



pioneer TROUBADOUR



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

VOLUME 45

APRIL/MAY 1994

NUMBER 2

Convention, April 22-24

A weekend of promise, hope and music!

A promise of dreams fulfilled and hope for greater achievement awaits quartets vying for International competition and choruses seeking the district crown in Lansing in April. Steadily improving performances by all Pioneer singers assure all an outstanding barbershop weekend.

The *Paragon* quartet from Johnny Appleseed District and another "surprise" quartet from distant shores, has received approval to sing in our district contest, for points only, to qualify for International competition. Those fine quartets will add greatly to our enjoyment.

In addition to the competition at Waverly High, the weekend will offer many outstanding attractions, including the added *new events*:

* **Buffet Dinner**, Sheraton Ballroom, Friday and Saturday, 4 - 7:30 p.m., for your convenience.

* **Quartet Jamboree**, Friday 11 P.M., Sheraton Ballroom, for all registered quartets. Quartets-contact Roger Lewis, phone and address, page 2.

*** **Tour the beautiful, new State Historical Museum, replacing Capitol Building tour previously announced.** Saturday, 9 - 11 A.M.; Motor Coach; \$5.00 at registration desk.

* **The Barbershop Shoppe** will feature "*A Musical Parade of Champions*" on CD's and cassettes.

See Back Page, for complete list of events.

Added new attractions and increased participation by more Pioneer barbershoppers at recent conventions, have afforded many an opportunity to meet old friends, sing and be happy.

It was announced on March 13 that the Sheraton Hotel and Hampton were already "booked full", for the week-end. It was emphasized however, there are plenty of rooms at the Best Western, Holiday Inn and Quality Suites.

IBM Roger Lewis will represent International

Our own IBM and Immediate Past District President, Roger Lewis will represent the Society at our convention, April 22-24. A bonus of the arrangement; Roger is inaugurating a "Quartet Jamboree" on Friday evening. (See details on page 7.)

Roger began his enthusiastic participation in the Society when he joined the Battle Creek Chapter in 1961, but he reports singing in a quartet contest sponsored by the Grand Rapids Chapter while yet in high school in Caledonia. In April, 1962 he joined the *Harmony Hounds* as bass. He has also sang bari and lead with the quartet and has been in 8 of the 11 "litters".

He has served his chapter in every office except secretary, plus show chairman; and the district as convention chairman, *Troub* editor, and vice president plus his recent stint as president and current IBM post. He is also chairman of the International Convention Management Committee.

Roger was a certified judge in the stage presence category and is a current candidate for the presentation category.

Wife, Sue has been a Sweet Adeline since 1973 and competed Internationally with the Coldwater Chapter in 1975. They have 3 children and several grandchildren.

They have served together on the executive committee of Balloon Championships in Battle Creek since 1980. Roger said he also enjoys golfing, but between barbershopping and remodeling his 130 year old house, he doesn't have much time for the links.

He is a director and partner of Employment Group Inc., a temporary and contract employment firm in Battle Creek, with offices in Lansing, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo and St. Joseph.

pioneer
TROUBADOUR

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

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PIONEER DISTRICT
PRESIDENT



RUSSELL SEELY

Next January, a sure fire formula to cure you of the post holiday blues and blues is to pack your plane, train or automobile and head to the barbershop mid-winter convention. Sarasota's balmy 80 degrees would have been enough to put everyone in a cheerful mood after leaving the minus 8 in SE Michigan, but when you add old friends and old songs to the agenda, our winter seemed a million light-years away.

I lost count of the former Pioneer barbershoppers who are now citrus belt singers, but judging from how *active* those transplants are, I guess we can take some credit for the success of the Sunshine District.

Our first contact was with Al Rehkop and Glen Van Tassell, (2 time gold medalists - *Auto Towners & Gentlemen's Agreement*) whose current quartet, *Shenanigans*, (top twenty, 1993) entertained us at our District President's welcome dinner. They looked and sounded great and sent their best to all of you.

Your rep's in the International Seniors Quartet competition, *Rare Vintage*, (Wickstrom, Demchak, Stephens & Wisdom) done us proud with a 6th place finish in a very talented 20 plus field.

Possibly the most talked about issue in our society for the past couple of years has been whether we should allow "non-member" - OK, female - music directors. Last summer in Calgary, the issue was brought to a vote and defeated by your international board. It was presumably, laid to rest. However, not unlike many issues that have high level controversial/political overtones in our government, this item, following copied letters by over 80 for and against writers regarding the decision, was reincarnated in Sarasota for "new" deliberations. I'll just bet you're not surprised to learn that a number of votes changed and this time the "non-member director" issue passed!

Now don't get me wrong, my personal preference may or may not be in agreement with the decision. What *is* important, I believe, is that I convey the wishes of my constituents -you-
(continued, see Seely, page 4)

INTERNATIONAL BOARD
MEMBER



ROGER LEWIS

Midwinter Convention in Sarasota was great--one of the best ever in attendance plus great singing by our current International Champ Quartet, the *Gas House Gang*, and medalist quartets *Joker's Wild*, *Special Feature* and *Nightlife*. *Keepsake*, our 1992 Champs, made the President's Oompah Dinner a resounding success!

Every year, the senior Contest gets better. *The New and Improved Industrial Strength Mini Chorus*, (Ray Henders, tenor, Bob Squires, lead, Jim Foley, bari and Buzz Haeger, bass) from Illinois won the top spot--with all the medals in that quartet, they'd need an industrial strength truck just to carry them!! Our own *Rare Vintage*, (Bill Wickstrom, tenor, Bob Demchak, lead, Jim Stephens, bari and Bob Wisdom, bass) turned in an excellent and entertaining performance that landed them a very respectable 6th place.

The International Board had a very full, sometimes controversial agenda, so my "rookie" meeting was a real "jumpstart" to my two year term. Here are the highlights:

Conventions and related items.

Sites for 1998, 1999 and 2000 were selected as follows:

1998	Atlanta, GA
1999	Anaheim, CA
2000	Kansas City, MO

A few new items were added for Pittsburgh-- a general membership meeting by President Ernie Nickoson and Executive Director Joe Liles on Thursday morning; A "Masters class" by the *Masters of Harmony* on Friday morning; A performance by the *Singing Angels*, a chorus of young people singing barbershop prior to Friday night's contest. The chorus "walk-ons" were eliminated.

As chairman of the Convention Management Committee, I was privileged to make the CMC recommendations to the International Board, and I'd like to ask your input for one more item that was tabled for Pittsburgh. The CMC recommends "tiered pricing" for International convention
(continued, see Lewis, page 4)



Executive V.P.
Larry Parker

Ed Note: Larry Parker, Executive Vice President, who usually has a column in this space, underwent by-pass surgery on Friday, March 11. As of today, press date, March 15, Stan Williams phoned and said Larry had called him earlier this morning and said he is feeling tired and weak.

But he also reported that he will likely be released from the hospital later this week. By the time you receive this, he should be resting at home. Larry's address is in the masthead on page 2 of each issue.

Seely, from page 3

and vote accordingly. Your instructions, as polled in last spring's House of Delegates, was to vote nay. Interestingly, it was defeated in the district presidents meeting 9-6-1, which was the same tally in Calgary!! Well, lets hope this issue is finally put to bed and the real essence of this legislation is to "Keep the Whole World Singing" and maybe even preserve, in some form, the beauty of barbershop singing.

What impact will it have on the Pioneer District? For the moment, probably none, although certain coaches and choreographers will probably become more visible on chapter shows and the like. But someday we'll hear Doran announce a chorus under the direction of MS somebody at district contest. As our eminent Historian, Mr. Deak Martin so aptly writes; "the winds of change are blowing". Let's not have those winds become tornadoes.

Pioneer will send at least two quartets to International at Philadelphia, plus any other that scores at least 1800 points from a double for their presentation of four songs.

The *Paragon* Quartet, from Johnny Appleseed District has been granted district and International approval to sing in our spring prelims, for points only, to qualify for International. Let's give them a warm Pioneer welcome and offer them the same hospitality and recognition as all of our competitors.

A source of genuine excitement for me has been the imminent probability that Bob

McDermott's History of the Michigan/Pioneer District will be published. The carefully conceived manuscript was presented to the district by Bob's daughter and widow, Nancy and Dottie, at last falls convention. After reading this marvelous documentation of all of us, I was inspired to locate a publisher who could do the job for a reasonable cost, so every proud, Pioneer barbershopper could enjoy this treasure.

We are very close to publication of this 300 page gem. It's possible we'll have the first edition ready for our spring convention.

Lewis, from page 3

seating starting with Salt Lake City in 1966. Briefly, prices would range from \$60 to \$125. The best 10% seats would be \$125; the next 15% \$100; 65% priced at the \$75 current price; and 10% at \$60. Most every other entertainment and sports program has tiered pricing and we believe this will give everyone the opportunity to have the best seats available based on their own value system. It will guarantee that they can avoid "nose-bleed" section seats, at a moderate increase in price. Registrations are usually a small part of convention expenses compared to hotel, food and activities. Please write or see me at the convention if you have input. Thanks.

Harmony Hall: A committee is in place to study Harmony Hall. It needs extensive repair, perhaps beyond our means, and we have had interest from prospective buyers from time to time. My own position is that we are preservers of music, barbershop harmony and old songs--not old buildings. I love the place dearly, but we should stick to our focus. We shouldn't divert our attention to become the restorer of old buildings.

Non-Member (female) Directors was passed by a vote of 14-11. Following the vote, a motion was made to remove the two year probationary period, which also passed. Will this make sweeping changes in our Society? I think not. At present, we have 6 chapters with female directors, of a total of 810. Even if it were to double or triple, it is not a major factor and does allow a chapter, especially one that is struggling, the options of making it's own decision regarding a director.

Changes in Board Structure. Eric Jackson is chairing a committee to look at the size and structure of the International Board. Basic ideas are to have a much smaller board responsible for the operations of the policy and a larger governing body responsible only for policy. This appears to be a long term project.

Those are the Mid-Winter Highlights. See you in Lansing.

take noteby Fred Kienitz,
District Director of Music Education

It hardly seems possible that I'm starting my second year as Pioneer's D.M.E. The M and E, of course, stands for "music education" which directly involves you in that I need someone to educate. You need to decide if you are just going to continue to attend chapter meetings and sit in the baritone section for two hours a



FRED KIENITZ

week and then go back home, or strive to learn something of interest to you and make a contribution to your chapter and to barbershopping in general.

By now you have perused the Harmony Roundup brochure in the Feb/Mar *Troubadour* and have made your selection for classes. Now, all you have to do is send the registration to me as quickly as possible. Keep in mind, the more you involve yourself in shows, conventions and schools, the greater your rewards in barbershop.

Keep in mind also, our new district president is Italian. I have been ordered to submit the names of all members who have not registered by April 30, so his Uncle Vito can visit you personally and make an offer you can't refuse.

Myke Lucas will direct the Joe Barbershop Chorus at the April convention. Mike said he plans to use two old standby tunes that everyone knows. He will hold a 1 - 1/2 hour rehearsal on Saturday morning. The time and place of rehearsal will be posted at registration. The Joe Barbershop Chorus will sing at 12 noon on Saturday, to begin the chorus contest.

Dr. Burt Szabo from International will be in our district for two weeks this year; May 18 - 24 and September 26 - October 1. He will be available during daytime hours to meet with service clubs, high school or college music instructors or classes, or others. He can do about a 20 to 30 minute program on Barbershop Harmony and perhaps show the "Barbershop Video" as part of the program.

Please contact me or one of my D.M.E. staff and we will be happy to schedule those meetings for you, during Burt's visits.

See Ya at the convention and at Harmony Roundup in May.

SUMMARY OF MINUTES
PIONEER DISTRICT, SPEBSQSA, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
DECEMBER 4, 1993

There was no consent calendar or minutes for consideration at this meeting.

The treasurer's report indicated a balance of \$8,998.00.

Moved, seconded and carried that we have Dobb Printing print the *Troubadour* beginning with the February/March, 1994 issue.

Moved, seconded and carried that the proceeds of the charities raffle at the spring convention be distributed to Heartspring.

Moved, seconded and carried that the district pick up the cost of video tapes for the mike tester, past champs, Joe Barbershop Chorus, senior quartet champions and college quartet champions.

The Coldwater Chapter has decided to disband and turn in their charter. This is a very sad occurrence. Hopefully, all members will join a nearby chapter.

Tiger Day will be June 19, 1994, with Toronto. Game time is 1:15 P.M.

A new division arrangement of chapters was developed. The proposal has been sent to all chapter presidents for presentation to their boards for discussion and consent.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Schneider,
Secretary, Pioneer District

NOTICE OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Notice is hereby given of the Pioneer District Board of Directors meeting to be held:

April 22, 1994, 9:00 A.M., Sheraton Hotel, Lansing, Michigan, in conjunction with the district convention.

This notice is given as required by Article 7.03 of the Pioneer District by-laws.

All district board of directors meetings are open to all district members.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Schneider,
Secretary, Pioneer District

Register for Harmony Round-Up by April 30!!!

ADD-A-LINE

Only 37 percent of adults belong to volunteer organizations.

The Lions have lost 11 percent of their membership in ten years.

We barbershoppers have lost 11 percent of our membership in ten years.



Jim Styer
Communication Officer

Among non-members aged 26-40, 74 percent are unaware of any singing organization they could join. Of the other 26 percent, half mentioned church choirs and only a few knew of SPEBSQSA, says a survey the Society just completed.

Those are our top concerns - stopping our membership decline and increasing our recognition. It won't be done by just attending Monday meetings and holding an annual show.

"The changes we must make are drastic," says Bill Moreland of the Society's international marketing committee.

Bill gave the keynote address to the International Board members at the mid-winter convention, helping make them painfully aware of our need to get beyond our rehearsal halls. Otherwise, we won't survive.

Goals developed by the marketing committee include:

- We must increase participation by members and followers, the latter via a new associate membership.

- We need to be a part of, or originators of, a movement to make singing a part of the family and community. We need to get other music organizations to join us in this. This is part of our Society's new vision statement.

- We must expand geographically, just like Wal-Mart and McDonalds continue to look for new franchises.

- A national membership effort must provide support for chapters.

- We must really tell our story in the media, year around, not just announce our annual shows.

We have to showcase our product and, to do so, Moreland said, "We have to improve our performance level so that we have something that we are proud of and something that's saleable to the public."

"We have so much to share," Moreland added.

There's a whole world of people out there who know nothing about us, isolated in our meeting halls, sneaking out once in a while for a brief performance. There are thousands people who come across us, but have no idea we're

barbershoppers. They have no idea of the fun we're having. They have no idea of the fun they could have.

That's our fault!

How can we change that? Can we get more members? Can we be recognized as one of the best singing groups in town? Can we have even more fun?

"Every great achievement was once considered impossible," Moreland said. He noted a Disneyworld sign that says, "If we can dream it, we can make it."

Where will our Society be in 2001?

Lets get the whole world singing," Moreland said. "That's the legacy you can pass on to the 21st century."

Received from Lowell W. Shank
PROBE President

NOMINEES SOUGHT FOR PROBE HALL OF HONOR

For the sixth consecutive year nominations for men worthy of elevation to the PROBE Hall of Honor are being sought. Any current PROBE member may make a nomination.

Nominations are not limited to living members, but nominees must have been a member of PROBE for at least 10 years, and must reflect service required beyond that required of any office or position held.

Past inductees into the Hall of Honor are Dee Paris, Wilbur Sparks, and Deac Martin (deceased) in 1989; Staff Taylor, Charlie Wilcox (both deceased) and Dick Stuart in 1990; Wade Dexter, Ray Heller and Stan "Stash" Sperl in 1991; Leo Fobart and Bob McDermott (both deceased) and Bob Hockenbrough in 1992; Dick Girvin, John Morris and Jerry Coltharp (deceased) in 1993.

Nominations must be in writing, must specifically describe the services and contributions rendered by the nominee and be accompanied by corroborating evidence, if available. They should be sent for receipt by April 30, 1994 to:

Dick Girvin, Chairman
34888 Lyn Avenue
Hemet, CA 92545

Honorees will be selected by a committee composed of Hall of Honor members Dick Girvin, Wade Dexter and Dee Paris and will be inducted into the Hall of Honor at the PROBE meeting held at the 1994 International Convention in Pittsburgh.

Ed Notes - Everything you need to know about Troubadour advertising but frequently phone to ask, is printed on page 2 of each issue. Now please don't misunderstand, we enjoy

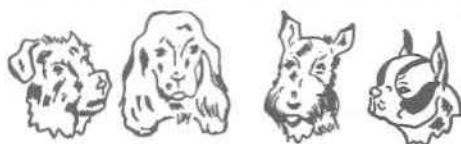


Gordon Gunn,
Editor

advertising that does not conflict with our Society's Code of Ethics. Advertising revenue helps defray the cost of printing and mailing the Troub.

We were sure pleased to receive the nice letter from Scott Turnbull, Director of the *Sounds of Aloha* Chorus in Honolulu and former *Ivy League* quartet singer. Scott's letter is on page 8.

Jim Styer long ago suggested that our district publication ought to carry quartet news. We agree! With the cooperation of our fine Pioneer quartets, we will! Send news of your quartet. We will publish it!



THE HARMONY HOUNDS

Pedigree: Barbershoppers

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

Paragon*

JAD
1993 top 20

N: A model of excellence or perfection
The perfect barbershop quartet for any occasion
Contact: Bill Businger - 230 Union Street, Arlington, Ohio 45814
(419) 365-5488

Coaching scholarships available for Harmony Round-Up

by Bill Wickstrom, VP Division I

Do you have what it takes to become a quartet coach? Are you interested in learning the techniques free of charge? Would your quartet like to be critiqued by some of the finest coaches in the Society - for free?

Such opportunities are available again this year at the Pioneer District Harmony Round-Up, May 20-22, thanks to the Bill Butler Memorial Coaching Scholarship.

Sponsored by the Detroit-Oakland Chapter for the 5th consecutive year, this scholarship covers full registration and room and board for prospective coaches and/or registered quartets wishing to be coached. The number of scholarships available is dependant upon the number and nature of applications received and funds available.

Interested, registered quartets or prospective coaches should forward written applications, endorsed by their local chapter, to Bill Wickstrom, 2533 Donna Avenue, Warren, MI 48091, by May 15. If you have questions you may phone Bill at (313) 756-4294.

Quartet Jamboree!! Friday, April 22, 11 p.m. at the Sheraton Lansing Hotel!

Quartets! Here's a new opportunity to show off your wares. Friday evening, after the semi-finals at the school, we'll hold a "Quartet Jamboree" in the ballroom at the Sheraton. It's open to all registered quartets, competing or not.

The time allotted to each quartet will depend upon the number registered. That could be as little as 8 minutes or up to a half-hour, (if only 4 sign up).

We have 60+ registered quartets in the district, but typically, only 15 or so competing. Some of you other 45 quartets may never consider competing, yet perform regularly in your chapter and community. Here's an opportunity to sing at a convention, without judges, for a very appreciative crowd, (the best in the world) and to sing what you like to sing, (within the bounds of ethics).

Interested? Call or write Roger Lewis, 20125 12 Mile Rd., Battle Creek, MI 49017, (616) 965-5714.

Letters -

March 4, 1994
Honolulu, Hawaii

Dear Gordon,

Aloha and greetings from the lovely Aloha State of Hawaii! I just wanted to drop you a "note" to let the Pioneer District know that all is well for Pamela and I here in the middle of the



Pamela and Scott Turnbull

Pacific. The weather is always fabulous, usually around the low 80's. *The Sounds of Aloha Chorus* is getting ready for our 36th annual show in April and I am happy to say we will be filling the risers with 78 talented and tanned singers. Pam is the assistant director of the Na Leo

Lani Sweet Adelines and they will be sharing the stage with a chorus from Japan in May. We are both teaching school at the Sacred Hearts Academy, a private girls school in Honolulu. I am the Band Director and Pamela teaches math and science. We sure keep busy but still make time for the beach.

I was so delighted to read the February/March *Troubadour* and Bill Pascher's article about Grayce Warren and the Clarkston High School Barbershop Ensemble! Grace Warren was my music teacher at CHS in the late 70's when we were all introduced to the glorious sounds of Barbershop harmony by a Pontiac Chapter quartet; *The Drop Chords*, ie; John Smith; Dick Johnson; Al Maier; and the famous Rawley Hallman! Their performance captivated and amazed us and the four of us young lads were so impressed that we decided to form our very own CHS quartet. We called ourselves the *Quadrats* and joined the Pontiac Chapter in 1978. Under the direction of Dick Liddicoat, we competed with the chorus as well as entering the quartet contest. (We were narrowly edged out by a young novice group called the *Vagabonds* - as well as everybody else!) But that was all it took for us to be hooked on this hobby known as Barbershopping.

When we returned to school the following Monday we asked the teacher, Grace Warren, if we could start our own Barbershop chorus after school. She willingly and happily gave her time to us on weekdays after school and motivated us to perform several times throughout the wee village of Clarkston, including a guest performance at a Pontiac Chapter meeting. Since that time Grace Warren has been an active supporter of our hobby and a great friend of

young Barbershoppers in our attempt to "Harmonize" Clarkston! I know that young gentlemen such as Jon Territo; Norm Hunt; Barry and Bruce Collins; Joe and Kevin Peck; Gayle Mohler; Kevin Dennis; Don Lamphere; Richard Harken; Bill Innis; myself and countless others will always cherish, as I have, the memories of youthful harmony at CHS with Grayce Warren!

Bill's article really stirred up some great memories for me and I know the young men in the photograph will certainly enjoy their moments on the Barbershop stage as they "Harmonize Clarkston and the World!" Although Pamela and I are far from home and loved ones, the Pioneer District (and Region 2) are always in our minds as we think of you all often and fondly. We will make the long swim in July to cheer on Mike Slamka and the *City Lights* as they go for the gold in Pittsburgh. If any of you happen to be in Honolulu, stop by and visit Pamela and I and enjoy some Hawaiian hospitality.

Aloha and Keep the Whole World Singing

Scott Turnbull, Musical Director
Sounds of Aloha Barbershop Chorus

P.S. Bob Hartley (lead) and Brian Philbin (bass) of *Ivy League* fame (?) are both singing in an L.A. based comedy quartet called *The Hollywood Squares!*

ALOHA, S.T.

1994
Pioneer District
HARMONY ROUND-UP

May, 20-22, 1994
Michigan State University
East Lansing, Michigan

Growth Thru Learning -
A must for all Pioneer Barbershoppers

A weekend of fun and Barbershop educational activities
amid the beautiful surroundings of the M.S.U. Campus

Full details in the February/March *Troubadour*,
or you may telephone D.M.E. Fred Kienitz at
810-655-8694

Please register by April 30, 1994!

Registrations for MBNA America Collegiate Quartet Contest will be accepted until 9 a.m. Saturday, April 23

The Pioneer District MBNA America Collegiate Quartet preliminary contest will follow the Saturday night Quartet Contest, on April 23. DACJC Mike O'Donnell confirmed that registrations for the collegiate competition will be accepted until 9 a.m., Saturday, April 23.

Eligibility and other details of the contest are listed in flyer to the right. Outreach Chairman, Jamie Carey can answer other questions about the contest.

The Pioneer District Champs will represent the district at the International contest, July 6, 1994, at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Travlin' Jug will be home (DOC) June 3

by Tom Uicker, Chapter President

The Travlin' Jug is making the rounds of various chapters, albeit very slowly. If the jug comes to your chapter, be sure to pass it on quickly so there is good chapter coverage between now and the first of June. Not only is it a chance for inter-chapter visits, but it will also raise traveling money for our quartet representatives to Pittsburgh.

Friday, June 3, is "Return of the Jug" night. Whatever chapter has the jug at the time is supposed to bring it back to Detroit-Oakland on that night. We will count the money that has been collected over the year and divide it between our representative quartets. We expect them to be on hand to entertain us and hope all of you can attend the traditional stag affair. The location will be the hall at St. Adains, 17500 Farmington Road (two blocks north of Six Mile) in Livonia. You had better mark your calendar now because the date is so close to the first of the month to depend on another reminder in the *Troubadour*.

**Save \$10.00
Register for Harmony Round-Up before
April 30.**

MBNA AMERICA

1994 COLLEGIATE QUARTET CONTEST

For further information and an entry form, call or write: Jamie Carey, Pioneer District Youth Outreach Chairman, 5422 W. Michigan, #201, Lansing, MI 48917, (313) 321-8922

PRIZES

Grand Prize:	\$4,000
Second Place:	\$1,500
Third Place:	\$1,200
Fourth Place:	\$1,000
Fifth Place:	\$ 800

ELIGIBILITY

The contest is open to men under the age of 23 as of July 1, 1994 (i.e. born after July 1, 1971). A quartet may include no more than two men who have ever held membership in SPEBSQSA. An exception is granted to participants in the 1993 Collegiate Quartet Competition who have since joined the society.

QUALIFICATION FOR FINALS

The Pioneer District will be represented at the international finals by the district champion.

DATES

Preliminary - Pioneer District Contest, Saturday April 23, 1994 at Lansing, Michigan.

FINALS - Wednesday, July 6, 1994, at the SPEBSQSA International Convention, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

JUDGING - In all contests at all levels, certified SPEBSQSA contest judges will score in the areas of Presentation, Singing and Music using normal contest rules.

ENTRY FEE AND REGISTRATION - The registration fee for the preliminary rounds will be \$10.00 per quartet, payable to "SPEBSQSA, Inc."

Music Teacher/Director needed

The *Swan Valley Soundmen* in Saginaw need a Music Teacher/Director. We are 20 strong and do a lot of free local performances. We have not competed in 7 years. We have an annual show and draw 300. We are a fun group and do some interchapter events.

Please consider our need by calling John Mull at 517-793-0116 or Deon Moore at 517-642-8786. Our future is in this ad.



update

notes from the international office

Dennis Gore of Motor City Metro Chapter to write/direct "Irish" show for Harmony College

The search is over and the fun begins! From an impressive field of 11 applicants, Dennis Gore has been chosen to write and direct the 1994 Harmony College Show.

Dennis Gore should be no stranger to veteran Barbershoppers. He was the lead singer of the *Vagabonds*, silver medalists in 1976, and also sang lead with *Center Stage*, silver medalist three years in a row. Besides being a quartet singer, Denny is currently active with the Motor City Metro Chapter in Detroit, and writes most of its shows.

The theme of this year's Harmony College show will be "Irish," and one thing is certain: it will be lots of fun for those who are in it; Denny is well known in his chapter for his comedic writing.

Barbershoppers planning to attend Harmony College 1994 are advised to "seriously" consider taking the Saturday Nite Live course.

"Mini-Chorus" wins Seniors Quartet Contest

The 1994 International Seniors Quartet Contest was a barn-burner. Representing the Illinois District, *The New and Improved Industrial Strength Mini-Chorus* - Ray Henders, Bob Squires, Jim Foley and Buzz Haeger - took the gold. In second place was *Reminisce* of the Mid Atlantic District: John Adams, Scott Werner, Alan Durick and Dick Whitehouse.

Placing third in a field of 23 quartets was Sunshine District's *Saturday's Heroes*: Walt Smith, Dave Wilkinson, Neil Plum and Bob Summers. All the seniors contestants can be proud of very entertaining performances.

Sorry, that line is busy

In 1993, the international office handled more than 70,000 phone calls on the 800 number, an 8.5 percent increase over 1992. That's an average of more than 275 per day.

by Dan Daily
Publications Editor

Easy Dues plans - check it out!

There are two versions of the EasyDues plans in circulation, and one is incorrect. The correct version appeared on page 11 of the January/February *Harmonizer* and correct copies were mailed to chapter officers with the January *Update*. The correct version can be identified by the starburst notice in the upper left hand corner. All other versions, including those in chapter officers manuals are incorrect!

Barbershop blankets PBS in 1994

We thought things were going pretty well with the *Keep America Singing* program hosted by Mitch Miller, due for broadcast in August 1994. Now come word that two more barbershop appearances are scheduled for this year.

Special Feature, 1993 fifth-place medalist, appears in the "Quartet" edition of PBS's *Great Performances* series. The program will be shown in most markets on March 23, but double check your local listing for date and time.

The 90-minute special examines works for instruments or voices from the 12th to the 20th century, including groups and forms as diverse as the Krono Quartet (avant-garde string quartet), U2 (Irish rockers), The Drifters ('50's doo-wop) and The Esterhazy Quartet (performers of Hayden, 18th-century classical composer).

Although no air date has been set, there are new indications the 1989 Wolf Trap show featuring *Bank Street*, *Second Edition* and the *Alexander Harmonizers* may be broadcast this summer. More on this as it develops.

April is Harmony Month; plan now for local celebrations

On April 11, 1938, O. C. Cash, Rupert Hall and 26 close personal friends gathered together in the rooftop garden of the Tulsa Club for an old-fashioned songfest. "What could be sweeter," they wrote, than ten or twelve perfectly synchronized male voices singing "Dear Old Girl?"

From that merry little band has grown the world's largest all-male singing organization. Every April, SPEBSQSA celebrates Harmony Month in commemoration of that first meeting. Chapters can make Harmony Month ring in their communities in a number of different ways.

- * Sponsor a historical exhibit at your public library, community center or city hall. Use photos, old sheet music, show programs and SPEBSQSA materials to tell the story of barbershopping in your area. Contact your District Historian for background material.

- * Schedule membership drives throughout the division or district, sharing the expense of mailing or paid advertising.

- * Perform or give lectures for local service clubs, church groups, schools.

- * Organize a Patron Appreciation Night for longtime friends of the chapter.

- * Hold an Old-timers Night celebration.

- * Promote a coloring/art contest for children in local kindergartens or daycare. Give prizes to winning children and to their parents - show tickets, barbershop recordings, etc.

Useful items from the *Harmony Marketplace* catalog:

Heritage of Harmony history book. The story of the founding and growth of the Society, with lots of photos of the great quartets, choruses and personalities that built the Society - stock no. 4064; page 49.

Come join us in a Song posters, cards, and invitation brochure. Great-looking stationery system for publicizing Harmony Month activities, greeting and informing guests - page 50.

Wanna Sing guest kits. Introductory material and music for guests and audiences - stock no. 4273, page 52.

Sing Along Songs. Lyrics for more than 100 familiar American standards, all public domain, copying permitted - stock no. 6044, page 53.

Calling all novice quartets - to Boyne City for Bush League!!!

by Dale Hanson, Chapter President

Do you belong to a new quartet which shows promise but is short on experience? Would you like a taste of real competition but aren't ready to plunge into district competition? Right here in the Pioneer District is the event for you - the Boyne City Bush League Contest and Show - probably the longest running event in the district.

The 48th annual Loton Willson Bush League will take place at the Boyne City Elementary School on Saturday, May 7th, 1994. The quartet contest starts at 2 p.m. and the Variety Show at 8 p.m.

Bush League gives new quartets a golden opportunity to get valuable experience under real competitive conditions. Quartets are judged by qualified judges who hold a clinic after the contest to evaluate your performance and tell you how you may improve.

Any quartet may compete who has never placed in the top three (3) in district competition and who has never competed at International. Rules are the same as for International competition except there is no penalty for lack of costume.

There is no entry fee!!! To enter, simply send us the name of your quartet; the names of your members; the name and address of your contact and your chapter affiliation. Mail to JOHN D. ADAMS, 07732 RIDGE RD., EAST JORDAN, MI 49727.

Deadline for entry is the morning of the contest, May 7th. Registration will be at the Knights of Columbus Hall on M75 in Boyne City, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Why is Bush League still going strong after all these years? Maybe it's because in this wonderful hobby of ours, there is no thrill like winning or placing in your very first competition. This is the excitement of Bush League!

HEARTSPRING SUMMARY March 2, 1994, by Alex Willox, District Chairman

CHAPTER	AMOUNT
ALPENA	
BATTLE CREEK	
BEN.HARBOR-ST.JOE	
BOYNE CITY	
CADILLAC	
DETROIT-OAKLAND	\$40.00
FLINT	
GRAND RAPIDS	104.00
GRATIOT COUNTY	
GROSSE POINT	
HOLLAND	165.00
HURON VALLEY	
JACKSON	20.00
KALAMAZOO	25.00
LANSING	79.00
MACOMB COUNTY	
MILFORD	
MONROE	
MONROE NORTH	
MOTOR CITY METRO	550.00
MUSKEGON	
PONTIAC	
PORT HURON	
ROCHESTER	
SAGINAW BAY	
SAULT STE. MARIE	
SWAN VALLEY	
TRAVERSE CITY	
WAYNE	
WINDSOR	

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- ♪...Hike-Bike-Swim-Pitch horse shoes
- ♪...Woodshedding anytime!!!

for further information contact:

----John Szewc (313)676-8739 or

----Don Humphries (519)250-0641

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Saturday, May 21 - 7:30 p.m.

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Men's Glee Club*

Tickets are available from any CITY LIGHTS member or by calling Don Borngesser at (313) 625-6211.

For Reserved Ticket Information

Fill out the following information and mail with your check along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the address below.

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Address _____

Daytime Phone # (____) _____

I am interested in ordering _____ Friday tickets @ \$10 and/or _____ Saturday tickets @ \$12

CITY LIGHTS

c/o Don Borngesser

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Davisburg, MI 48350

☐ I am interested in learning about senior and student group discounts; please contact me.

☐ I am interested in learning more about the show; please contact me.



PIONEER CHAPTERS IN ACTION



Ed. Note - The following, Monroe North Chapter News, was received here on January 18, while we went to press on Monday, January 17 at 8 AM. The copy was postmarked January 13 and certainly should have arrived before the January 15 deadline, but mail service has been poor. At any rate, news of activities of Pioneer chapters is never out of date!

Monroe North Chapter

by Dale E. Cousino, Business Manager

Well, welcome to 1994! As we begin this new year, we must take a moment to reflect upon our chorus of the past year. A year filled with sing-outs and good times. It was a time of fun as well as frustration, but most importantly, our chorus grew in membership as well as our ability to sing the music we all enjoy.

...importantly,
our chorus
grew in
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well as our
ability to
sing...

In the on-coming year we are all thankful for the many "new" voices as well as a few "returned" voices. Our chorus has some members with enviable talent such as Jim Murdock, who knows instantly if a chord is off pitch; or Dick Ender who really has a great ability to teach the proper vowel sound so important to make a chord ring! Also, we would be like a stage full of singers without voices without President Harvey Gruenwald. Harvey has a fantastic energy and always does the job perfectly. Everyone in the chorus has a job to do, and we all pitch in and get the work done.

As the new year begins, we are also most thankful to be under the direction of Chuck Drouillard whose ability is so evident at each meeting. Chuck's humor is infectious and seems to be spreading among the chorus. We all welcome Chuck. When winter gets you down, sing some barbershop!

Battle Creek Chapter

by Jim Styer, Chapter President

Battle Creek's *Cereal City Chorus* has its first logo - a design that links an old symbol and a modern design.

"This can help instill pride among our members, give us an identity in the community,

and really help us set an image that will help us promote and market the chorus," said Jim Styer, chapter president.

The circular logo combines two symbols - the musical lyre in the SPEBSQSA emblem and the stylized wheat motif in Battle Creek's Cereal City symbol - surrounded by the words "Cereal City Chorus."

The logo is flexible. It can be used large or small, with or without wording. Wording could be above, below or beside the emblem, circular or straight. Without the words, or with different wording, it could also represent the Battle Creek Chapter.

While the Society's traditional typeface uses strong, square serifs, the logo uses Cooper Black type, which has rounded serifs to give it a more modern touch.

Initially, it is being used on the chapter's first chorus shirts. The logo is blue, with the lyre in white and the wheat in gold.

To complement the motif, *The Riser* is now published on gold paper.

The logo will also be used in news releases, brochures, posters, banners and other promotional materials.

Bob Freed donated his time to create the logo. He's vice president and creative director at Nordstrom and Partners, a Battle Creek agency that develops marketing strategies and materials.

"A good logo is a distillation of complex ideas that you're trying to communicate visually," Freed said. "It should be a clear, simple, usually less-is-more graphic that is instantly associated with your group."

Chapter show to salute youth!

"School Daze: A Salute to Youth" is the theme of the Battle Creek chapter's 38th annual show on Saturday, May 14.

One of the featured youth groups will be the Battle Creek Boychoir, which has two international gold medals and has appeared at Kennedy Center, throughout the U.S. and in Europe and Japan. Young barbershop quartets will be district champion *Power Play* and *Upper Left*, a Western Michigan University group expected to sing in the district college quartet contest.

And of course, the *Cereal City Chorus* and *Grand Prix* and *Harmony Hound* quartets.

Shows are at 2 & 8 p.m. at Kellogg Community College theater. Seating is limited and should be reserved through Jim Styer, 616-965-6456 or ticket chairman, Don Burrill, 616-965-5804.

Time is Short!

Register now for the District convention April 22-24. After April 9, registrations are \$20.00.

Pontiac Chapter

by Bill Pascher

Pontiac will shift meetings location for the summer, to the Michael Willis Rec. Center, at 990 Joslyn, Pontiac. That's across from Pontiac Motors parking lot.

The date is Tuesday, June 14, and in honor of the occasion, Pontiac will hold an Open House, inviting the public as well as neighboring barbershoppers to an evening of song and a good old fashioned chapter meeting.

Lip smacking, sizzling hamburgers with pickles and chips, washed down with your favorite brew or soda will be available.

We hereby extend an invitation to all quartets, especially those who rarely get a chance to sing on their chapter shows, and to those embryo foursomes that would like to spread their wings for the first time. Come and sing for a friendly audience. For more info, call Bill Dabbs (810) 673-8655.

Despite what you may have heard, *The Last Goodbye* is alive and well. Surviving four weeks of sunshine therapy, divided between Arizona and Florida, by our lead, we managed to fulfill eight singing engagements to date with scheduled appearances stretching into September. We are proud to announce that our contributions to Heartspring have now surpassed \$5000.00.

The *Sunnyside* quartet, slowed for the same reasons, are again rehearsing and have resumed an engagement schedule.

The Last Goodbye and *Sunnyside* will both appear on the chapter Open House June 14.

Detroit-Oakland Chapter

by Tom Uicker, Chapter President

With at least half of our membership retired, it is no wonder that quite a few take off for warmer climates at this season. The real wonder is that so many are willing to wait until our February show is over before leaving.

We had a great how with great talent. From where I sit, *Jokers Wild* have a good chance to replace silver medals with gold in Pittsburgh. There were so many good comments about District Champs *Full Chord Press*. (Of course Bass Scott Whipple came close to having his whole neighborhood out to see him perform.) As for those zany bikers, Expanded Sound, weren't they realistic? They may be the

reason Clarenceville High School was pressing us to obtain more security.

As I said, after the footlights were turned off, some of our members went hunting the sun, but most of them will be back to serve you in Lansing this spring. Detroit-Oakland is looking forward to hosting another great district convention this spring. One spot you won't want to miss is the Barbershoppers Shoppe, where our committee has gone to great trouble to provide a full selection of tapes and CD's from past champion quartets and choruses. Come early for the best selection.

I understand Detroit-Oakland is also hosting Burt Szabo on Monday, May 23, for anyone in the area. The location is Starr Presbyterian Church on 13 Mile at Crooks Road in Royal Oak. We start a 7:30 p.m. This is one of only two visits by our Kenosha field representative this year. Burt's subject this spring deals with Music Education. His visit next fall will address membership problems.



PONTIAC SPEBSQSA CHAPTER

51st. Annual BARBERSHOP HARMONY SHOW

"MERRY MOTOR MEN" BARBERSHOP CHORUS presents - SUNDAY 2:00 P.M. MAY 15 1994

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Motor City Metro Chapter

by Andy Valentine, Bulletin Editor

City Lights is preparing for Pittsburgh and for our spring show on May 20 and 21. We hope you can all come to the show because it may be your only opportunity to see our contest package for Pittsburgh. We are using a civil war theme, with two original arrangements by Pioneer's own "Doc" Gillingham. Both are outstanding pieces and we look forward to sharing them with our barbershop friends.

Our Show package, "Johnny Comes Marching Home" will also use a civil war theme. Also, and for the first time, we have invited the championship caliber *Wayne State Men's Glee Club*, to sing on our show. We hope it will expose a whole new group of singers to barbershopping and expose barbershoppers to the high caliber of this chorus. The show will also feature a Pioneer favorite, *Power Play*. While we talk about the show, kudos to member Denny Gore who has been chosen to write this year's show package for Harmony College. Denny also wrote the package for our spring show.

With a new board in place and with our enthusiastic director, Mike Slamka, we are looking forward to a very exciting year.

Holland Chapter

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

The Holland *Windmill Chorus* is working hard on two new groups of songs for presentation in May. One is the "Remember Radio" music packet from Kenosha, first developed for a show at Harmony College. Selections from "Remember Radio" will be offered at Holland's big Tulip Time barbershop show on Friday, May 13. You're all invited. Tickets are available from the Tulip Time Festival office, 616-396-4221.

The other group of music is a collection of barbershop arrangements of religious songs. They will be first performed at a church in Spring Lake the night before the Tulip Festival Show.

For the first time in recent memory the chapter's calendar of events for the entire year have been assembled and printed through the efforts of Program Vice President Jack Oonk. If you like to sing tags, you're invited to partake of roast pig and join us in a tag contest, July 30.

Our guest night in February featured the first public performance by the new quartet, *Genuine Blend*. It includes our own Dan Doctor, Mark Garlock of Muskegon, Andy Clements from Ludington and Kirk Wood, director of the Battle Creek chorus. Big sound!

Grosse Pointe Chapter

by Mike Sullivan, Program VP

In January a group of about 40 chapter members made a noontime barbershop presentation at the Clintondale High School to a receptive crowd of over 400 students. Contrary to what's believed, there were numerous students singing right along to some of our favorites. The kids were especially receptive to the Harmony Explosion Video with the rendition of "Under the Boardwalk."

A gala affair was held in February as the chapter presented it's Ladies Night at the Blossom Heath banquet facility. We call it our Barbershop Prom Night. An award was presented to Karen Schafer for her outstanding video contributions to the chapter over the years. Joe Bichler, a fifteen year member, was named 1993 Barbershopper of the year.

Also in January, a stalwart band of singers crossed the international border and ventured into the Canadian wilderness for Uncle Sam Night at the Windsor Chapter. There's something about that Canadian soda pop that can't be copied in the U.S. It certainly improves the singing as the night goes on.

The annual Ladies White Elephant Auction and Pot Luck Dinner was attended by over 40 couples. The highlights of the auction were a 100 year old steamer chest (maybe O. C. Cash used it?), a set of 78 vinyls of the *Flat Foot Four*, and we must not forget the electric snow shovel.

Ah, spring and the sound of golf balls splashing in the ponds, the happy sound of balls careening off the trees and the melodious shouts of "&#*%@" . It's golf season again with this year's trip to Parkersburg, West Virginia, scheduled for May. Anyone interested (we need tenors) may contact the chapter for information.

Our annual show is coming up on April 8th and 9th, featuring both the *Patch Chords* and *Full Chord Press* quartets. The show theme is "Always leave 'em Laughing." If you miss the show, remember, There's always convention. See you there.

Harmony Round-Up update - Fred Kienitz announced that there is much interest and registrations are ahead of last year at this time. He added, "It's important to register before April 30th. After that, it's \$10 more."

PIONEER DISTRICT
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Next Copy Deadline - May 15.



**Barbershop
Ahead!!**

Pioneer District 1994 Spring Convention April 22-24, Lansing, Michigan

Schedule of events & services:

Friday

- * Registration, lobby, Sheraton Hotel; moved to Waverly H.S. box office 30 minutes before each event.
- * District Board of Directors meeting, 9 a.m. - 12 noon.
- * District House of Delegates meeting, 2 p.m., Reo Theater.
- * Barbershop Shoppe - all hours except during contests.
Featuring; Musical Parade of Champs, and District tee and sweat shirts.
- * Raffle, Associated Charities, lobby, Sheraton Hotel.
- * Concession stand, lobby Waverly H. S. by band boosters.
- * Deli Buffet, Sheraton Ballroom, Friday, 4 - 7:30 p.m., \$9.00.
- * Trolley Shuttle, Sheraton - Waverly H. S., \$2.00 all events or \$1.00 each event, at registration desk.
- * Quartet Contest Preliminary, Waverly H. S., 8:30 p.m.
- * Quartet Jamboree, Sheraton Ballroom, 11 p.m.

Saturday

- * State Historical Museum & Library Tour, Saturday, 9 - 11 a.m., motor coach from Sheraton, \$5.00 at registration.
- * Joe Barbershopper Chorus, followed immediately by District Chorus Contest, Saturday, 12 noon.
- * Mass Sing, Sheraton Atrium, 4 p.m.
- * B.B.Q. Buffet, Sheraton Ballroom, Sat., 4 - 7:30 p.m., \$9.00.
- * Quartet Contest Finals, Waverly H. S., 8.00 p.m.
- * MBNA AMERICA College Quartet Prelims, immediately following District Quartet Finals.
- * Afterglow - Chorditorium, Sheraton Ballroom, following contest.
- * Hospitality rooms for all hotels/motels will be posted in Sheraton lobby. Chapters - notify Mike Cirritto.

1994

- Apr. 8-9 Grosse Pointe Show
- Apr. 9 Muskegon Show
- Apr. 9 Windsor Show
- Apr. 9 Sault Ste. Marie, Ont. Show
- Apr. 22-24 Pioneer District Convention, Lansing
- May 7 Jackson Show
- May 7 Boyne City Show
- May 13 Holland Show
- May 14 Battle Creek Show
- May 14 Alpena Show
- May 14 Flint Show
- May 15 Pontiac Show
- May 20-21 Motor City Metro Show
- May 20-22 Harmony Round Up
- May 21 Cadillac Show
- Jun. 10 Windsor Send-Off
- Jun. 11 Traverse City Show
- Jul 3-10 International Convention, Pittsburgh
- Nov. 5 Grand Rapids Show
- Nov. 5 Rochester 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