



# pioneer TROUBADOUR



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

VOLUME 45

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NUMBER 3



Power Play



Onyx



See page 8



City Lights

pioneer  
**TROUBADOUR**

Official Publication of the Pioneer District  
S. P. E. B. S. Q. S. A. Inc.

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**PIONEER DISTRICT  
PRESIDENT**



**RUSSELL SEELY**

Congratulations Lansing! Just one year after our first venture into the capital city as our convention site, your house of delegates voted to extend our stay in Lansing through 1998.

I must admit I was a tad skeptical about leaving Battle Creek, since it seemed to fill all our needs, especially when everything was in walking distance of headquarters, but obviously, as even more centrally located city and possibly the "home like atmosphere" of the Sheraton made the short hops by car or trolley, acceptable. Your attendance justifies the extension. We have improved pre-registration by 17%. That number plus site registrations and single ticket sales have given us full houses for contests.

Thank you hosts - Detroit-Oakland - for a job well done.

The Seelys had the pleasure of hosting Jim McDougall, Ontario District President and his lovely wife, Sylvia, as well as our IBM, Roger Lewis and his lady Sue, who joined us for dinner on Saturday. The prior week, Shirl and I were guests of the McDougalls at the Ontario District Convention in Toronto. Besides having a great time - I found Jim is a great woodshedder. We exchanged many ideas that work well within our districts and we wouldn't be surprised to see Ontario going to a single site concept (like us) and Pioneer opening our own merchandising department (like them). Not bad eh?

One of the most satisfying moments of the convention was to see an unmistakable glow on Dot McDermott's face when we presented her with the first copy of "The Pioneer District History - The first Fifty Years" by her late husband, our good pal Bob. Dottie personally autographed the first 20 copies available for sale. We took orders for more as they become available and our hope is to have Dot personalize the first 100 copies.

The district board established a study committee to work out the nuts and bolts to establish a District Merchandise Manager. Items like the McDermott History, golf shirts and assorted Pioneer paraphernalia could be made available throughout the year using a mail order  
*Continued - see Seely, page 4.*

**INTERNATIONAL BOARD  
MEMBER**



**ROGER LEWIS**

Being between board meetings, I have nothing to report from the International scene, but we tried something new at our spring convention that begs attention -- a Jamboree open to any registered quartet to come and "show their stuff." Ten quartets jumped at the opportunity and after the Friday night contest, the audience in the Reo Theater in the Sheraton was treated to performances by the:

<i>Paragon Quartet</i>	-	The Harmony Hounds
<i>The Vocal Gentry</i>	-	Next Generation
<i>Gas Lighters</i>	-	Four Score and More
<i>Bay Area Harmony Club</i>	-	Crosstown Exchange
<i>Signature</i>	-	Chordmeisters

Fred Kienitz kept the show moving with his endless collection of "true to life" stories and jokes. Although the theater was only about 2/3 full, it was an appreciative group. The comments from those attending clearly said, "Let's do it again!!" So we will!

Friday night, October 14, will be the "SECOND AND EVEN GREATER JAMBOREE." It will start one/half hour after the announcement of the finalists or approximately 11:00 p.m. Any registered quartet that would like to perform should contact me by telephone or mail. Although entrants will be accepted right up to the time you walk on stage, registering early may avoid the 1:40 a.m. time slot! Of course, if that's your preference, let me know and we'll schedule it.

We have over 70 quartets in the district directory, yet only have 14 to 17 in contests. Many of the quartets who choose not to compete perform regularly and are very entertaining. In fact, some of them don't sing songs that might be considered "contest acceptable." (At least I haven't heard they'll allow the *Hounds* to bring the guitar and string bass???). Yet, until now, the contest stage has been the only venue available for them to perform for the great audiences who attend our conventions from all around the district.

Sound good? Drop me a note or give me a call.



Executive V.P.  
Larry Parker

Thank you so much.

Please accept my humblest thank you for your concern, your prayers, and the 80 plus get well cards and the scores of telephone calls I received following my heart by-pass surgery in March. Words alone cannot express my gratitude for your thoughtful acts of pure friendship. I shall forever remember and treasure your gifts of encouragement!

\*\*\*\*\*

Another very successful convention was made possible by Director of Convention Planning, Mike Cirritto, the Pioneer District Convention Planning Committee and your week-end hosts, the men and women of the Detroit-Oakland Chapter.

Wait a minute - did I say *women* .... this is a *mens* singing Society! Yes, That's what I said, and the ladies in our lives are essential to the success of each chapter, the district and our Society.

In their own special way, mothers, wives, and sweethearts support us in our hobby. They demonstrate it in concern for our happiness, in a desire to help us grow, and their gift of love, while doing those little Barbershop things we all take for granted.

Thirty-five percent of those persons attending conventions are women. Being aware of this fact, the district officers and Convention Planning Committee provide activities and special events just for the ladies. The largest point of focus is the **Ladies Hospitality Room**. You say you've never heard of the Ladies Hospitality Room? Well, let us enlighten you.

The Chord room, located off the lobby just behind the Sheraton Hotel's registration desk, is the location of the Ladies Hospitality Room for each convention. The room is open Friday

afternoon, Saturday morning and again Saturday afternoon, after the chorus contest. Carole Parker, Hospitality Room Coordinator, and a host of other volunteers, greet the ladies as they enter, invite them to relax and have a cup of complimentary coffee and some delicious home-made cookies. Ladies may also register for a number of door prizes.

Other special events, such as last fall's successful Continental Breakfast/Fashion Show, will be available at future conventions.

Ladies - in making your plans for this fall's convention, please include the events and activities planned especially for you. We're sure you'll have a good time.

### *Seely, from page 3.*

program. You'll see an ad in this issue of the *Troub* for the book and shirt, which will begin our inventory.

A disastrous communication gap plus the addition of an Ohio College quartet to our District College Quartet Contest caused a great deal of confusion. Many of us (definitely your president) were not aware that district borders do not exist for the college contest, thus; the Ohio entry was declared the "Pioneer Champs." Now that ruling may have been satisfactory to the committee that made up the rules, but it certainly did not appear to be acceptable to the overwhelming majority of Pioneer folks who are *very* territorially possessive. In short, they felt a Pioneer quartet should have been our champs and we've created one more problem by crossing district lines - whether those lines exist or not?? I am yet slightly red-faced by our lack of information prior to the contest.

We *still* don't know if we will have an actual Michigan or Ontario quartet in Pittsburgh since we understand that after all the district reps are selected the contest may be opened to additional contestants. Hopefully, this will occur since we solicited funds on their behalf. Heck, if the kids from Central Michigan University had gone to Toronto the week before - where they had no contestants, they could/would have been declared the Ontario champs!!! Think these rules need work?

See you at the send-off and Tiger Stadium. Go *Onyx!* Go *Power Play!* Show 'em all, *City Lights!*

\*\*\* A late announcement - Pioneer's collegiate quartet, *Class Ring* from Central Michigan University, will sing in Pittsburgh!! See more on International competitors page.

## Speaking out

### Competing for points!

by President Russ Seely

I feel compelled to speak out on the issue of "competing for points" in our contests. I plan to write to the Society's C&J chairman to let him know that I don't think it's working. To share some of the highlights, I'll include the following: I believe it is highly unlikely that different panels at different locations with different contestants can come up with uniform scoring when the scores are admittedly subjective. I've heard more than one judge comment; that was a "high-scoring" or a "low-scoring" contest. Doesn't that create inconsistency in itself?

Quartets find "reasons" to attend another districts contest "for points only?" They also "make the cut" with scores that would not have allowed them on stage in their own district - but don't blame them - I'd have done it - might have even booked a show or two! When this happens it extends the finals on Saturday night, when time is so precious.

But my biggest displeasure is the inconsistency of the scores. Our current champs, *Full Chord Press* scored 126 points less than last fall, on the same two songs! That's a lot of points, folks. Did we experience one of those "low scoring" contests? Mind you, I'm not disputing the standings in either the chorus or quartet contests, just the numerical score! *Power Play*, *Onyx*, and *Genuine Blend* all suffered from the famine of numbers. One district is being represented by 8 quartets as a result of achieving the magic 1800 points (based on a double panel). *Power Play* did have 1861 points awarded but that's not a representative score for a quartet that must entertain hopes of making the prestigious "Top Ten" in Pittsburgh! We really need to re-examine this system and if you have feelings for or against, a call or note to our C&J Chairman, Mike O'Donnell is in order.



Gordon Gunn,  
Editor

International. Our congratulations to *Power Play* and *Onyxon* earning their way to Pittsburgh and

**Ed notes** - We saw a very exceptional quartet preliminary contest in Lansing in April. This editor is no judge and claims no expertise in that realm. (I only know what I like, and I liked what I saw)!

From here, it seems four quartets ought to have qualified for

### Membership and retention

by Larry Parker, Dir. of Membership Dev.

I've heard members of various chapters say, "We sign new members, but our total numbers decrease. It seems as if we're on a treadmill and going nowhere." This is where you must step back and re-evaluate your entire program.

A successful membership program is like a coin - it has two sides. Heads... your chapter works hard to *sign* new members. Tails.... your chapter works equally hard to *retain* members. And just like that coin, each has a purpose and are important to one another.

If in a years time a chapter brings in 15 new members but loses 20 members through the back door, there's no success to the story. The fault here lies with *retention*, or the lack of it.

Retention begins with a solid group of men, your Board of Directors. These leaders, backed up with a potent cast of chapter members, must develop an objective or goal for the chapter; a dynamic music program and concentrated social activities. All the while your doing this, you *must* have fun, or it won't work!

This scenario may or may not resemble your chapter's activities. If it does, your chapters meetings are most likely to be fun and fulfilling to you. If this doesn't sound like your chapter, I then strongly suggest each member take the "Bull by the horns", confer with your Board of Directors and actively participate in turning things around. When you do this, you may discover a new way to have *fun* in Barbershopping. for our Society's sake, please try it. It really works!

to *Genuine Blend* and *Full Chord Press* for truly wonderful performances!

Certainly the *Great Lakes Chorus*, new District Champs, and all of the other fine choruses deserve our congratulations also.

We noted with much favor, the three *young* men in the *Great Lakes Chorus* and we have noticed quite young men in various other choruses. Hurrah!

We also enjoyed the new "Quartet Jamboree" on Friday night. Fred Kientz introduced an entertaining array of quartets we might not otherwise see at a convention. Although the Reo Theater was not full, we suspect that when the word is out, many more will attend next fall. Roger Lewis said the Jamboree will move to a hotel ballroom at the next convention, allowing more seating.

And our thanks to Bill Wickstrom, the Detroit-Oakland Chapter, our hosts, and Mike Ciritto and his convention committee for a truly superb musical and entertaining weekend.

**ADD-A-LINE**

Several chapters in our district have a chance to get big PR and new members late this summer. And others nearby could help out and take advantage of the spinoff.

It's the airing of *"Keep America Singing,"* a PBS special with Mitch Miller, the championship Southern Gateway Chorus, Rural Route 4, the Acoustix and the Ritz.



**Jim Styer**  
Communication Officer

It's expected to air during PBS pledge periods in August in most areas, but in September in Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo.

The May/June *Harmonizer* has all the details, along with several ideas on how to take advantage of this

opportunity. But it will take some planning and contact work by your chapter. First you must identify a chapter coordinator for this project, whether it be your PR Officer or some other responsible and enthusiastic member.

Get their name to Dan Casamatta, Grand Rapids Chapter PR Officer, who's agreed to coordinate this at district level. Call Dan at 616-

285-4546 (home) or 616-456-2002 (work). You may also write him at 2117 Ridegwood SE Grand Rapids, MI 49546.

If you can't reach Dan, call me.

Dan will work with your chapter on ideas and will forward your coordinators name to Kenosha so he will be on the mailing list for sample news releases, photos, ad slicks and membership promotion ideas.

Your chapter coordinator will work with your area PBS affiliate and other chapter officers in preparing and carrying out activities that will tie you in with the national telecast.

The possibilities include local promotion of the event, volunteering to man telephones the night the show airs, singing on TV and guest nights.

Read the May/June *Harmonizer* again for ideas on how you can fit in.

PBS affiliate headquarters with nearby chapters include Detroit, Flint, Saginaw, Mt. Pleasant, Alpena, Cadillac, East Lansing and Grand Rapids/Kalamazoo. If you don't already have them, Dan can provide addresses, telephone numbers and PBS contact persons.

Do you want the chance to get on TV, reach out to new audiences and get new members? Dan and I can help, but we first need to know who's going to carry the ball for your chapter.

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"Meet the Press" contains over 15 of the "Press Boys'" favorite songs. Featuring David Gillingham arrangements of "A Whole New World", "Friend Like Us", "I Love You Truly", and "If I Could Be With You", as well as a trip through Barbershop history with "Down Our Way"! To order your's today send check or money order to the address below!!

Compact Disc = \$15.00

Cassette Tape = \$10.00

Send to: Full Chord Press  
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## Post convention notes

by Mike Cirritto, Director of Convention Planning

The spring convention proved to be another great weekend of barbershop singing and camaraderie. Our thanks to the Detroit-Oakland Chapter for a terrific job hosting the convention and for providing some great weather.

Participation at convention continues on the upswing. We had fifteen competing quartets, sixteen choruses and four college quartets. Convention attendance surpassed 1,300 and our room blocks in 4 of our 5 hotels were sold out! The trolley and the concessions at Waverly high continue to be a hit. The Saturday Bar-B.Q. buffet at the Sheraton was also very well received, although the same cannot be said for the Friday Deli buffet, which will not be repeated. Our first Quartet Jamboree on Friday night got off to a good start and we hope to increase attendance at this function in the fall.

Special thanks also go to Karel "Mr. T" Taborsky and Bob Kull of the Lansing Chapter who collaborated on the quartet prop that you may have noticed in the hotel lobby. We are not sure that it promoted quarteting as we had hoped, but we have some tentative plans for its use next fall. If any chapter is interested in using the prop, it is very portable and the rental fee is nominal. We have received a few requests.

We think it is important to continue providing a variety of activities to convention-goers, and especially to provide something of interest to the ladies who may have spare time on Saturday morning. I would like to know what appeals to them; perhaps golfing, touring Lansing landmarks, antique hunting, fashion show breakfasts? Or perhaps simply exploring the area on their own? Please ask your wives and children for some ideas and pass them along.

Finally, as you may know, the District House of Delegates voted to continue the convention in Lansing through 1998.

My appreciation to the convention committee, our IBM Roger Lewis, and to the staff of the Sheraton Hotel and the Convention Bureau for all their effort and support.

## Battle Creek's "Riser", Motors City's "Lantern", top district bulletins

by Roger O. Morris, Chairman, B.E. Contest

For the second year in a row Jim Styer and Andy Valentine have taken the top two spots in the Pioneer District's Bulletin Editor of the Year contest. Reversing 1992's finish, Styers' publication was judged best for 1993. The winners were awarded plaques in recognition of their achievements at the April convention and the bulletins will be forwarded for entry in the International Contest.

There was a slight increase in participation in this year's district contest, which is somewhat encouraging. However, more Pioneer editors should be taking a larger interest in this program, sponsored by Probe. Like our singing competition, editors are judged in three categories: Content, Grammar and Style and Layout and Reproduction. District entry's are judged by a single panel of certified judges around the society and their works and critiques are returned to the district chairman before the spring convention. The top two publications from each district are then forwarded for judging by an International panel and the winners and the complete judging scores are announced at the International convention.

Competition does more than decide awards however. It gives each editor a picture of what he is doing right, what he needs to do to improve his work and how his publication may be made more readable and beneficial to his chapter. Here's hoping to get entries from all our editors for 1994. All of our entries scored well in 1993. Our congratulations to all who entered. Good luck at International to Jim and Andy.

## Bulletin Editor Plaques designed by Pioneer District artist

by Roger O. Morris

The handsome plaques awarded to bulletin contest winners in the district, consist of art work on tile, mounted on a walnut base which carries a brass recognition plate. The art work is a product of Milton Erickson, Milford Chapter's fine artist in residence. Milt is a retired commercial artist from one of Detroit's nationally known firms. He designed the tile at the request of Roger Morris in 1978 when the award replaced the old certificates before given to "Editor-of-the-Year" winners. He has furnished art work for show flyers, covers for Milford's show programs and many barbershop cartoons.



## ...and representing the *Pioneer District*

### *Power Play*

Perennial crowd favorites and International competitors, The *Power Play* family quartet announced that the competition in Pittsburgh in July, 1994, will be their "...last at International, for awhile." After that, Mike said he wants to "watch my little girl grow up." They outscored all others at the district contest April 23, to earn their 5th consecutive appearance in the top competition.

The Slamka family four are: tenor, Don - lead, Mike - baritone, Mark and bass, Jack.

Mike also directs the *City Lights Chorus* which will also compete in Pittsburgh, while Mark directs the *Harmony Heritage Chorus* of the Macomb County Chapter.

Last year they placed 17th in Calgary, with 3377 points, nearly the same score as in 1992. As Jim Styer reported last summer, their stage presence scores in both sets ranked among the top five quartets, and their interpretation scores on three of the 4 songs were in the top ten.

### *Onyx*

Although competition in Pittsburgh will be the first International for the *Onyx Quartet*, members of the four have represented the district at International with other quartets.

Personnel of the *Onyx* joined forces less than a year ago, in the summer of 1993. After two months of intense rehearsal, they finished second in the Pioneer District Quartet contest last October.

Bruce LeMarte, tenor, and Craig Pollard, lead, sang together in the 1990 District Champion Quartet--*Checkmate*. Bruce has sung in numerous quartets at district and international competitions. Many talented Craig, a second generation barbershopper, joined the Society at age 15.

Mike Woodruff, baritone, and Tom Conway, bass, (who have sang together since high school) spent their early barbershop years together in the Pioneer District Champion Quartet--*Tri-County Connection*. That quartet also competed at International.

### *City Lights*

The Motor City Metro Chapter and the *City Lights Chorus* began in March, 1991 when Bob Whitledge "called a dozen guys... who had dropped out of barbershopping." The chorus first sang in International competition in New Orleans in 1992. They made the trip to Calgary last summer and in October, 1993 scored ninth in the Society's preliminary contests to qualify again for the International competition.

Directed by Mike Slamka, the *City Lights* members who will sing in Pittsburgh are; Larry Bates, Dick Bauman, Gene Beatty, Don Boettcher, Don Borngesser, Gene Hulka, Pete Burns, David Campbell, Brian Cartwright, Jerry Clardy, Don Cline, Ed Conn, Roger Craig, Roger Davidson, Chuck Drouillard, Dan Drouillard, Mike Elbert, Al Fisk, Mike Foner, Gary Frances, Jack Frucci, Ken Hansen, Gene Harrington, Chuck Hatch, Dave Herge, Len Johnson, Don Kondor, Tom Kren, Phil Laliberte, Jim Lekander, Frank Lopez, Jamie Marr, Wilb Matthes, Marv Moran, Joe Morris, Pete Morris, Denny Mull, Jack Murtagh, John Nolte, Hal Pashby, Nick Pastor, Jim Peake, John Peterson, Sean Praetzel, Ruben Queen, Steve Ray, Jerry Reid, Bob Riedel, Tom Roozenburg, Dick Shattuck, Steve Skrzycki, Donny Slamka, Mike Slupinski, John Smith, Jerry Spidler, John Szewc, Mike Tarn, Bob Terry, Lowell Thomas, Hal Thompson, Matt Tipton, Andy Valentine, Dunc Wallace, Paul Ward, John Wearing, Bob Whipple, Al Whited, Art Winkles, Bob Wisdom and Bill Wise.

#### A late announcement

### *Class Ring will sing!*

President Russ Seely said *Class Ring*, Pioneer's highest scoring college quartet from the April competition, has "unofficially" been invited to sing in the MBNA America Collegiate Quartet Contest in Pittsburgh. Russ added "The district will support them."

"Barring something unforeseen," bari, Scott Carter said, "we'll be there." The other three are; tenor, Brian Gendron, lead, Simeon Esper, and bass, Scott Whipple.





The Great Lakes Chorus  
1994 Pioneer District Champions - Directed by Jim Pollard

### ***Grand Rapids had a great time...***

by Dan Casamatta, Chapter PR Officer

The Grand Rapids Chapter had a great time at the 1994 spring convention.

Led by its new director, Jim Pollard, *The Great Lakes Chorus* won the District Championship. Jim formerly directed the Wayne chorus to a district championship and the International contest stage. His dynamic, uplifting style helped the chorus increase the number singing on the contest stage by 20 since the last contest, and bodes well for the future.

As Chapter President John Bloomquist has said, "We can't forget the past directors who helped us get to this level, namely Dale Mattis, Jerry Koning and Jim Johnson."

John gave special thanks at the Champions Show Saturday night, to the chapters three certified judges, Bruce Evans, Joel Mills and

Mike O'Donnell, who helped prepare the chorus for the contest. He also expressed appreciation for the help of Judy Shue, a Grand Rapids Sweet Adeline who helped the chorus with motivation and stage presence.

Chapter quartets also performed well at the spring contest. *Genuine Blend* with chapter member Mark Garlock placed third in its first contest, and missed going to the International contest by a very few points.

*Beyond Measure*, with Paul Slack, Tom Weidner, Wayne Kinde and Jerry Koning had a strong showing and entertained well.

Another chapter quartet that cannot be forgotten for its good works and singing style is *The Furniture City Chord Company*, who won honors at the convention for its outstanding support of and heroic contributions to Heartspring. Ron Thomet, Jim Westveld, Ray Grutter and Dave Kutter continue to give of themselves for the children of Heartspring.

### ***Top district PR Officer honored***

by Jim Styer

Dan Casamatta of Grand Rapids has been honored as the Pioneer District Public Relation Officer of the Year.

He is not only the chapter's PRO, but also the chapter bulletin editor.

"His organizational skills and follow-through have resulted in several publicity coups for the chapter," said the nominating letter from the chapter.

Among his activities in 1993, besides the usual year-around publicity any good chapter PRO is responsible for, was gaining access to the annual Grand Rapids festival in June, which draws hundreds of thousands of people. He made inquiries and prepared presentations, resulting in a chapter food booth during the festival. This

was both a way to raise funds for the chapter and expose a new audience to barbershopping.

Dan also worked with the chapter's Fred Barr and President John Bloomquist to develop a barbershop show for a TCI Cable public access channel.

And he arranged for extensive publicity of the chapter's Singing Valentine program, including the appearance with his quartet, *Four Grand*, on the WOOD radio morning show, a taped spot on WZZM-TV and a live spot on WOOD-TV's *Live at 5:30* newscast. The effort was so successful, the chapter had to turn down requests for singing valentines and terminate the publicity.

Afterward, the chapter found a \$160 cash donation in its mailbox slot with an anonymous note: "You have no idea how much goodwill you have brought to so many people. You are my Valentine."



Dr. F. M. Durham  
International Logopedics and  
Service Committee  
1997 Schoolhouse Ct.  
Northville, MI 48167  
May 9, 1994

Dear Gordon,

I was privileged to speak to the House of Delegates at the Spring Convention in Lansing. My reason for doing so was to attempt to clear up misconceptions about Society support of our Unified Support Project, "Heartspring". The name change seems to be of great concern and with that name change, a perception that it's mission has changed and, it is now no longer appropriate for the Society to lend financial support. I pointed out that not only has Heartsprings mission *not* changed but, in fact, it's mission has expanded with the addition of a full assessment and Treatment Center program. A thorough evaluation of the child's communication disorders and other disabilities, and a prescribed individualized program to help the child overcome these disorders, has been made possible with the addition of the assessment and Treatment Center Program.

Helping children with disabilities and communication disorders reach for their potential has been Heartsprings mission for 60 years. Music therapy is an integral part of the program. Children *do* respond to music whether the notes are sung or played on some sort of an instrument. Rhythm in speech patterns is as important as it is in music and is a very effective tool in working with children.

Back to the name change. As I said at the House of Delegates meeting, the word "Logopedics" is meaningless, except to professionals in the field of speech disorders. While the word itself was without meaning, it did represent our Unified Service Project, something that barbershoppers throughout the Society could support. While barbershoppers were comfortable with the name "Institute of Logopedics", parents were not. The word "Institute" implied an institutional setting, something walled in. Parents do not want their children in an institutional setting. The staff also felt a contemporary name would be more appropriate, as well as a logo more representative of what was being accomplished with children. The result was the new logo and the name "Heartspring."

As chairman of the Logopedics and Service Committee, I am a member of the Heartspring Board of Trustees. I have expressed the feelings of barbershoppers about the name change. As a result, the next issue of "Dialogue", published by Heartspring, will be sent to all barbershoppers.

It will contain an article about the name change. Meanwhile, Brenda Keeler, Director of Patron Organizations, states, "If barbershoppers don't like the name change, that's o.k., as long as they know our mission hasn't changed. We're still devoted to children with communication disorders and we still use music as part of our program of therapy with the children." Change can be hard to accept. Hopefully, time will take care of it.

Respectfully,

Fran Durham, Chairman,  
Logopedics and Service Committee

P.S. 1994 marks the 30th anniversary of the adoption of Heartspring as our Unified Service Project. It also marks the 60th year of the founding of Heartspring by Dr. Martin Palmer. To honor the 30 years of support, a commemorative pin has been designed the acknowledge the relationship between barbershoppers and Heartspring children. The pin will first be displayed at the convention in Pittsburgh and will be for sale. In addition, there will be a series of special events, October 20-23, 1994, at Heartspring, celebrating its 60 year history and the 30 year barbershop relationship. More information about the events will be forthcoming.

230 Union Street  
Arlington, Ohio 45814  
May 8, 1994

Dear Fellow Barbershoppers,

We had to take a moment to say "thank you" to all of you folks in the Pioneer District for the great time you showed our quartet at the International prelims in April.

From the time we arrived you made us feel like one of your own, and congratulated us on our Friday night performance as if we had been champs. The warm welcome continued in your jamboree, even if the crowd was smaller than you had hoped.

Saturday night was pure fun: Our goal was to make the cut and sing the second night. Then we started the rounds of the hospitality rooms and made lots of new friends. It was great to see you all and renew some acquaintances from Director's College, AHSOW, and other old buddies. We hope our musical paths cross again soon - like in Pittsburgh, where we'll help cheer for *Power Play* and *Onyx*. Maybe someday we'll be back in Pioneer on some of your chapter shows. We had a ball - all weekend.

*Paragon* - Tom Granata, Todd Hanes, Bill Businger, Fred Schmidt

Letters, continued

Central Michigan University  
May 13, 1994

On behalf of the *Full Chord Press* I would like to thank the Pioneer District for the wonderful support you have given our quartet over the past two years. *Full Chord Press* will be "hanging up the Pitchpipe" on June 11, 1994, which will be our last public performance (Traverse City Show at Interlochen, Michigan). As many of you already know, Scott Whipple has been accepted into the School of Law at Notre Dame. We all knew Scott would be leaving the quartet this summer which prompted the rest of us to consider our "options". Simeon Esper has decided to take a hiatus from barbershop as he is very busy in the Music Department at Central Michigan University and would like to take more time to devote to other performance activities. Speaking for myself, I find that my "hobby" has become a second vocation over the past two years with my involvement with the quartet (my poor family had no summer vacation last year because of our appearance in Calgary!) and my certification as a Music judge. Arranging barbershop music has also taken up large "chunks" of my time too. My career as a composer of "classical" music has almost taken a "back seat" and I have made a decision to put quartetting on "hold" for the time being. Jamie, however, is a "die hard" and has already "re-grouped." You will soon be hearing from his new foursome.

It has been a real "high" for me, singing with three other gifted vocalists. Jamie has a unique flair for interpretation and styling while Scott Whipple is probably one of the best young bass singers this district has ever heard. Simeon has about the sweetest sounding tenor voice this side of the Rocky Mountains and has literally "saved" our quartet and helped us go to International and win the District Championship. And me?.....Well, I just sing the right notes.

We owe a great deal to Joel Mills, our coach. He has been an inspiration to us and we love him dearly.

On behalf of the "Press," I would like to thank all of our friends in the district for their undying support of our quartet. Your cheers and thunderous applause have kept us going (even when we weren't at our best).

As a sort of closure for the quartet, we have completed a CD recording of all the "stuff" we do on show and afterglows (including the infamous "Down Our Way" extravaganza). Please take advantage of our advertisement in this issue. I think you'll like what you hear.

Sincerely,  
David Gillingham, baritone, *Full Chord Press*

From the Music Department, CMU

### **Third annual "Barbershop Bonanza" at CMU**

Central Michigan University will play host to the third annual "Barbershop Bonanza" on July 26, 1994. The "Bonanza" was organized by Dr. David Gillingham for high school men who enjoy singing barbershop or who would like to learn more about the art form. The day begins a 9:00 a.m. and concludes in the evening with a concert in Warriner Auditorium at 7:00 p.m.

The young men will be involved in a clinic/rehearsal during the day and will perform on the evening concert. This year's clinician/director will be Ev Nau from the International headquarters of the SPEBSQSA in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Also, tentatively planned, is a performance by the *City Lights Chorus* and the *Power Play* quartet, on the evening concert. The event usually attracts about forty high school men from all over the state of Michigan.

Information on this event and registration forms have been sent to every high school vocal director in Michigan. The cost is \$10.00 per person (high school directors may attend free) which includes the cost of two meals during the day. If you need further information, please contact Dr. Gillingham by calling (517) 774-3326 or 772-4183 or by writing to David Gillingham, Music Department, CMU, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48859.

#### **Foundation approves "singAmerica" program**

by Jim Styer

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

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

Full details next issue.

Pioneer District International  
 Preliminary Quartet Contest,  
 SPEBSQSA, Inc. Lansing, Michigan,  
 April 22-23, 1994

Pioneer District Chorus Contest,  
 SPEBSQSA Inc., Lansing, Michigan  
 April 23, 1994

<u>QUARTET</u>	<u>TOTAL SCORE</u>	<u>CHORUS</u>	<u>TOTAL SCORE</u>
<u>Finals</u>			
Power Play	1861	Great Lakes Chorus, Grand Rapids	886
Onyx	1784	Capital City Chordsmen, Lansing	807
Genuine Blend	1778	Midstatesmen Chorus, Gratiot County	803
Full Chord Press	1750	Cherry Capital Chorus, Traverse City	744
Which Wayz Up?	1692	Gentlemen Songsters, Detroit-Oakland	706
High Bid	1579	Mall City Chorus, Kalamazoo	667
Beyond Measure	1547	Renaissance Chorus, Wayne	665
Unlawful Assembly	1415	Heart Of The Hills Chorus, Rochester	654
Paragon	1409	Lakeshore Chorus, Grosse Pointe	640
Signature	1357	Harmony Heritage Chorus, Macomb Co.	613
<u>Semi-Finals</u>			
Safe-In-Sound	604	Cereal City Chorus, Battle Creek	612
Grand Prix	590	Town And Country Chorus, Jackson	608
The Next Generation	569	Huron Valley Harmonizers, Huron Valley	601
Four Score And More	436	Sun Parlour Chorus, Windsor	566
Picture This Four	393	Shoreline Chorus, Muskegon	508
		Mill Valley Chorus, Millford	503

**Grand Rapids, Great Lakes Chorus is the 1994 Pioneer District Chorus Champion!**  
 Millford is the Plateau 1 Champion.  
 Battle Creek is the Plateau 2 Champion.  
 Kalamazoo is the Plateau 3 Champion.  
 Gratiot County is Plateau 4 Champion.  
 Lansing is the Plateau 5 Champion.

Onyx and Power Play will represent the Pioneer District at the 1994 International Quartet Contest in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in July, 1994.

***NEW!! PIONEER DISTRICT SPECIAL PROMOTION!!***

Special Order - **Pioneer District Golf Shirts** - While Supply Lasts.  
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 Order White or Navy Shirt with custom embroidered Pioneer District Logo on left chest.  
 Special Price \$24.50 each, including shipping & handling.  
 Limited sizes; MED. LAR. XL. XXL. (3-XXXL White)  
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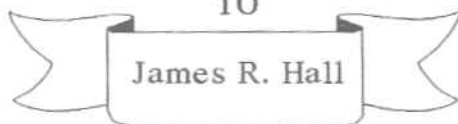
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## PIONEER CHAPTERS IN ACTION



### A TROUBADOUR SALUTE TO



James R. Hall

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

### Gratiot County Chapter

by James R. Hall

This summer the *Midstatesmen* are anticipating many great activities: the Tiger ball game, parade singing, a possible golf outing and several other harmonious get togethers.

We really enjoyed participating in the Cadillac Chapter's "Barbershop Bonanza" show May 21. They assembled quite a variety of local barber shop groups and our chorus and the *Blue Ribbon Coalition* quartet enjoyed all the fellowship that such a combined group creates.

Speaking of shows, what do you get when you mix 65 barbershoppers with a toy shop, plenty of music, color and even a little magic? Our 1994 annual show on October 1!! The "Toys or Us" show will have plenty of craziness as well as lots of neat music. Featured quartets are; *Marquis*, *1994 International quartet representatives from the Johnny Appleseed District*, and the ever-entertaining *Harmony Hounds*. Tickets for the 3:00 and 7:30 shows may be purchased from Dave Rayburn at (517) 875-2817.

We welcome our two newest members, Pat Murphy and Bob Martin. Hope they enjoy singing with us for many years to come.

Finally, a salute to member Robb Britting for his enthusiasm and creativity. In addition to serving as music librarian and organizing a quartet of young men, he has recently become our membership V.P. We're confident his recruitment ideas will produce great results.

(Ed. Note: The Gratiot County Chapter Bulletin revealed that author Hall, the chapter's 1993 president, was named "Barbershopper of the Year" for 1993. The twenty-four year old has been a chapter member for ten years. He was PR Officer in 1992. Congratulations!)

### Rochester Chapter

by Al Fisk, Music Director

Greetings from the *Heart of the Hills Chorus* of the Rochester Chapter. We are now meeting on Thursday nights at the Meadowbrook Christian Church, (1/4 mile east of University Drive and Adams Road, on University.) The Minister of the church, Gary Washburn, is a dynamic new member and Assistant Director of our chorus. We are truly blessed to have Gary as a member and his beautiful church to use as a meeting place.

The *Chordmasters Quartet* sang for the morning church services on Mother's Day. Dan Bajorek, Kurt Kiesling, Bob McCaffrey and Al Fisk chose "*Pal of My Cradle Days*" and "*Irish Blessing*" for the service.

We are very excited about our next two annual shows. This fall, November 5, we will feature our own award winning chorus as well as *The Great Stage Robbery*, the *Patch Chords*, and the *Rochester High School Men's Chorus*. In the fall of 1995, we will feature *Acoustix*.

This summer, the Ladies Professional Golfing Association will stop at Indianwood Country Club in Lake Orion. One of our chapter members belongs to Indianwood, and we have arranged for our chorus to sing during the week-long festivities. Maybe we'll be on national T.V.

### Motor City Metro Chapter

by Andy Valentine

It's May and Pittsburgh is quickly approaching. With a show on May 20 and 21, we are working very hard to prepare for both. As reported earlier, we are taking a Civil War package to Pittsburgh with two songs arranged by Pioneer's own "Doc" Gillingham. The music is coming along quite well and we expect the stage presence to fall in place shortly. Costumes to transform us into a regiment of Union soldiers have started arriving.

We have the benefit of coaching from Ev Nau from Kenosha, and Bob and Sally Whitledge have come back to visit and help with our sound. We are looking forward to several more coaching sessions before Pittsburgh.

With at least 73 men to fill the risers at International, we hope to make the district proud. Our placement in the contest is right in the middle of the top choruses, directly following *The Vocal Majority* and *The Northbrook Chorus*. Watch out for the *City Lights Brigade!*

## Detroit-Oakland Chapter

by Tom Uiker, Chapter President

We hope everyone had as much fun at the spring convention as we had in hosting it for you. For those chapters who have toyed with the idea of hosting a district convention but who haven't yet taken the plunge--there is a lot of work involved, but it is great for getting chapter members and ladies pulling together. The commission earned from the district isn't bad either. On the other hand, there are things to be said for letting the other guys do the work. We are perfectly willing to turn the task over to Grosse Pointe this fall.

The *Gentlemen Songsters* held two performances during May: our seventh annual concert at Tel-Twelve Mall in Southfield during National Music Week, and a fourth appearance at the Bushnell Congregational Church in Northwest Detroit as part of their neighborhood concert series. The latter show also featured our own *Crosstown Exchange* quartet. Hosting Division I for a visit from Burt Szabo and sending a contingent to Harmony Round-up pretty well filled up the month.

As reported last month, the traditional "Return of the Jug Night" will be held on the first Friday in June, on the third, at St. Aidan's Hall in Livonia--17500 Farmington Rd., (two blocks north of Six Mile Rd). If the date hasn't slipped by, make plans to attend. It's always a lot of fun. And of course, we plan to have representation at the district Send-Off Show in Winsdor's Caboto Club the following Friday.

For you Detroit-Oakland members who have been taking a short leave, it is time to come back. We have selected a theme for next year's show and we will soon be introducing the music. We meet every Monday at 7:30, (except holidays) all summer long. See you at Starr Presbyterian Church in Royal Oak.

---

## Holland Chapter

by Art Lane, B.E. and P.R. Officer

Coming up in Holland on Saturday, July 30 is the eighth annual Chester P. Oonk Memorial Tag Contest. Anyone in the district who likes to sing tags or would like to learn, is invited. There's a golf tournament at 7:30 a.m. In the afternoon, tag singers, wives and children gather around a slowly roasting pig. After a picnic dinner the audience welcomes quartets who sing one compulsory tag and one tag of their own choosing. It includes established quartets and any formed on the spot. You're welcome as a

quartet or individual, as a participant or listener. Call Bill McAndrew, 616-786-2222 for directions.

The Holland Chapter has again started recognizing barbershoppers of the month, and got up to date by honoring three of them: For January, Bob Eastman, who works hard to master his music, learning it all by tape, as he is blind. For February, Vern Rose who is always there with his truck when risers have to be moved. And for March, Jim Wojahn, who built a working windmill as a symbol for the *Windmill Chorus*, made portable sets for our "Remember Radio" show, and help take care of Harmony Hall.

"Remember Radio", a Harmony College creation, captivated audiences at two concurrent Tulip Time shows, sharing the stage with 1992 International Champion *Keepsake* quartet and west Michigan's own, *Genuine Blend*.

"Remember Radio" differed from our usual barbershop show, as it included sound effects, a mystery serial and singing commercials in addition to chorus and quartet selections. Bill McAndrew was Production Manager. The Chorus was directed by Myke Lucas and Jim Johnson. The sound effects man, Jack Oonk, got a workout during the mystery and during the chorus' Spike Jones arrangement of "Cocktails for Two."

During the Tulip Time show, the Holland Chapter honored Kendall Showers, recently retired from Holland Radio WHTC, for his support over the years.

The *Windmill Chorus* traveled to Spring Lake to join with the *Toney Brothers Gospel Quartet* in a gospel music concert at Spring Lake Wesleyan Church. Coming up are appearances before the athletes gathered in Holland for the Michigan Senior Olympics and at the Coast Guard Festival in Grand Haven.

During the Pioneer District spring convention, members of the *Windmill Chorus* enjoyed participating in the *Joe Barbershop Chorus*, directed by Holland's Myke Lucas. As retiring district champion the *Windmill Chorus* sang a fast-paced set of songs from "Remember Radio" to pass on the trophy to Grand Rapids.

Chapter Secretary Les Swieringa is back with us after a close brush with a pack of dogs in South America., While there to do wiring at a mission hospital in Ecuador, the small plane he was in took shelter from the weather at a small village airstrip. Les set out to do his daily jogging on the runway, when a pack of six dogs began chasing him. He almost outpaced the pack, but was nipped by one dog. He elected to get rabies shots at \$746.00.

## Monroe North Chapter

by Dale E. Cousino, Business Manager

Wow! Spring is finally here! Our world is suddenly changed from white to luscious green. The beauty of spring has burst out everywhere. There is also another beauty - that being dedicated men enjoying the challenge of jointly learning to sing for theirs and others enjoyment.

Monroe North has had a busy spring. Our annual show was very successful. Not only did we sing well, we really entertained our audience. Overall, each of us had fun being part of a successful show. We have had many good sing outs, each being a new and interesting experience.

We are now planning next years show. New music is always a challenge, but soon begins to sound like a song and before we know it, all four parts click together and suddenly the magic of voice ring some great chords. This is when we realize all the time spent on the music has been worthwhile.

The Milford chorus dropped in on us recently, to deliver the Little Brown Jug. They sang for us and really sounded great. Another memorable evening of Barbershop enjoyment! We visited Windsor to pass the jug to them. Visiting other chapters is always a real learning experience.

The Monroe North Chapter sends best wishes to all quartets and choruses competing at International. Good luck and *enjoy*.

## Boyne City Chapter

by Edgar H. Lotspeich, PR Officer and BE

The Boyne City Chapter hosted it's 49th annual Bush League Contest and Show on Saturday, May 7. It was one of those "best ever" events and we had one of our largest audiences ever. Our Bush League winners, *The Next Generation*, and runners-up, *Four Chorders* made the rafters ring with their performance our evening show.

Everything was great, in spite of unexpected problems.

A few weeks before showtime, our featured quartet had to cancel as one of their members had an unexpected, important travel commitment.

But we had a ready solution. A first rate quartet from Soo, Ontario, *Four-In-Exchange*, were coming to this years show anyway as last years Bush League winners. They readily agreed to do double duty and fill in as our featured quartet. However, due to a death in the family of one of the members, they too had to cancel. Just four days before showtime, we had twenty minutes of showtime unfilled.

Our dauntless music director, Bill Woodbeck

was soon on the phone. As a result of Bill's efforts, the Alpena chorus agreed to round up a delegation of their members and come over to help us out. Sixteen Alpena barbershoppers, under the direction of Assistant Director, Bob Martin, gave us 20 minutes of top-notch entertainment. In addition to their chorus, we heard from two of their quartets, and they were in fine voice. During the finale, the Alpena chorus joined the Boyne City Chorus to sing two oldies as well as our closing themes. The audience loved it, and we in Boyne City really appreciate their help and good fellowship.

When the curtain opened on the Boyne City *SnowBelt Chorus*, the audience saw a small boy in the middle of the front row. Well, that was Steve Woodbeck, eleven year old son of our director. Some time ago, Bill began bringing Steve to rehearsals from time to time. Then he began to attend regularly and to sit with the chorus. Steve soon began to sing with us and learned the words and music for the Bush League songs. When Bill told us Steve would sing with us on the show, our chorus thought it was a fine idea.

So, this years show was something special --How can we top that for next years 50th Anniversary Contest and Show?



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*Everything's  
Coming up  
Barber Shop!!*

1994

- Jun. 10 Windsor Send-Off
- Jun. 11 Traverse City Show
- Oct. 1 Gratiot County Show
- Oct. 14-16 Pioneer District Convention, Lansing
- Nov. 5 Grand Rapids Show
- Nov. 5 Rochester Show

1995

- 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. 28-30 Pioneer District Convention
- May 6 Boyne City Bush League
- May 19-21 Harmony Round-Up
- Jun. 9 Windsor Send-Off
- Oct. 20-21 Pioneer District Convention
- Nov. 11 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:**

Jack Schneider, District Secretary  
1311 Northlawn, N.E.  
Grand Rapids, MI 49505  
(616) R 361-6820 B 771-5225



Photo by Tom Uicker

*A history of the Pioneer District-The First Fifty Years*, the dream and final project of the late Robert T. McDermott, is finally rolling off the presses. Bob's widow, Dottie, was on hand at the spring convention to autograph the first few copies of her husbands book assisted by District President Russ Seely and his wife, Shirley. In spite of all his duties as General Chairman of the convention, Bill Wickstrom was in line for copy number one.