issue.

1994 CONVENTION REGISTRATION

PIONEER DISTRICT CONVENTION - OCTOBER 14-16, 1994
LANSING, MICHIGAN

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

REGISTRANT NAME _____

SPOUSE/GUEST(S) NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

COMPETING QUARTET? YES ___ NO ___

QUARTET NAME _____

COMPETING CHORUS? YES ___ NO ___

CHORUS NAME _____

CHAPTER NAME _____

VOICE PART: TENOR ___ LEAD ___ BARITONE ___ BASS ___

EARLY REGISTRATION: \$15.00 PER PERSON

LATE REGISTRATION: \$20.00 PER PERSON

EARLY REGISTRATION MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 1, 1994

FEE ENCLOSED FOR ___ PERSONS @ \$15.00/\$20.00 TOTAL _____

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO PIONEER DISTRICT S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. INC.
MAIL CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM AND FEE TO:**

**STAN WILLIAMS, DISTRICT TREASURER
421 FRANKLIN STREET
LESLIE, MI 49251**

NOTE: ALL-EVENTS PASSES WILL BE AT THE CONVENTION REGISTRATION DESK; SHERATON LANSING HOTEL (HDQRS). SINGLE-EVENT TICKETS MAY BE PURCHASED AT REGISTRATION DESK OR WAVERLY HIGH SCHOOL: FRIDAY \$7.00; SATURDAY NOON \$8.00; SATURDAY EVENING \$10.00. CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER FREE.

EACH MEMBER OF A COMPETING QUARTET OR CHORUS MUST BE REGISTERED FOR AN ALL-EVENTS PASS. FAILURE TO DO SO COULD DISQUALIFY THE QUARTET OR CHORUS FROM THE CONTEST.

REFUND POLICY: REGISTRATION FEES WILL BE REFUNDED TO PERSONS CANCELING IN WRITING PRIOR TO THE 12:00 OPENING ON FRIDAY.

District conventions are handicapped accessible. Please indicate any special requirements you need to fully participate.

Add-A-Line

Dan Casamatta of Grand Rapids has done a bang-up job lining up regional coordinators for promotional tie-ins with the PBS airing of "Keep America Singing."

Now it's up to the coordinators and your chapter to follow through on the greatest opportunity we've had for nationwide exposures since possibly "The Music Man."



Jim Styer
Communication Officer

The production features Mitch Miller, the championship Southern Gateway Chorus, Rural Route Four, the Acoustix and the Ritz.

While the show is available to air this month, the individual PBS stations decide when they will actually carry it.

It's a great membership and promotional opportunity. Your chapter may even get to be on TV during a station pledge drive. The May/June *Harmonizer* has several other ideas. Contact the coordinator in your area or Dan Casamatta (616-285-4546) to see how you may take advantage of this.

In the area where the stations haven't decided whether or not to air the show, letters and calls from us and our friends could encourage them to do so. And you can tell the station that you will help promote *them*.

Here are the details at press time, listed by the broadcast month schedule:

August - WFUM, Flint, coordinator Jack Stevens, Flint Chapter.

September - WGVU, Grand Rapids, All Southwest Michigan Chapters. Coordinator, Art Potter, Grand Rapids Chapter.

October - WCMU, Mt. Pleasant, and affiliates in Alpena, Cadillac and Manistee. Coordinator, Chet Miller, Saginaw Chapter.

December - WNMU, Marquette.

Undetermined - WCMU, Delta College and WUCX, Bad Axe. Coordinator, Deon Moore, Swan Valley. WTVS, Detroit. Coordinator, Tom Uicker, Detroit-Oakland Chapter.

WKAR, Lansing and Jackson. Coordinator, Gary Morgan, Lansing Chapter.

Christmas Chorus:

Consider a Christmas chorus, open to all singers in your area, not just barbershoppers. Guests needn't sing harmony, just the lead to familiar carols in "Yuletide Favorites," available from Kenosha. Also get the "Men's Holiday

International bulletin contest

by Jim Styer

The Battle Creek Chapter's *The Riser*, edited by Jim Styer, placed 10th in the International bulletin contest.

Motor City Metro's *City Lights Lantern*, edited by Andy Valentine, was 28th.

Earlier this year, the two bulletins were first and second in the Pioneer District bulletin contest. Both editors have been doing the bulletins since 1992. In 1993, Valentine's *Lantern* was first and Styer's *Riser*, second.

In the international contest, three issues of each bulletin are judged in each of three categories, with the scores totaled to determine the winner.

The Riser took top spot in grammar and style, with a score of 573 out of a possible 600 in the category, and a perfect 200 for one of the three issues. The overall winner, *Jubilaire Sounds* of Pottstown, Pa., in the Mid-Atlantic District, was tenth in that category.

The Battle Creek bulletin placed 7th in the layout and reproduction category, just 24 points below the top-scorer. It was 21st in content, partially because of a lack of consistent article from other chapter officers and members.

The international contest is sponsored by the Society's PROBE, (Public Relation Officers and Bulletin Editors). Any chapter member may join for \$5 annual dues.

The contest is open to all bulletin editors who are PROBE members. Entrants simply submit three copies of each of three consecutive issues. Deadline for the next contest will be early 1995. For more information, contact Roger Morris of the Milford Chapter, 325 E. Wardlow, Highland, MI 48356, phone (810) 887-4272.

Add-A-Line - continued

Chorus Brochure" from Kenosha, free.

Virtually all chapters that do it, gain new members. Pontiac and Battle Creek are examples; Huron Valley may try it this year.

But don't push membership right off, just the fun of singing. "... They'll come." Plan now, rehearse at your November meetings, sing in December.

PR Tags:

Chapter elections are coming up. make sure you have an active communications officer for 1995. It's critical to your chapter's success. Just having a show PR chairman isn't enough. We're a year around organization.

Get your chapter PR Officer and bulletin editor signed up for Chapter Operations Training School the weekend of December 3-4.

Travelin' jug has important function and history

by Tom Uicker, D.O.C. Chapter President

On June 3, 1994, barbershoppers from around the Detroit area gathered at St. Aidans Hall for the traditional "Return of the Jug" to the Detroit-Oakland Chapter. For those who missed the galla affair and are wondering as to it's importance, let me give you the history.



Tom Uicker, President, D.O.C.
and the "Travelin' Brown Jug" (Ret.)

Referring to Bob McDermott's "*History of the Pioneer District*," the idea of a "Travelin' Brown Jug" originated through Oakland County's Dick Liddicoatt back in 1965. The plan was to pass the jug from one chapter to the next through surprise chapter visits, with the chapters contributing money into the jug based on attendance at the time of the visit. Whichever chapter holds the jug on the first Friday in June must return it to (now) Detroit-Oakland Chapter at the annual "Return of the Jug" Night. The money accumulated in the jug is divided between the quartets that will represent the district at the international convention that year.

On this twenty-ninth annual "Return of the Jug" Night, a contingent from Windsor Chapter brought the jug to us. Eighty-one members and guests from nine chapters around the area were on hand to share in the festivities. \$516 was divided between **Power Play** and **Onyx**, both quartets having performed for the crowd. (Thanks to Pete Burns subbing at bass for **Onyx**, so they could sing. Other performers for the evening were **Harmonic Progression** from Pontiac; **Old Gold** from Wayne, Grosse Pointe and Motor City Metro; **Vocal Gentry**, our 1992 Senior

Continued - see page 9

Butler coaching scholarship needs cooperative funding

by Bill Wickstrom, VP Div. I

The Bill Butler Memorial fund, established in 1989, has provided coaching scholarships for quartets and prospective coaches to Pioneer Harmony Round-Up since 1990. The brain child of the Detroit-Oakland Chapter -- the last of some seven chapters in which Bill held membership during his long, distinguished barbershop career -- the fund was conceived to perpetuate his desire to provide much needed quartet coaching within the Pioneer District. The scholarships cover the full registration cost (room and meals) at Harmony Round-Up.

A total of eight scholarships costing \$1,600 to date have been awarded to four coaches and four quartets. The beneficiaries were Paul Bergman (Detroit-Oakland), and Elbert Ford (Traverse City) in 1990, **Memory Lane** (Macomb) in 1991, Bruce Evans (Grand Rapids) in 1992, **The Next Generation**, (Escanaba) and **Crosstown Exchange** (Detroit-Oakland) in 1993 and **Four Score and More** (Muskegon) and **Walt Quick** (Wayne) in 1994. (Photo on Back Page.)

Award applications have increased the last two years and the lack of available money in the fund has caused deserving applicants to be denied. This year only one quartet and one coach could be selected, though five qualified applicants applied. Except for the first year when solicitations brought in \$460 from three chapters and three individuals, Detroit-Oakland has been the sole contributor to the fund. But it's district-wide benefits and Bill Butler's district-wide involvement make district-wide participation appropriate. It was Butler, our first DME, who imported top-notch coaches to our first Mini-Heps.

In the interest of assuring fund solvency and the ability to award scholarships commensurate with applicant needs, all chapters, members, and quartets are invited to participate by contributing annually to the Bill Butler Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Please designate contributions to the *Butler Memorial Fund* and forward to Bill Wickstrom, 2533 Donna St., Warren, MI 48091-3947, Phone (810) 756-4294.

Harmony Round-Up
May 19 - 20,
1995
Michigan State University

Recruitment....

The key to growth!

by Larry Parker, Director of Membership Dev.

If you haven't read Joe Liles' article in "Seventh" Heaven in the July/August *Harmonizer*, by all means, please do. It will open your eyes.

Joe revealed some mighty interesting statistics about retention and recruitment. I was aghast to learn recruitment has *declined* 35 percent over the last ten years. That is a very devastating figure. As Joe puts it... "All barbershoppers must get involved."

In the past year, two groups in the district have inquired about starting new chapters. One was from Imlay City area and the other from Midland. As yet, neither group has made a move to obtain a license or to charter.

A group from the Escanaba area are alive and well, but have curtailed their active movement to charter. If and when they do charter, they have the option to join the Land of Lakes or Pioneer District.

As of May 31, 1994, our district had thirteen less members than at the end of May, 1993.

You and I can change this, quite fast. All we need to do is invite our friends and associates to take a look at our hobby. When you found it, you were hooked, weren't you? Come on, admit it, you got hooked!

Then after awhile you said, "I wish I had heard about barbershopping many years ago."

Well, now's your chance to spread the word. If your so happy with your singing hobby, let everyone know about it.

It's not a secret society you know.

Travelin' Jug - continued from page 8

champs; Signature from Macomb County; an impromptu octet from Milford; and of course, the Gentlemen Songsters.

As you read this two jugs are traveling again. We finally retired the old brown jug which has been dropped and broken several times.

We have divided all the lower chapters (sorry Division IV) into two routes in hopes that one of the two jugs will visit your chapter within the next ten months and return on June 2, 1995, for our 30th annual "Return of the Jug(s)" Night. 'Till then, keep 'em movin'.

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In review**Onyx, Allied 4, wowed 'em in Muskegon!!
Chapter show drew great crowd!**

The large audience's response to the Allied 4 quartet's side-splitting comedy routine, was, like rolling thunder, an incessant rumbling - often rent by sudden, sharp, booming peals of laughter. The program stated the quartet was selected to appear at the International Convention Comedy Show in Atlanta, Georgia, and has appeared on over 300 chapter shows.

Tenor, Jerry Anton, lead, George Stybr, bari, Bill Carbon and bass, Dave Walker, masters of Cardinal District and International competition, also sang exceptional barbershop April 9.

The Onyx quartet is yet less than a year old, but Bruce LeMarte, tenor, Craig Pollard, lead, Mike Woodruff, baritone and bass Tom Conway are veterans of earlier, notable quartets. The quality of their barbershop expertise was outstanding and appreciated.

Chapter quartets, the **Four Score and More**, featuring Dick Warner, Roy Rock, Imre Bryant and Webb Scrivnor and **Act Four** with Dick Dewitt, Dave Bishop, Mart Bomers and Jim Duff, shared the stage with the **Shoreline Chorus**. While they sang a variety of songs it became obvious they were enjoying a good time on stage, adding greatly to the audience's entertainment.

Most memorably, the chorus sang the hauntingly beautiful "Shenandoah" (and another I was prepared not to like - because it's not barbershop). But tenors Alan Coombs, Dick DeWitt and Edgar Watson masterfully sang the melody, were well supported by the chorus, and truly compelled delight with "*The Lion Sleeps Tonight*."

The ornate, old, acoustically exceptional Frauenthal Theater seats 1800. While not every seat was filled, it was obvious the chapter entertained a large, thoroughly pleased barbershop audience at the spring show.

Fred Kendall and Webb Scrivnor Co-Chaired the 54th annual event. Mike O'Donnell directed the chorus.

**Foundation approves
'singAmerica' program**

by Jim Styer

The W. K. Kellogg Foundation has approved a major community-outreach program proposed by the Battle Creek Chapter.

Through the foundation's Expert in Residence program, Society Music Specialist Jim DeBusman and Marketing Director Gary Stamm will be in town September 19-24 to help other vocal music groups and promote vocal harmony of all types.

Organizations working with the chapter in this venture include area schools, the United Arts Council, service club council, a teen center, community senior citizens' center, other music groups and the Sweet Adelines.

Activities during the week will include classroom presentations, community sing-alongs, work shops for directors and for choral groups, a senior citizens' musical lunch, a teen singing and pizza party, a How to Sing Better Kareoke workshop, a staging and performance workshop, service club meetings and daily media appearances.

The week will conclude with a professionally produced, free showcase of all types of vocal harmony groups from throughout the community.

Donations will be encouraged at that show to help finance the start of a Vocal Music Coordinating Council, which will continue the cooperative work initiated by this program.

The venture is entitled "singAmerica", a new society umbrella title for community outreach programs.

The overall goal of the program is the Society's new vision statement "...to be a leader in the cause of preserving and encouraging vocal music, in our education systems and in our communities, as a lifelong recreational activity and an essential element in one's cultural well being.

Stamm said the Society plans to share with all other chapters what it learns through this program.

Paragon*

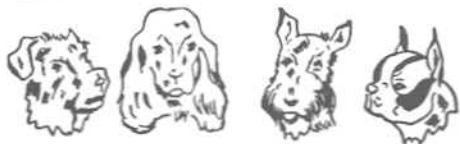
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PIONEER CHAPTERS IN ACTION



A TROUBADOUR SALUTE
TO

Mike Sullivan

His was the first chapter copy received for this edition. *Early copy helps, a lot!* Mike writes for the Grosse Pointe Chapter. Thanks too, to all contributors. There could be no TROUB without you! The next copy, photo, and advertising deadline is **September 15!**

Grosse Pointe Chapter

by Mike Sullivan, Program Vice President

We may have set barbershopping back fifty years, but there was no doubt about it, "We always leave them laughing". As that was the theme of our two night, sold out, standing room only performance in April, we felt it should be taken on the road to Lansing at our spring convention. The ranks of tuxedo bound choruses seem to be giving way to *fun*. Isn't that what barbershopping is supposed to be all about? Speaking of the convention, Grosse Pointe is looking forward to hosting the fall gathering in Lansing. Somehow I know there will be that Grosse Pointe touch, even if the district president is our own chorus director.

On May 10, thirty representative members attended an appreciation luncheon hosted by the Holly Ear Institute of St. John Hospital, Detroit, and presented the director a check in the amount of \$1,600.00. These monies were raised Christmas carolling last December.

Trevino, Palmer, Floyd; great names in golf. The newest inductee into the sacred and honored tradition in one Wayne Kniffen. Braving torrential rains, gale force winds and blazing temperatures, Mr. Kniffen was able to beat off a field of thirty competitors in Parkersburg, West Virginia to capture the coveted green jacket of the Grosse Pointe Chapter.

A joint effort was conducted by the Pontiac Chapter and Grosse Pointe, with some great quarteting, to present the 51st Pontiac Show in May. It's nice to get out of the city once in a while.

Quarteting remains at the heart of the Grosse Pointe Chapter. Two of our quartets; *Pipedream* and *Danny's Boys* have been performing outside of the confines of the weekly meetings. Now if we could only get them to Lansing! Grosse

Pointe has been fortunate in that we have been able to expand beyond strict barbershop music. We have the *Mystic Knights of the Sea* doing do-wop, *Just Friends* performing 40's and 50's songs and now we are graced with a traditional gospel group, *The Good News Singers*. I'm drawing the line at rap-barbershop.

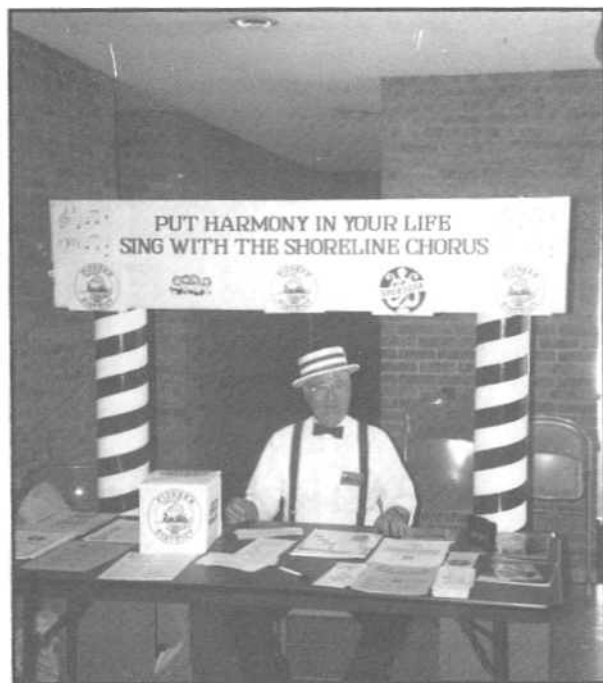
See you in Lansing or Harrisville or Timbuktu.

Muskegon Chapter

by Frank Scott, Membership Vice President

Thus far this year, the Muskegon Chapter has added *six* new members. We are pleased to welcome; from Oceana County, John Kish, Joel Prather and Bob Wheeler; from Muskegon, Edgar Watson and Terry McElfish as well as Steve Namenye, from Spring Lake.

President Jim Duff, Program V.P. Tom Porritt and Membership V.P. Frank Scott promoted our hobby at Muskegon Community College's annual Mayfest Celebration in May. They played barbershop video tapes and distributed literature at the attractive recruitment booth.



Membership V.P., Frank Scott
at the Mayfest Booth

June 11 saw the chapter's *Shoreline Chorus* manning a float in The National Asparagus Festival in Shelby, Michigan.

continued - next page

Muskegon Chapter - continued.

In Muskegon's annual Summer Celebration parade, the **Four Score and More** quartet and other chapter members joined a 1924 pick-up truck on a flat bed trailer. Officials estimated parade attendance at over 100,000.

Memorial Day weekend was full for the chorus, appearing first at the "Historical Site Dedication" of the old Mouth Cemetery in Montague. On Memorial Day the chorus sang at the Muskegon Lake front in a program sponsored by the Muskegon Chamber of Commerce in conjunction with the Muskegon Economic Growth Alliance.

Again this year, as for many years, the Muskegon chorus was featured at the opening event of Grand Haven's annual Coast Guard Festival, the NBD Bank's "Picnic for Children". The chorus will also sing in several area churches through July and August.

The chapter has also gained a newly registered quartet, **The Rising Tide**, with Paul Henrikson at lead, Edgar Watson-tenor, John Fuller-bari and Bob Weber-bass.

Gratiot County Chapter

by James R. Hall, Past President

We have been gearing up for several months for our October 1 show, "Toys oR us," and the final chords are finally coming together. We have received great response for past shows like "A Fifties' Diner," ('92) and "The Midstatesmen Castaways," ('93) and hope to continue our successful run.

This years show, built around a toy shop theme, will explode with colorful costumes, neat music and plenty of crazy antics. Expect to see toy clowns cause some commotion, stuffed animals come alive and toy soldiers marching around the stage. You could say were getting all wound for this performance.

In addition to our **Midstatesmen Chorus** and several fine chapter quartets, we will feature **Marquis**, (1994 International representatives from the Johnny Appleseed District) and the dog-gone funny **Harmony Hounds**. We expect the 3:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. shows to both sell out, so please purchase your tickets early. For tickets or more information call Dave Rayburn (517) 875-2817 or Joel Todd (517) 236-5033.

We also plan singing for several thousand people at the Michigan Masonic Home, a family camp-out, "roughing it" through the **Blue Ribbon Coalition** Golf Tournament and performing at several other summer events. And of course we are looking ahead to and planning for the fall convention in Lansing.

Kudos go to Pat Murphy for the fantastic pig roast he hosted the July 4th weekend. It's great to see such enthusiasm from a new member. Maybe he didn't realize what he was getting into

- inviting 60 members and their families to his home. But as another member remarked, "If there's food, *we're there.*"

Special thanks also to member Paul Worley who arranged to have a special trailer custom-built for our chapter. It will transport our risers, sound equipment and any props we might want to take with us to coming performances.

Huron Valley Chapter

by James Carter, Secretary

Huron Valley Chapter sang at the Manchester Chicken Broil on July 21 and will sing at the Ypsilanti Heritage Festival in August, likely on the 20th. We are planning on competing at the fall convention and are assembling talent for our Cabaret Party on Saturday, November 5.

To beat the heat, we have changed our summer practice location to the First Congregational Church of Christ, 218 N. Adams Street in Ypsilanti. We are getting used to a slightly different practice sound at the new location and *air conditioning* has invigorated us all.

Our Music Director, Rob Pettigrew, recently married, is taking a short leave-of-absence to adjust to his new home, three step children, two cats and a dog. Reliable and talented Jim Stephens is getting us started on music for next year's show, "Remember Radio", and we are also learning several Harmony Explosion numbers for the Cabaret Party.

The Travelin' Brown Jug appeared, in the hands of the Detroit-Oakland Chapter, July 13. Their nineteen visiting members gave us their version of "Bad Boys Singin' Barbershop" (with upturned collars) and helped us practice "I'll Fly Away." They are a wonderful group, and we very much enjoyed their visit.

Your Chapter

by you

This space is for the news of the important things going on in your chapter, but your copy never arrived.

Actually, we did receive a fax transmission with a totally blank page except for the I.D. of the firm from where it was sent.

The only printing on the entire sheet was "JUL 14 '94 11:55 FROM FL STIMACH-RAWS-PLT."

The *Troub* machine did pick up and reveal the fax number of the sending unit. It was (313) 487-6338.

Maybe that was yours. We really have no way of identifying the source.

Anyway, this space will be reserved for your copy next month too. So please send it along.

Keep your life in tune!

by Ken Hampel, Muskegon Chapter

Music produces many good effects on us. It subdues anxiety, it can induce love and joy, and give us rest and relaxation. Music stimulates our thoughts, reduces boredom and aimless expenditures of energy and soothes the soul of those who grieve.

Music can reduce high blood pressure and improve your disposition. It increases your dining pleasure by increasing your metabolism and aiding digestion. Singing accelerates your breathing and reduces fatigue.

Energy for routine factory or office work is increased and mental concentration is improved, with the proper music.

Music, we know, can inspire a football team to victory or pick-up lagging foot soldiers.

People who enjoy music live longer. Irving Berlin, for example, was still composing music when he died at age 99.

We certainly all enjoy the music of the first joyful bird songs of spring. Some people take drugs to feel good. It's better to sing, enjoy music, and you'll have no bad side effects.

A story is told of a group of women who survived three and one-half years in a Japanese prison camp in Sumatra. Even though disease and malnutrition wiped out most of their group, they survived by singing together to rise above their horrendous conditions in the camp.

Their music kept them alive.

One barbershopper reported he always feels better after a rehearsal. He said it relaxes him and tunes him up for another week. "It's just as good as a workout at the 'Y'," he said.

You don't need an \$85000 Steinway or an \$800 sax like President Clinton to make music. You really don't even need a \$10 pitchpipe. You have everything you need to make music in your upper body. Just use your lungs, vocal chords, mouth, ears and brain. You carry with them with you wherever you go, so four guys can produce musical harmony, wherever they are. God spent about 2 billion years developing those organs, so use them and take care of them.

Music is a universal language. It transcends all political and racial barriers. Music embellishes the spoken word with greater "feeling" and the expression of emotion.

Barbershoppers probably have more fun singing than any other group enjoys in their endeavor, whatever it may be.

Don't gripe when your director makes you work hard to sing well. Singing well brings greater joy to you and your listener.

Most people love music. So "Therapeutize" yourself and your listener, by singing.

Keep the "Old Songs" ringing. Keep "The Whole World Singing." Keep your life in Tune!

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Ed notes – and other stuff.

This job can be, well if not exactly fun, rewarding – usually. But this issue and the last one, have been danged *frustrating!*

In June/July, we wound up with 17 pages and had to set one aside. (You see, the *Troub* is printed 4 pages to a sheet of 17" X 11" paper) so all issues must be in a multiple of four pages. (By the way, the missing page from last time, is page 10 in this issue.)

This time, the final tally was 15 pages – one short!!!

But now and again, we see some things we'd like to use in the many bulletins we receive – so the rest of this page is devoted, literally, to those "clippings."

No periods in initials

In keeping with a trend toward dropping periods from acronyms, the Society discontinued placing them in its name some time ago; however, it is noted that they continue to appear in some printed materials not issued by the international office. The only place that periods should appear in SPEBSQSA is within the logo itself, since that is the way it was originally registered.

Also, in accordance with our Statements of Policy in the bylaws, no attempt should be made to pronounce the acronym as a spoken word, e.g., "speb-squaw." Sound out the letters when speaking.

Another area of common misunderstanding associated with our name is use of the word "barbershop." Barbershop is now a single word, although, at the time the Society was organized, it was two words. Thus, the only time it should appear as two words is in our full name: the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc. (SPEBSQSA).

This one is from Dan Dailey's *Update*. We like it as it addresses a pet peeve – the attempted pronunciation of the Society's initials.

*If we have to recruit,
we must be doing something
wrong.*

The above appears in each issue of the *Westunes Magazine*, of the Far Western District. We have spent considerable time staring at it, trying to muster arguments in opposition and sometimes in agreement. Anyway, it makes us think. Hope it does the same for you.

The quote below, obviously needs no comment from here.

Quotable Quote

As seen in the Sep/Oct, 1985 issue of Central States Serenade

"If I had a wish, it would be that we, as a Society, would begin to have even more respect for our stlye - not because someone tells us to, but because we value it so much that we would only give the best of it to ourselves and to our audience. And we're so good at it. And it gives so much to us. Isn't that reason enough?"

Dr. Greg Lyne,
Musical Director,
Lombard, IL

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1994

Oct. 1 Gratiot County Show
Oct. 8 Swan Valley Show
Oct. 14-16 Dist. Conv., Lansing
Nov. 5 Grand Rapids Show
Nov. 5 Rochester Show

1995

Jan. 22-29 Midwinter, Tuscon, Ariz
Feb. 17-18 Detroit-Oakland Show
Mar. 3-4 Wayne Show
Mar. 4 Lansing Show
Mar. 3-4 Wayne Show
Mar. 11 Monroe North Show
Mar. 18 Kalamazoo Show
Apr. 8 Muskegon Show
Apr. 28-30 Dist. Conv., Lansing
May 6 Boyne City Bush League
May 19-21 Harmony Round-Up
Jun. 9 Windsor Send-Off
Jul. 2-9 Int. Convention, Greater
Miami, Fla
Oct. 20-21 District Convention
Nov. 4 Grand Rapids Show

NOTE: All chapter show activities must be cleared through the District Secretary and ASCAP, BMI and Canadian Chapter CAPAC fees paid. Only those thus cleared will be listed herein. **PLEASE NOTIFY:**

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Photo by Tom Uicker

The **Four Score and More** quartet from the Muskegon Chapter and Walt Quick of the Wayne Chapter were recipients of the Bill Butler Memorial Scholarship fund for the 1994 Harmony Round-Up. The quartet, seated left to right, are Richard Warner – bari, Imre Bryant – lead, Webb Scrivnor – tenor, and Roy Rock – bass.

See story on page 8