



pioneer TROUBADOUR



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

Volume 46 - Number 3



June/July, 1995



Genuine Blend



Firepower



See page seven



City Lights



**pioneer
TROUBADOUR**



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

1995 PIONEER DISTRICT OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

PRESIDENT
RUSSELL SRELY
7626 Barnsbury
West Bloomfield MI 48324
R (810) 363-8977 B (313) 896-5650

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
LARRY L. PARKER
1416 New York Avenue
Lansing, MI 48906
(517) R 372-8389

VICE PRESIDENT, DIVISION II
EDWARD L. FRITZEN JR.
1704 Royce Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49001
(616) R 385-4462

VICE PRESIDENT, DIVISION IV
WILLIAM J. WOODBECK
P. O. Box 931
Indian River, MI 49749
(616) R 548-2521 B 627-1247

VICE PRESIDENT, DIVISION VI
LAWRENCE G. KING
14138 Crossley
Redford, MI 48239
(517) R 532-5467

TREASURER
RICHARD S. (STAN) WILLIAMS
421 Franklin Street
Leakie, MI 49251
(517) R 589-5586 B 322-5996

DIRECTOR OF CONVENTIONS
MICHAEL A. CIRRITO
1714 Vaassar Drive
Lansing, MI 48912
(517) R 485-0938

C O T S COORDINATOR
JOHN T. GILLESPIE
712 Newgate Road
Kalamazoo, MI 49006
(616) R 343-4188 B 349-4677

YOUTH OUTREACH CHAIRMAN
JAMIE CAREY
422 Green Street
Grand Ledge, MI 48837
(517) R 627-3933

DISTRICT HISTORIAN
DALE BRKKER
758 S. Meadow Court
Holland, MI 49423
Ph.(616) 392-7735 - Fax 395-9630

INTERNATIONAL BOARD MEMBER
ROGER J. LEWIS
20125 12 Mile Road
Battle Creek, MI 49017
(616) R 965-5714 B 979-4343

VICE PRESIDENT, DIVISION I
EDGAR MC CARTHY
21549 Arrowhead
St. Clair Shores, MI 48082
(810) R 293-6945

VICE PRESIDENT, DIVISION III
DAVID A. COLE
604 W. John Beers Ed., Box 63
Stevensville, MI 49127
(616) R 429-6559 B 926-7298

VICE PRESIDENT, DIVISION V
MARK H. WILSON
8800 St. Charles Road
Sumner, MI 48889
(517) R 833-7420 B 833-2265

SECRETARY
JACK F. SCHNEIDER
1311 Northlawn Street N.E.
Grand Rapids, MI 49505
(616) R 361-6820 B 771-5225

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC EDUCATION
FRED KIEWITZ
2292 Golden Pond Court
Fenton, MI 48430
(810) 750-8259

CONTEST AND JUDGING (DACJC)
MICHAEL J. O'DONNELL
1617 FAIRLANE DRIVE N.E.
GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49506
(616) R 363-1368 B 451-2857

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATION
JAMES L. STYER
72 Allison Drive
Battle Creek, MI 49017
(616) R 965-6456 B 964-7161

HEARTSPRING CHAIRMAN
ALEX WILLOX
38174 South Rickham Court
Westland, MI 48185
(313) R 728-6865

EDITOR, PIONEER TROUBADOUR
GORDON W. GUNN
2296 Pillon Road
Twin Lake, MI 49457
Ph.(616) 744-3211 - Fax 744-0088

TROUBADOUR PUBLISHING INFORMATION

Published bi-monthly in February, April, June, August, October and December. **COPY DEADLINE:** 15th of the month, prior to month of publication. The *Troubadour* is the official publication of the *Pioneer District of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of BarberShop Quartet Singing in America, Inc.* All articles not by-lined are by the editor and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the members or officers of the district. Space will be made available for opposing points of view.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: \$6.00 Annually - \$1.50 Single Copy - Remit to Editor.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FOR MEMBERS

DO NOT SEND CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO EDITOR! Mailing labels are furnished by *SPEBSQSA, Inc.* 6315 Third Avenue, Kenosha, WI 53143-5199. Furnish change of address (in advance if possible) to your chapter secretary and *SPEBSQSA Inc.* Submit your name, member and chapter number, your old and new address. Copies not deliverable to your current address at time of mailing will not be forwarded!

ADVERTISING RATES - FOR CAMERA READY COPY - PLEASE SEND CHECK WITH COPY

Full Page	\$100.00	1/2 Page	\$65.00	Card Size	\$13.00
2/3 Page	\$75.00	1/3 page	\$50.00	Card Size Annual	\$55.00
		1/6 Page	\$40.00		

Contents

Seely and Lewis	3
Parker	4
Convention Recap, Woodshed Contest, Ed Notes	5
International Competitors	7
Bush League	8
House of Delegates, New Quartet Champs Association	9
Letters	12-13-14
Chapters in Action	15-16-17
Update	18-19
Backpage	20

**TROUBADOUR ADVERTISING
Copy Size in Reference to
Rates**

Our rates are listed on this page in each edition, at the bottom of the masthead. Rates quoted are for camera ready copy.

Sizes quoted are: Full Page, 2/3 Page, 1/2 Page, 1/3 Page, 1/6 Page and Card Size.

TROUBADOUR pages are standard 8-1/2" X 11". We use nominal 1/2" margins at the top, bottom and each side of the page. A full page of copy is thus; 7-1/2 X 10".

A Full Page = 7-1/2 X 10" or:
 Full Page = 75 Sq. inches.
 2/3 Page = 50 Sq. inches.
 1/2 Page = 37-1/2 Sq. inches.
 1/3 Page = 25 Sq. inches.
 1/6 Page = 12-1/2 Sq. inches.

Please measure your ad copy carefully. Then multiply the width by the height for the number of square inches required. Thank You!



President's Position

by President Russell Seely

Russ Jr: Why don't you and Mom come over for the week-end? Your grand-kids miss you.

Senior: Love to son, but it's our district convention in Lansing.

Jr: That's good, dad, it'll give you and mom a chance to *relax and rest*.



With due respect to another bearded gent: Ho, ho, ho, ho.

Lest we believe that conventions are for R&R, let me assure you that your leadership does not have the luxury of fritterin' away their time on a convention week-end.

I submit:

Thursday: Check in at Sheraton 6 pm. Unload van of loads of barbershop materials including food and beverage for Presidents hospitality room plus luggage. Clean up in time for host chapters hospitality room for a convention committee welcome and social hour. Sing a few tags and non polecat songs (Jim Horton didn't want to quit).

7:30 - Dinner as guests of the Convention Bureau. Back to the hotel where a couple of faxes alert me that all is not cherry blossoms in Pioneer land.

Friday: Board meeting at 9 am until about noon, when we find registration in full swing. Lots of handshakes and a few tags before heading to our suite. Shirley is knee deep in boxes, bottles and wives, setting up for our 4:30 reception. Thank you Pat McCarthy for all your help. Seems almost unfair - the work we ask "Our Fair Ladies" to assume. We then carry the stock of golf shirts and history books over to the Barbershoppers Shop. (Missed lunch - should miss a lot of them)

2:00: - House of Delegates meeting - Rog' Lewis, our IBM is our Int'l Rep. After his opening remarks a town meeting format enables delegates to ask questions. This is a winner and I was impressed with the participation and quality of questions. We honored six new members of our Golden Anniversary Fraternity - with over fifty years membership in the district. Adjourned just in time for the 4:30 Presidents Reception.

Shirley and company have transformed the "pit" to a warm savory suite befitting our districts guests.

6:30 - Roger and Sue Lewis are our dinner guests
Continued - please see Seely, page 6



International Perspective

by IBM Roger Lewis

The chords of another great convention seem to ring as I write this article. Congratulations to **Genuine Blend** and **Firepower**, who will represent us well in Miami Beach. Congratulations also to Motor City Metro's **City Lights Chorus**, our new District Chorus champions.

As International Representative, I'm required to send a report on the convention to the executive committee. I'd like to quote my answer to the question regarding the overall impression of the convention: *"Pioneer District consistently runs one of the best conventions in the Society. They are well planned, run smoothly and everyone has a good time."* There is basis for my comment. This was my third convention this spring and I have attended conventions in 10 of the 16 districts.

Credit certainly goes to Mike Cirrito and his convention team; to the Grand Rapids, host chapter, for their hard work while having fun, and to the district board for deciding in 1986 to go to the single site, district convention team concept.

Even though we have a higher percentage of members who attend conventions compared to other districts, we might still have as many as one-third (400?) or our members who haven't attended a convention in the past five years. If you're one of those, why not give it a try? You'll have a great time, sing and hear some great barbershop. In fact, I'll *guarantee it*.

If you have been a barbershopper more than two years and have never been to a convention, come to Lansing this fall. If you're not satisfied, I'll personally give you *double your money back for your registration!* Registration is \$15--you can claim \$30 if you're not satisfied.

Go ahead. Call my bluff.

At COTS, the board made another decision that seems to be working well. Starting in January, 1995, every new member received a certificate for a free convention registration, good for one year, so he could attend either the spring or fall convention free. Around 20 of the certificates were redeemed at the spring convention. **GRR-R-R-EAT!** And that is another benefit your may mention to prospective new
Continued - please see Lewis, page 6



The Executive Pitch

by Larry Parker, Executive V.P.

Convention notes

Ladies Hospitality Room

The Ladies Hospitality Room had many visitors, both men and women, who were treated to complimentary coffee and good things to eat.



The ladies were given a chance to win various door prizes donated by Sue Lewis, Shirley Seely, Lori Cole, Pat McCarthy, Dawn Simon and the "Great Lakes Gals" from Grand Rapids. Carole Parker extends her utmost thanks to those ladies for their thoughtfulness.

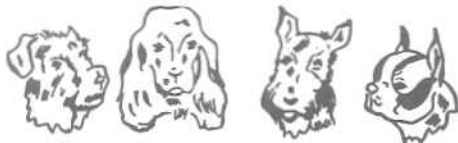
The room will reopen at 2 pm on Friday, October 21. Please plan to stop by and say hello.

Zipper Club Chorus

Due to lack of participation, the Zipper Club Chorus did not perform during the spring convention. Only seven people contacted me prior to the convention. To those seven, I tip my hat and offer thanks for your interest.

I wish to try it one more time in the fall, but I need your commitment *now!* Please drop me a line with your name, address, telephone number and voice part. The sooner you commit to the chorus, the better our performance will be. We won't win any awards, but *could* be the hit of the convention.

To qualify for the chorus, you only need to have had open heart or by-pass surgery and have that tell tale zipper scar on your chest. I know there are a lot of you out there who are just chomping at the bit to perform. We'll, here's your chance to strut your stuff. Please, drop me a line... Hey, why not do it today?



THE HARMONY HOUNDS

Pedigree: Barbershoppers

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

Membership - the good news

by Larry Parker, DMD

Hey..., what's going on? Why all of a sudden has the Society and the Pioneer District had an increase in membership? These are not rhetorical questions. I'm sure the leaders at Kenosha and your district board would be very interested in the answers. I'm one person who appreciates the success we've encountered and look forward to our continued progress.

The Society's first quarter figures are 203 members ahead of where we were at the end of 1994. The district has done its part by enlisting 29 members.

Chapters leading the way are Grand Rapids with eight and Flint with six new members. With its increase, Grand Rapids has again achieved century chapter status with a total of 102 members. Ten other chapters increased their numbers from one to three new or former members. Congratulations to all.

However, we must be careful and not pat ourselves on the back too much and lose focus of what lies ahead. Without continued growth efforts, we could fall prey to the "business as usual" syndrome and lose our momentum. We can't let that happen.

I had the pleasure at last month's House of Delegates meeting to present Lynwood "Bud" Kraft, of Grand Rapids, a Society award for recruiting five members in 1994. The top Society "Man of Note" recruiter, with seven members, was John Plazek of the LOL District. Three others were tied with six each, and Bud was third with five. Congratulations my friend.

Lakeshore Chorus with tongue-in-cheek district first

by Jim Styer

Grosse Pointe's Lakeshore Chorus - known for its parodies and fun numbers in contest - did a straight number in the spring contest.

But, that wasn't as historic as another aspect of the presentation - Pioneer District's first woman director in competition. In fact, three women director's.

Joan Piccione, Pat Smith and Karen Schaefer were each out front for a portion of the first song "Moon Medley." At other times, they remained in the front row of the chorus, but didn't sing.

Questioned later, Lakeshore Director and Pioneer District President, Russ Seely just smiled, but later claimed Grosse Pointe became the first, second and third Pioneer chorus to have a female director.

Convention recap

by Mike Cirrito, Director of Conventions

Another exciting convention is history but as the memories linger, the Grand Rapids Chapter did a fine job as hosts. They had a profitable Barbershop Shop and sold *all* the raffle tickets for Heartspring with their little red-heart campaign. Clever idea guys.

Congratulations to **City Lights**, our new District Chorus Champ's and to **Genuine Blend** and **Firepower** who will represent our district in Miami Beach in July.

Another highlight of the week end was the long awaited birth of the Pioneer District Association of past and current quartet champions. Our thanks to Bill Wickstrom and those who helped convene the organizational meeting.

Convention registrations continue to surpass 1,000. In addition, nearly 300 single event tickets were sold at the box office.

The Lansing chapter is waiting in the wings to host the fall convention. In that reference, *please note*: the Friday night quartet contest will begin at 8 p.m. instead of the past customary 8:30 p.m. *And* - there will be a home football game at Waverly High School the same date. Parking will be at a premium and all cars parking will be charged \$1.00. We suggest you ride the trolley from the Sheraton to the school for the same price.

There is also a rumor that Waverly High may be installing an air conditioning system next year. Whew! Let's hope so.

Ed Notes - Our heartiest congratulations and best wishes for success in Miami to our splendid International rep's. Have fun singing - enjoy the experience guys, and you will do your best - and we are proud of you.

Obviously, there will always be sincere differences of opinion among our membership on many subjects. On page two of every issue we pledge "space" for "opposing points of view." As we have stated before, this is your *Troubadour*.

We didn't before feel it was necessary, but will now request that those communications be limited to the topic(s) at issue. This editor will publish no future personal attack directed at any person.

Pontiac Hosts 39th annual Woodshed Contest

by Robert H. Woodward, Chapter President

Our Pontiac Chapter hosted the 39th annual woodshed contest April 7. That many years ago, members of the chapter realized the ability to woodshed was fast becoming a lost art and the annual contest was born.

Rules of the contest are simple:

Quartets are created on the spot, containing no more than one member of a registered quartet, and no more than two members from the same chapter. Participants often sing with three other guys they never met before. Contest songs are chosen from a list containing *no* polecat numbers - to minimize the use of learned arrangements. The song is rehearsed before the contest, and then presented. Most of the quartets sound surprisingly good, but regardless, a great time is had by all.

The traveling *Bennington Trophy* is awarded annually to the chapter with the greatest participation, calculated by a formula considering chapter membership, the number of members attending and the number of members competing in woodshed quartets.

This years contest included singers from Rochester, Flint, Grosse Pointe, Metro Detroit, Wayne, DOC, Milford and Pontiac. The contest was judged by the **Chordmeisters** quartet from Rochester who were of course, obligated to sing a few songs during the evening.

Ten quartets competed and the winning four whose members took home medals to prove it, included:

Bass - Roger Holm, Pontiac
Baritone - Chris Miller, Grosse Pointe
Lead - Russ Seely, Grosse Pointe
Tenor - Bill Wickstrom, Detroit-Oakland

It would be great to have participants from across the district for next years contest. The fellowship is great... the quartets are good and it provides a chance to sing any part you have ever wanted to sing in a contest. If *you* are there, it will be an even greater turnout for the 40th.

Seely - continued from page 3

but we are so busy watching the time - Roger is to emcee the quartet prelim's - that we leave much of our dinner.

8:30 - Heard 15 quartets - they were great - then back to the hotel to take a look-see at the quartet jamboree and then up to the fifth floor to my chapter's hospitality suite. Friday night hospitality? But of course - it is GP.

Saturday - 7:15, yeah, am. Breakfast with Pioneer's FIRST meeting of the Past District Quartet Champs. Much enthusiasm and input. We will literally, hear more from them next fall.

10:00 am - Chorus rehearsal with my three co-directors; Joan Piccione, Pat Smith and Karen Schaefer. It's all in fun and we're havin' a ball. Noon - Fourteen choruses plus "that Pollard Kid" with the Joe Barbershoppers. City Lights won but got a wake-up call from a very impressive Lansing chorus. Grosse Pointe became the first, second and third Pioneer chorus to have a female director.

5:30 - Chapter Dinner (known as Harvey's Party) at the Sheraton. Eighty of us laugh, sing and dine as we nurture our camaraderie. It's a great way to celebrate regardless of your finish. Has your chapter tried it?

8:00 - Quartet finals. Doran's usual masterful job, not only as MC but in keeping things moving. In less than 3 hours it seemed liked the whole district paraded across the stage: 8 great quartets, 5 college quartets and 2 large choruses. Genuine Blend and Firepower combined the true meaning of their name and will represent us in Miami.

11:15 - Hospitality abounds throughout the hotel and I'm like a kid in a candy shop until the very wee hours. (Even sang/taught a tag with the college kids.

Sunday - 10 am. Convention wrap-up meeting. No "fires" reported by host Grand Rapids as we prep next time host, Lansing. Over one-thousand full registrations for this convention - we must be doing something right.

11:15 - Back to our suite where Shirley has been entertaining at the farewell brunch - the end is in sight. Final hugs and thanks to all who made it a great week-end. We now repack everything - load same and check out. Where did the last 36 hours go? Guess I was too busy relaxing!!

It was with great sorrow that while composing

this week-end review, we received word that our close friend, Nels Gregersen had suddenly passed away. Probably the premier woodshedder when it comes to basses, Nels was also our chapter President and Area Counselor of the Year in 1978. He was always in a quartet simply because he loved to sing.

Although he was a soloist and sang in his church choir, we suspect barbershop harmony was his favorite. Having sung with Nels in the Pointe Classics, the year we made it to International with our famous BAR - which Nels built - was his fondest memory.

He was a "great Dane" in every respect to me. His parting is an enormous loss to his chapter, his district and those of us who became his personal friends.

Our deepest sympathy to Johanna, his four children and his grandchildren. We share their sorrow.

Lewis - continued from page 3

members.

This summers International Convention is shaping up as a great party, in spite of low registration. (End of April registrations were at 5,500 - about 2,000 below Pittsburgh on the same date.)

There will be four previous gold medal choruses competing at International '95. Can you name them?

The quartet contest should be a real horse race and our two quartets will represent us well. Hope to see many of you there.

The main agenda for the International board will be the Management Study Team recommendations for restructuring the Society. It proposes a smaller board, from the current 25 down to 15 members and a different committee and management structure that would unify the support system for chapters. Much to consider. Much to report next issue. See you then.

*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



Exciting, new Pioneer quartets, well experienced chorus to International

It was just about four months

after **Genuine Blend** was formed that the quartet scored third in district competition and came within six points of being an international competitor.

It was just six months later that the foursome won the Pioneer District championship. It was just six weeks ago that they got a new tenor.

The "new" quartet captured first place in the district preliminary contest at the April convention and will represent the district at Miami Beach in July.

Genuine Blend has been on a fast track since it was formed, but it appeared it might miss a turn in March when the original tenor Andy Clements, announced his job would take him from Ludington back to North Carolina.

The quartet auditioned two tenors, selecting Butch Lievense, a fast learner, a member of Holland's **Windmill Chorus** and a long-time tenor in the **Dutch Master's** quartet.

Other **Genuine Blend** members are Lead Mark Garlock, who competed internationally in 1991 with Clements in **Escapade**; bass Dan Doctor, another former member of the Dutch Masters. Garlock and Doctor both live in Muskegon and sing with the Holland chorus. Kirk Wood, who directs the **Cereal City** chorus, completes the foursome at baritone, a position he also filled with the **Classic Ring**, Illinois District champs and three time international contestants.

adapted from *The Riser*, by Jim Styer

The **Firepower** foursome burst on the scene in July last year. The impact of their explosive talents earned a second place in the '94 district quartet contest. Their target, the International stage, was in sight, and they qualified - on the firing line - April 29 in Lansing.

Lead Jamie Carey sang earlier in that contest, with the 1993 District Champion **Full Chord Press**. He is the director of the rapidly ascending **Capitol City Chordsmen Chorus** of Lansing and a music teacher in Grand Ledge.

A veteran of eight years with the **Blue Ribbon**

Coalition, tenor Mark Wilson has served as president of his Gratiot County Chapter and is the current district VP in Division V.

Bass James Hawkins and bari Jeff Marks are both members of the Lansing group, but both began singing barbershop in far-away places. Hawkins sang tenor in several quartets in the FWD while living in Los Angeles for 14 years before returning to Detroit.

Marks vocalized both the lead and baritone with numerous quartets in both the Southwestern and Pioneer districts.

And Jeff Marks asked if we "...could work in a big thank you to their coach, Joel Mills" and to their "families," whom Jeff said "have given up a lot for this to happen." (Sure we can Jeff - we like to pass on words of encouragement and appreciation. This is a *barbershop* publication! -Ed.)

Those hardy mid-summer perennials, the **City Lights Chorus** of the Motor City Metro Chapter, the Pioneer District 1995 Chorus Champions, will display their brilliance again on the International contest stage in sunny Miami Beach.

The following members of the 1995 Pioneer District Champion chorus, directed by Matt Coombs, will represent the district in the early July contest: Phil Baker, Larry Bates, Gene Beatty, Don Boettcher, Don Borngeser, Andy Brenz, Gene Bulka, Pete Burns, David Campbell, Jerry Clardy, Don Cline, Ed Conn, Roger Davidson, Mike Elbert, Mike Foner, Gary Francis, Jack Frucci, Ken Hansen, Gene Harington, Chuck Hatch, Dave Herge, Len Johnson, Tom Kren, Phil Laliberte, Paul Lammers, Jim Lekander, Wlib Matthes, George Meyer, Joe Morris, Pete Morris, Denny Mull, John Nolte, Hal Pashby, Nick Pastoor, Jim Peake, Ruben Queen, Joe Queen, Austin Quin, Steve Ray, Jerry Reid, Joey Spina, Mark Slamka, John Smith, Jerry Spitler, John Szewc, Mike Tarn, Hal Thompson, Matt Tipton, Dunc Wallace, Paul Ward, John Wearing, Bob Whipple, Al Whited, and Bill Wise.

"For Ever Yours" winner of fiftieth annual Bush League Contest

by Edgar Lotspeich, PR Officer and BE

The talented foursome from Traverse City, **Four Ever Yours** outscored all other quartets at Boyne City April 8 to become the fiftieth annual Bush League contest champions.

Holland's Own quartet from Holland and the **Solitaires II** from Bay City scored equal points in the runner-up spot for the first tie in Bush League history.

The Saturday evening show featured the **Unlawful Assembly** with their entertaining "tough guys" routine and first class harmony. The new quartet champs, our **SnowBelt Chorus** and last years champions filled out the show bill.

This anniversary special was one of those best ever Bush Leagues. If we can make it this good every year, there is no reason it should not go on for another fifty annual performances.



BUCKEYE INVITATIONAL VII

August 10-13, 1995
Columbus, Ohio

ANNOUNCING the all-new *Stars of the Night* show!

Friday
at
10 pm

• The Ritz • Nightlife
& Joker's Wild

Executive Director-SPEBSQSA Inc.

The Society is accepting applications for the position of Executive Director. The position includes, among other things, being manager of all operational activities, coordinating the activities of 38 staff personnel and the administration of a \$4.2 million budget. Minimum requirements are a business administration degree (or equivalent); management and communication skills; proven experience in dealing with non-profit, volunteer environment. Moderate travel. Compensation commensurate with qualifications. Reply to:

SEARCH COMMITTEE, 3 Rip Van Winkle, Houston, TX 77024

by June 15, 1995

WEEKEND EVENTS PACKAGE

Kickoff Cookout, *Stars of the Night*, *Croonin' Cruise* (Riverboat with Feature Quartet), *Show of Champions*, and a Sunday Pancake Breakfast.

Palace Theatre Shows

on Saturday

Chorus Show

- Regular Seats @ \$11
- Premier Seats @ \$14
- Entertainment Judge @ \$16

Quartet Show

- Regular Seats @ \$11
- Premier Seats @ \$14
- Entertainment Judge @ \$16

Saturday Show Package

- Regular Seats @ \$20
- Premier Seats @ \$25
- Entertainment Judge @ \$30

Weekend Events Package

___ With Cruise @ \$22

Cruise Preference:

- 2:00pm 8:30pm
- 5:30pm 11:30pm

___ Without Cruise @ \$14.50

Harmony at the Zoo (Thursday)

Admission, Show & Cookout @ \$10

Stars of the Night (Friday)

General Admission @ \$9

And Lots, Lots More...

Buckeye Invitational Order Form

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____

Additional Information

Call: (614) 221-4480

Make checks payable to: **Buckeye Invitational**
Mail with self-addressed stamped envelop to:
Tom Gratz, 8071 Palmer Rd.,
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068



House of Delegates highlights

by Tom Uicker, Detroit-Oakland BE

Dues, conventions, SingAmerica and Harmony Round-Up were among the several topics covered at the spring, 1995 Pioneer District House of Delegates meeting.

"No dues increase this year," but we will probably have an increase by 1998, according to International Board Member, Roger Lewis.

Yet, Society membership would still be less expensive than other singing outlets. "Many singing organizations have dues ranging up to 70 percent higher than ours," Lewis said.

In his report and in answer to several Town Hall questions Lewis also reported:

- Hotel rooms for the International convention in Miami Beach is still available, even at the headquarters and other beach hotels. The number of registrations is lower than in past years and fewer rooms will be used by choruses.

- Delays in receiving Man-of-Note awards are caused by computer problems at Society offices.

- The Lifeblood experiment in the Central States District resulted in, among other things, recommendations for more singing opportunities at conventions, school and community music festivals and support for director development.

- SingAmerica/SingCanada, piloted in the Pioneer District last September, has been approved as an additional International service project, along with the test-marketing of a Harmony Associate membership in the Chicago area. (More details in the May *Harmonizer*.)

- There is room for two service projects. "We donate 25 cents per week to Heartspring," Lewis said. "We could donate the same to SingAmerica/SingCanada and still not hurt Heartspring."

With two service projects, Harmony Foundation will keep two funds, reported International Service Committee Chairman Fran Durham. Gifts to the foundation should be designated for SingAmerica/SingCanada or Heartspring. Durham also reported that although Heartspring has expanded its scope to include a treatment center, contributions by our Society are used only for the education program.

Because of reported problems in mail delivery and other factors, the Gratiot County chorus competition registration was received late. DACJC Mike O'Donnell denied late entry under the contest rules, but the District Board overruled him and allowed them to compete.

Lynwood "Bud" Kraft, Membership VP of the Grand Rapids Chapter earned a recruitment award for five new members in 1994, a third place tie, society wide.

Jim Styer of Battle Creek and Dan Bezaire of Windsor won first and second place in chapter bulletin competition. Bezaire achieved his

Continued - next column

District quartet champion association formed

A committee report

An enthusiastic group of some 20 past quartet champion members attended a special organizational breakfast meeting April 29 at the Lansing Sheraton Hotel. They took the necessary initial action to form a long awaited Pioneer District Quartet Champions Association (PDQCA). An interim committee of Bill Wickstrom (c), Russ Seely, Bob Wisdom and Kirk Wood handled the pre-planning arrangements.

A spirited discussion of Association aims and activities resulted in agreement regarding the following: Full membership in the Association is limited to members who win/have won the Pioneer District quartet championship. (Collegiate and senior district titles do not qualify). Associate member status is given to subsequent members of active district champion and past champion quartets. All associate members must maintain Society membership status.

Agreed to form a district quartet champion chorus and perform at one of the fall convention contest sessions on Saturday, October 21. A music team of Clay Shumard (*The Ritz '85* and *Opening Night '92*) and Jim Johnson (*Classmates '75* and *Opening Night '92*) was appointed to select, prepare and arrange for the distribution of music to all potential Association chorus members. A long range goal also approved was an offer to provide talent to small, struggling chapters wishing to present an annual show.

The group also decided to request that the district board put the Association in charge of the presentation of trophies to the new district quartet champions at each fall convention.

Members present at the breakfast meeting included 6 tenors, 6 leads, 4 baritones and 4 basses. Brian Kaufman was acknowledged as the member with the most championships (5) while Len Johnson and Bruce LeMarte were close behind with 4 each. Ray McCalpin (4 Fits '65) was recognized as the oldest member both in years (75) and in continuous membership (50). Bill Wickstrom (*Aire Tonics '56*) claimed the earliest district title.

A second Saturday breakfast meeting is planned for the district fall convention, at which time the Association will elect officers for the coming year and honor the new district quartet champion. Correspondence will advise all PDQCA members of future group activities.

second place in his first time in the contest with the *Windsor Chordster*.

Director of Conventions, Mike Cirrito reported Lansing will host in the fall, Gratiot County and Grosse Pointe in 1996, Detroit-Oakland and Battle Creek in 1997. 1998 conventions are open for bid.

Pioneer District International Quartet Preliminary and District Chorus Contest
 S P E B S Q S A, Inc., Lansing, Michigan, April 28-29, 1995

QUARTET	TOTAL SCORE	CHORUS	TOTAL SCORE
Finals			
Genuine Blend	1789	City Lights Chorus, Motor City Metro	918
Firepower	1702	Capitol City Chorus, Lansing	887
Onyx	1695	Mall City Chorus, Kalamazoo	797
Time After Time	1688	Cherry Capital Chorus, Traverse City	728
Beyond Measure	1670	Gentlemen Songsters, Detroit/Oakland	696
Souvenir	1567	Midstatesmen Chorus, Gratiot County	668
Four Grand	1534	Renaissance Chorus, Wayne	661
Unlawful Assembly	1512	Lakeshore Chorus, Grosse Pointe	660
Semi-Finals			
Mach I	659	Arrowhead Chorus, Flint	616
Gallery	600	Sun Parlour Chorus, Windsor	610
Safe-In-Sound	599	Heart of the Hills Chorus, Rochester	594
Harmony Transfer	594	Shoreline Chorus, Muskegon	565
The Next Generation	585	Stateline Chorus, Black Swamp	538
Northern Express	507	Harmonizers, Huron Valley (1)	528
Picture This 4	482		
<p>Genuine Blend and Firepower will represent the Pioneer District at the International Quartet Contest in Miami in July.</p> <p>MBNA America College Quartet Contest</p>			
Those Medlin' Kidz	780	Motor City Metro	1995 District Champions
Kings of the Hill	693	Black Swamp	Plateau 1 Champions
The Ripchords	613	Flint	Plateau 2 Champions
Brother to Brother	476	Rochester	Plateau 3 Champions
		Kalamazoo	Plateau 4 Champions
		Lansing	Plateau 5 Champions
		Grosse Pointe	Plateau 6 Champions

(1) Scores forfeited due to violation of Article IX of official SPEBSQSA contest rules (MUS - category, song number two).



We're Inviting You To The
DIEKEMA BOWL
 in HOLLAND, OCTOBER 27, 1995

"It's the only Bowl where the fans are the players. — Join us."

Genuine Blend

PIONEER DISTRICT SPECIAL PROMOTION!!

Pioneer District Golf Shirts

Order White or Navy Shirt with custom embroidered Pioneer District Logo on left chest.

Special Price \$24.50 each, including shipping & handling.

Sizes; MED. LAR. XL. XXL. (3-XXXL White)

A HISTORY OF THE PIONEER DISTRICT

Order your copy today!

"The History of the Pioneer District - The First Fifty Years"

by Robert T. McDermott

Special Price \$25.00, including shipping & handling.

Make checks payable to: Pioneer District
Mail to: P.O. Box 534, Birmingham, MI 48012

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

ERMISCH TRAVEL

Serving Your Travel Needs Since 1928



26-28 Michigan Avenue East

Battle Creek, MI 49017

Phone: 962-6255

1-800-999-5245

THE BEST TRIPS START WITH US!

MIKE O'DONNELL

6164512858

P. 01

LETTER TO EDITOR

April 11, 1995

I read with great interest your recent references to how "successful and larger" the Muskegon Chapter used to be before becoming "strictly a CHORUS CHAPTER." Other comments were also made about how non-singers (or "crows") used to sell out the 1800 seat Frauenthal & lend a "welcome, willing hand" for elaborate stage settings, selling advertising etc., etc..

A lot has changed in our world since 1960 (the last time the Chapter won a District Championship) and 1966 (the last time at International). I fondly remember the earlier days but I often forget the problems that accompanied those times. Clearly your implication was that the Chapter would be much better off if they returned to the "Chapter meeting night" of the old days. You failed to mention this was tried 6-7 years ago for about 10 months and was less than a success. After modifying the meeting schedule to every quarter the results were about the same with only the Christmas meeting well attended.

It's true the Muskegon Chapter is no longer as large as it used to be and, we do not sell out the Frauenthal Theater but that doesn't mean we are not a successful Chapter! Our membership is currently in the high 30's. Of that number we are hoping to stage 28-30 men this coming Spring or better than 70% of our total membership (including 1 old crow). In addition, we have 4 registered quartets or almost 50% of our total membership. We have an active program of singing in the community. We sing in the local Churches in the summer. We sing Christmas Carols at Christmas time and we sang almost 60 singing Valentines this year.

Yes - we recruit but it's not a hard sell. We invite all men to come join us for an evening of singing (or listening) to see if this hobby is for them. As Musical Director I encourage all visitors to take their time and try all the parts they think they might be able to sing. We even try to get our guests into a quartet situation by trying a simple tag.

Speaking of tags... It has been at least 3 years since we had a strictly chorus rehearsal in Muskegon!! Each night includes chorus rehearsal as well as warmups; gang singing; tag singing; quartet activity (especially when our active quartets are all there); business meeting & announcements and a break! Some nights those activities don't get as much time because we are polishing the show songs or contest numbers but they are always a part of the plans for the evening.

I don't know how much more we could squeeze into a Chapter meeting night and still satisfy those who choose to stay away and yet pass judgement without coming to a meeting in years. We have had a few men leave the Chapter (some before and some after I became Director) and transfer their membership to Holland. I presume it was so they could sing with a "better" chorus which Holland certainly is. If it was for lack of something on Chapter meeting night I'm not aware of it.

I wish the Chapter great success with their monthly Chapter meeting. I will no doubt attend some of them but not all. Singing with Grand Rapids,

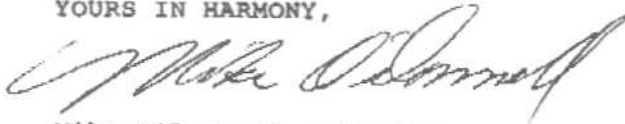
Continued on next page

directing Muskegon, singing with HARMONY TRANSFER, judging and coaching are about as much as I can handle. I suspect other men will gladly join in one more night of Barbershop but many will have to decline because of the many pressures from other commitments in today's world. I wonder how many members the Muskegon Chapter would have had in the early days if all of today's distractions like ESPN, cable TV, semi-pro hockey-basketball-baseball etc. etc. were part of their lives?

I'm grateful to be a part of the Muskegon Chapter as we try to Preserve the "Old Songs" for those who will follow. I don't have the advantage of editor Gunn who has been around for a long time to recall what the old days were like when Muskegon had 300+ members. Have we become so sophisticated by trying to attract singers to a singing organization? I don't think so and, I find it hard to comprehend a bunch of "OLD CROWS" listening to four men sing badly and saying; "I want to be a part of that!" I understand wanting to sing with good singers because that's what hooked me in wanting to sing in Grand Rapids.

The BLUEGRASS STUDENT UNION always had this routine in their shows which Ken Hatton, lead singer would use. "There are three types of people in the world: those who MAKE things happen; those who WATCH things happen and those who say - WHAT HAPPENED! I'd love to have Old Crow Gunn join us any Thursday night to see what is happening rather than write articles which praise the good old days and cast doubt on how things are today. Maybe another old saying applies here as well: Are you part of the problem or part of the solution?

YOURS IN HARMONY,



Mike O'Donnell, Director

April 20, 1995

Gordon Gunn
2296 Pillon Road
Twin Lake, MI 49457

Dear Gordy:

This is a comment on your recent editorial (April/May).

First, chapters vary, as you know. Holland has one kind of chapter; Grand Rapids another; Battle Creek another; etc. Those chapters are generally successful. They are successful because they provide what their members want...and what new members are willing to accept. Several years ago, Muskegon decided to have a separate "fun nite" once a month. After ten very poorly attended functions, the Board decided to reduce the number to four a year--about one every three months. Perhaps the format was wrong. I don't know. After a year, those specific nights were discontinued.

Continued on next page

Other social functions continued to exist at intervals, but the idea of a separate (additional) meeting had not worked.

That was when Eric Jackson's so-called, "Bryn Mahr system" had gained prominence in the Society. So, we decided to apply it--at least in principle. Therefore, the "chapter meetings" we now have include chorus rehearsal; tag singing; woodshedding on occasion; chapter quartets; pickup quartets, guest quartets; and whatever else the members suggest. In addition, one non-chapter quartet and a chapter quartet use the church for their rehearsals. This carries out another Eric Jackson credo: "Each man, in his own way, experiencing the joy of hearing his voice contributing to barbershop harmony."

Right now, this system is working for us. Nine new members last year, and three so far this year, and two prospects. This might not work for other chapters, but it's what is proving to be successful for us. For the first time in more than several years, our membership is back to 40.

Times change, and that always presents a new challenge. Today, we compete, more than ever, with service clubs, church choirs, and television. As barbershoppers, we need to provide a hobby that is more interesting than anything else they do. And once we get a man to join, we need to provide reasons for him to stay. For Muskegon Chapter, I think we doing the right thing for this particular moment without having a separate meeting each month. If things change, I hope we will be able to meet the challenge.

With "tenor" loving care,

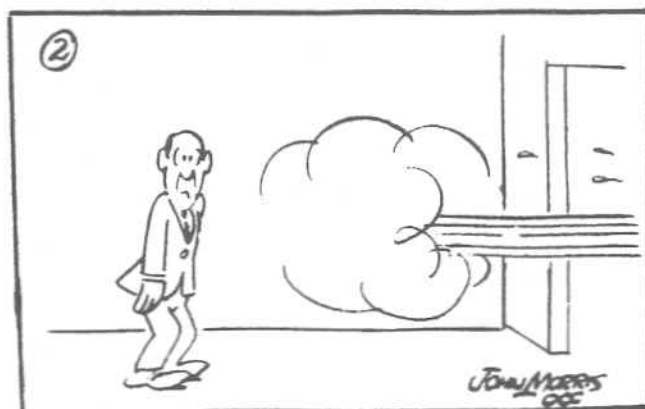
"Walt"

Gordon,

Thanks for a really super job.

Jack Oonk

Thank you Jack. I needed that. - Ed.

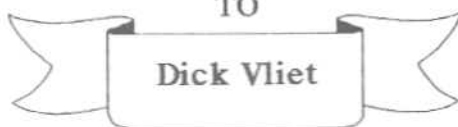




PIONEER CHAPTERS IN ACTION



A TROUBADOUR SALUTE TO



Dick Vliet

His was the first chapter copy received for this edition. *Early copy helps, a lot!* Dick 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 Dick Vliet, PR Officer

Greetings from the Gratiot **Midstatesmen Chorus**. Be assured barbershop harmony is heard regularly in the mid-district area.

A district Traveling Jug arrived from Swan Valley January 9 and was promptly presented to the **Flint Arrow-Head Chorus** January 24.

We held our annual Ladies Night Dinner February 18 where Past Chapter President Mark Wilson was presented our 1994 Barbershopper of the Year award. Mark is the Pioneer district VP for division V and sings tenor with the **Blue Ribbon Coalition** and the **Firepower** quartets. Jerry Tierman of the **Patch Chords** quartet gave the charge to the newly elected officers.

On March 18, 26 enthusiastic chorus members sang at the Michigan Chiropractic Society convention in Grand Rapids. Blue Ribbon capped it all off to thunderous applause.

We are planning monthly sing-outs at area retirement and nursing homes. May 27 will find us at the Highland Festival Parade in Alma. All you Scotsman come on over to the meeting of the clans. Bring your pitchpipe as well as you bagpipes.

Our chorus sound has improved under the coaching of Joel Mills.

Our annual fall shows will be held at the Alma High School auditorium October 7, and will feature **Yesteryear**, **Blue Ribbon Coalition** and the **Midstatesmen Chorus**.

We have purchased seven sets of risers, a new sound system and a trailer to transport it all.

James R. Hall and his beautiful wife Cynthia will leave in June for Cameroon, West Africa, with the Peace Corp. Jim has been a tireless worker in the chapter, a past president, he has most recently served as PR Officer and BE. We will miss his smile, bass voice and enthusiasm. (Best of Luck to you both.)

Lansing Chapter

by Bob Fox, BE and Historian

There is a lot of excitement in the Lansing Chapter. Having just completed a highly successful show before a sell out crowd of 2,500, rising scores in district competition, watching membership rise to an all-time high, having our own **Firepower** win a lace in International competition and with great plans for the future... Lansing is on the *move!*

We are continually asked what has prompted our upturn. Mostly it's a good leadership team, a fine and fun loving director in Jamie Carey, a nucleus of guys who are willing to volunteer and accept assignments, lots of quartet activity in the community and a big bunch of lovable guys who like to sing.

Our *Sunday Singers* are preparing to take their barbershop style hymns to area church services this summer. The group has been active since 1982 and this year will be directed by Larry Parker. Many thousands of dollars have thus been raised for Heartspring over the years. Demand for the group far exceeds the time available.

Also upcoming is our annual Krazy Kwartet Kontest which will see a dozen or so quartets to wreak havoc on the music, Presentation and singing categories of our barbershop style.

President Marv Rhynard underwent heart by-pass surgery the last week in April. In his absence, Membership President Dennis Wertz is handling all of the presidential duties. At this writing, Marv is recuperating at home and we hope to have him back with us soon.

As the year goes on Membership VP Dennis Wertz continues to report success in recruiting. Five men joined our ranks in April - all are basses. We also had one lost soul return from the land of non-barbershop. He was pronounced "cured" after only one barbershop meeting, followed by an hour of tag singing.

Among our scheduled appearances in the next few months are shows in Grand Ledge and Owosso by our quartets and our chorus.

We look forward to hosting the convention next fall and are already excited about the competition.



Grosse Pointe Chapter

by Mike Sullivan, MVP

Spring convention 1995 came and went with the chapter giving it's best with 52 members on stage and four directors. Yes it was controversial! Yes, it was legal! Yes, it was Grosse Pointe! We crooned to the moon - "Moon Medley" - and stood forlorn - "To Be Alone" - to a receptive audience. We scored a respectable eight place finish. Enough said.

We held a kick-off party to mark our fiftieth anniversary and a crystal plaque was presented to our methuselah, Ray McCalpine, in honor of his fifty years of barbershopping and as a charter member of the chapter. We wish him well for another fifty years.

Our chapter's annual Ladies Night was held at the infamous Blossom Heath - a former speakeasy - on Lake St. Clair. We were attired in our finery of Tuxedos and evening dresses. Don't forget the ladies. It's they who allow us to enjoy our hobby.

You could probably hear the careening and frequent splashes of golf balls as far as Michigan as 32 members and friends attended the chapter's annual golf excursion to Mineral Wells, West Virginia. The scores have not been finalized for the award of the coveted green jacket - but since when were scores considered important? Jim Dugan, a guest from the Detroit-Oakland chapter demonstrated the ancient technique of Kamikase golf cart while engaging in the pseudo-sport of golf. It's a great story that only he can tell.

Grosse Pointe presented a check for \$1750.00 to the Holley Ear institute of St. John's Hospital at a sing-out in May. The weather was miserable but the appreciation by the hospital was sunny and bright. Remember your local charities.

A Grosse Pointe chorister who wishes to remain anonymous wishes to thank Bill Weitschat of the Traverse City **Cherry Capital Chorus** for his assistance at competition. Imagine: A 21 year seasoned barbershopper discovering he had forgotten his white tuxedo short five minutes before appearing on stage. Bill literally gave him the shirt off his back. No wonder Russ Seely calls us "meatheads."

See you *all* at "Send-Off-Night in Windsor. Speaking of Windsor, did you notice the numbers on stage in the April contest? Look out, they could be a sleeping giant. A great bunch of fellows, even Doran.

On a more somber note, the chapter lost two of it's favorite sons and avid quarteters to the Great Barbershop Chorus beyond: Russ Hofer, a member for 11 years and Nels Gregerson who had been with us for 20 years. The Afterglow and

Lakeshore Clippers quartets just won't be the same without them. We will miss them.

Our risers will go back into storage until fall and out comes the music for our *big* show in September - marking the chapter's 50th year. Details to follow.

Holland Chapter

by Art Lane, BE and PRO

Chapter members are gearing up for our 50th anniversary after the excitement of Tulip Time activities in May. The **Windmill Chorus** put on two simultaneous shows to appreciative crowds of tourists from a dozen or more states. Our headliner's were West Michigan's own **Genuine Blend**, the Pioneer District quartet champions and International competitors. They appeared with the **Harmony Hounds** and the **Black Tie Affair**. Our genial men with the microphones were Holland's Don Lucas and the district's semi-permanent champion senior quartet tenor, Bill Wickstrom. Show chairs were Dale Bekker and Dick Plaisted.

Our Windmill Chorus performed several songs arranged by Willis A. (Bill) Diekema, founder of the chapter and composer of "*Keep America Singing*." The Diekema songs are just a sampling of activities planned for this fall when the chapter will observe it's own version of the 50th anniversary of practically everything. We'll have our own anniversary "Whopper Weekend" on October 27, 28 and 29.

It will start Friday night with the Diekema Bowl, a contest in which quartets and choruses will sing songs arranged by Bill Diekema. Winners will receive wooden bowls. The contest is open to Sweet Adelines and barbershoppers from everywhere. The 50th anniversary show will be Saturday Night. On Sunday afternoon there will be a gospel concert and all barbershoppers are invited to sing.

The Whopper Weekend and Diekema Bowl contest were promoted at the April convention where members in Dutch costume ran the sign-up booth. They included Claude Barney, Vern Rose, Dale and Paul Bekker, Art Lane, Chuck Wilson, Ed Garlock, Ken Cook and Jim Wojan, with Mark Garlock's children; Tyler Trevor and Tanner.

The chapter conferred the Barbershopper of the Month status on Jack W. Oonk, creator of the "Whopper Weekend" and dauntless designer of the Diekema Bowl.

Our chapter cheered Genuine Blend as it won the top score in the International preliminary quartet contest in April and the *Windmill Blade*, our bulletin, published an extra edition reporting the happy event.

Continued - on next page.

Holland Chapter - continued

Holland's Own quartet, tenor Darrell VandeHoef, lead Bill McAndrew, baritone Dale Van Langeveld and bass Tim Shinsky took second place at the Bush League contest in Boyne City. The quartet also recently performed at the Holland Middle School Rain-Forest Awareness program.

Two of our quartets appeared in an old-time USO show presented by the Evergreen Commons Senior Center during Tulip Time. They are: **Four Bucks a Chord** with tenor Vern Rose, lead Paul Bekker, baritone Les Swieringa and bass Art Lane; and **Four Bucks a Chord No. 2:** tenor Dick Plaisted, lead Chuck Wilson, baritone Dale Bekker and bass Ken Cook.

The wonderful parodies heard at the spring convention by Kalamazoo, Rochester and the Grand Rapids choruses, has led to the suggestion in Holland that there ought to be a prize for parody. Does anybody have knowledge of the history of this art form? How does it fit into the big tent of barbershop? Write - Parody, Box 1403, Holland, MI 49442.

Several months ago our brother chorus, the **Whale City Sound** of Zaanstad, Netherlands, sent us a copy of their promotional booklet. Ed Garen had it translated from Dutch to English so the Michigan Hollanders could learn more about the Zaanstad group. Here are two brief excerpts:

***Barbershop music:** Nobody knows exactly where this barbershop music as sung originated. Almost sure, is that immigrants from Europe contributed an important addition to the existence of the barbershop singing. The legend says that in "The Far West" America +/- 1880-1890 while people waited long times at the barber, they sang those songs, especially the men.*

***Afterglow:** The fun of barbershop is also the singing of "Cat Songs." These are songs whose arrangements are the same all over the world. So every barbershopper can easily sing along wherever he is (on vacation or so). The hospitality of the barbershoppers is well known. That happens especially in the "after-glow" of a performance or rehearsal, this comradeship of singing together.*

Because of that, there exists a "Harmony" which is the basis of the barbershop phenomenon. On that basis, everything exists, the happiness to sing together, but also to listen to each other. The "fun" is to get "as good as possible" end result.

Detroit-Oakland Chapter

by Tom Uicker, Chapter President

If you read this by June 2, come to the Dearborn Elks Club, 25000 Michigan Avenue, just west of Telegraph for the Return of the Jugs night. We expect to have both **Genuine Blend** and **Firepower** with us as we welcome the jugs back from their travels. By using two jugs we managed to touch all but three of the chapters in Divisions I, II, III, V, and VI. I thank all the chapters for keeping the jugs moving and I'm sure your quartet representatives thank you for your support as they prepare for Miami.

While we can state with authority the traveling jugs just completed thirty years tradition, there is another get-together hosted by Detroit-Oakland for which we haven't researched the origin. That is Canadian Night, for which we haven't been getting many Canadians out in recent years. Now we are advised that our traditional first Friday in November date conflicts with the Kitchner-Waterloo "Dawg House Night". As a former member of Kitchner-Waterloo, I can agree, it is not an event to miss.

So we are *changing our date* for Canadian Night to September 29 this year. It will be held at the St. Adains Hall in Livonia. I realize the date is a far piece from now but we want you to have plenty of notice. So mark your calendar and start getting your mini-choruses together. The Old Oakland Bucket will be up for grabs and there is a good chance the group from Harmony Woods Campground may take it away from Lansing. More on this in the next issue.

Meanwhile, we invite any and all to come out and visit us during the warm months ahead. We meet at Starr Presbyterian Church, 13 Mile & Crooks Road in Royal Oak, on each Monday that is not a holiday. We also have a group of afternoon singers meeting at the church on Thursday afternoons from 1 to 3:30. Come on out and sing a few with us.



FIREPOWER!

A BARBERSHOP EXPLOSION

Mark Wilson
Jeff MarksJamie Carey
James HawkinsContact: Jeff Marks (517) 663-8158
333 N. Waverly Road, Eaton Rapids, MI 48827



update

notes from the international office

SPEBSQSA
6315 Third Ave.
Kenosha, WI 53143-5199
(414) 653-8440
(800) 876-SING
FAX (414) 654-4048
Internet: brian-lynch@genie.com
May 1995



Update is regularly distributed to selected International, district and chapter officer positions. Because many recipients hold one or more offices at various levels, duplicate receipt may occur from time to time.



Get America Singing ... Again!

The above words were adopted as a rallying cry by representatives of five major music organizations that gathered for a summit meeting in April at Harmony Hall in Kenosha. In addition to host SPEBSQSA, represented organizations were: Sweet Adelines International, American Choral Directors Association (ACDA), Chorus America and Music Educators National Conference (MENC).

With this issue of *Update*, chapter presidents and bulletin editors should also receive the Spring 1995 edition of *Harmony Happenings* [see back page], which contains a report of the meeting. One of the goals identified by the group is to establish a core repertoire of music that is part of the American heritage, and then promote its performance in all music styles; choral, glee club, barbershop, and the like. A second goal is to promote community singing.

On May 2, Will Schmid, president of MENC, met with Keith Mardak, CEO of Hal Leonard Publishing, one of the nation's largest music publishing firms, to discuss these goals. Mardak was most enthusiastic, and Hal Leonard is willing to publish books and recordings, in furtherance of the program, at cost! All profits will be returned to the "Get America Singing ... Again!" campaign.

"This is really good news," wrote Chairman Schmid in a report to the task force, "since Hal Leonard has access to a huge copyright music pool, including the Beatles, Rodgers and Hammerstein, early Disney and Irving Berlin." Look for more information as this exciting program develops.



California quartet to be on TV

Metropolis, a foursome of members of the Foothill Cities, Calif., Chapter, will appear during the first week of June on E! (Entertainment Television Network) in *The Fourth Floor Show*, a pilot for a new series on the network. The pilot will air eight times to test for audience response and approval. Pending positive results, the series will begin a regular schedule, and the quartet will have a recurring role. Members appearing are: Drew Lang, tenor; Bob Hartley, lead; Mike McGee, bari and Brian Philbin, bass.

Graphic designs for service projects unveiled

This mailing of *Update* includes art slicks for SPEBSQSA's international service projects: *SingAmerica/SingCanada* and *Heartspring*. Bulletin editors and public relations officers in particular will find this fresh clip art useful for brightening up chapter communications. We're distributing it widely, though, to help bring attention to the complementary nature of our Society's charitable activities.

Our ongoing support for *Heartspring* places energy and dollars in the service of those who have difficulty communicating at all. The *SingAmerica/SingCanada* funds assure a future in which personal expression through vocal music is a natural part of daily life for individuals, families and communities.

Together, they affirm Barbershoppers' commitment to altruistic service through the medium of barbershop.

*Trademark pending: The trademarks *SingAmerica*, *SingCanada*, and the figure and note design are the property of SPEBSQSA, Inc. and Harmony Foundation.

Team recommends restructure of SPEBSQSA

"Trends in society at large and in the arts make it imperative to realign our antiquated governance and management structures, if we are to respond effectively to the challenges we must face in the 1990s and beyond."

With these words, an ad hoc Management Study Team appointed by 1994 International President Ernie Nickoson delivered its final report and recommendations. At its April meeting, the Executive Committee reviewed the report and endorses its adoption by the International Board of Directors at the Miami Beach convention in July.

Chief among its recommendations:

- ❖ A parallel structure for international committees, district offices and chapter organization, to create direct lines of communication for various functions.
- ❖ A reduction in the number of committees, from the current 27.
- ❖ A new 15-member SPEBSQSA Board of Directors, in lieu of the current 25. Board members would be elected for three-year terms, with districts "paired" to select candidates.
- ❖ The entire Board of Directors would meet four times annually, replacing the Executive Committee. The Society president would be elected for a one year term, but be encouraged to repeat if particularly effective.

The 119-page report (+ appendices!) reflects a year-long of study of organizational theory and interviews with SPEBSQSA leaders at all levels. Key committee chairmen, past international presidents, board members and district presidents have received the report thus far. Copies are available from Robin Burkee in the Marketing Department for \$6.50 to cover printing and postage.

Quartet draw for Miami Beach

The draw for the 1995 International Quartet Contest resulted in the following order of appearance, by session:

Quarterfinals #1

1	Sound Standard	DIX
2	Nightlife	FWD
3	Shenanigans	SUN
4	Phoenix	SLD
5	Milky Way	EVG
6	The Edge	EVG
7	12th Street Rag	CSD
8	Short-Term Agreement	ILL
9	Bandstand	DIX
10	Prodigy	DIX
11	Renaissance	ILL
12	Bad Habits	AAMBS
13	Kingpins	ONT
14	Genuine Blend	PIO
15	BSQ	MAD
16	Rave Revue	NED
17	By Design	ONT
18	The Tulsa Tradition	SWD
19	Vintage Blend	FWD

Quarterfinals #2

20	Black Tie Affair	CAR
21	Rhythm and Rhyme	FWD
22	Bank Street	RMD
23	Time Out	SNOBS
24	Luck of the Draw	NED
25	Backbeat	SUN
26	Standing Room Only (SRO)	FWD
27	Quincy Avenue	RMD
28	The Great Stage Robbery	SWD
29	Upbeat	CSD
30	Gilt Edge	SPATS
31	The Bay Rum Runners	MAD
32	Excalibur	LOL
33	Tabasco Cats	CAR
34	Revolution	JAD
35	State of the Art	LOL
36	Brass Ring	FWD
37	Echo Lane	ILL
38	Take Four	BinG!

Quarterfinals #3

39	Ace In The Hole	JAD
40	139th Street Quartet	FWD
41	Freefall	CSD
42	Common Ground	ILL
43	Yesteryear	JAD
44	West By Northwest	EVG
45	Garden City Sound	NZABS
46	FRED	DIX
47	Rumors	JAD
48	Firepower!	PIO
49	PrimeTime	LOL
50	Seattle Sound	EVG
51	Missouri River Rascals	CSD
52	HarmonyWorks	LOL
53	Sound Assembly	BABS
54	Marquis	JAD
55	Variety Pak	MAD
56	Ready or Not	SLD
57	Discovery	ONT

New chapters keep forming

Extension activity has been brisk so far in 1995. The Membership Department has logged 33 inquiry requests since January, with 10 chapter licenses and six charters having been issued as of May 1.

New licensing and chartering rules, adopted by the International Board in January, have spurred this activity. Under the rules, only four members are needed to license and 12 to charter. In addition, the chapter license period has no minimum required time and the maximum time has been extended from six months to 12.

Take a look around your district and identify some potential new chapter sites. Then, call your district director of membership development or the international office for help in establishing a new chapter. Do it today!

Harmony Happenings hits the street

This issue of *Update* includes the second issue of *Harmony Happenings*, a publication for new friends of SPEBSQSA and its Harmony Associates members.

Harmony Happenings features a listing of SPEBSQSA chapter shows throughout North America, to encourage folks who like music to sample the great barbershop entertainment product in their own home towns. Shows are listed based on ASCAP clearances received at Harmony Hall—an added incentive for chapter and district secretaries to get that paperwork in process as soon as possible.

Harmony Happenings was originally created as a gift premium for PBS viewers who made donations during the *Keep America Singing* broadcast, but has come to be a valuable external communications tool. Several dozen issues were distributed to *Saturday Evening Post* readers who responded to Joe Liles' October 1994 letter applauding the publication of the Rockwell *Close Harmony* cover.

Harmony Happenings can be a great PR tool for your chapter, too. Include a few copies in guest kits as a quick introduction to the scope of SPEBSQSA and its many activities. Your show patrons might be interested to find out about other shows in the area, or refer their friends in other parts of the country to local shows.

Harmony Happenings is available in lots of 50, for \$5. Contact Robin Burkee in the Marketing Department for more information.

Special airline rates announced

The Society has initiated an agreement with American Airlines for the following 1995 meetings and events:

- Miami Int'l Convention July 2-9
- IC&J School/ Harmony College/Directors College July 26-Aug 6
- Leadership Forum Nov 2-5

Discounts include (1) 5% off lowest prevailing fare; (2) 10% off regular-fare Y-26 (refundable ticket), 7-day advance required; (3) 10% off from Canada Y-26, 7-day advance required. Travel discounts are valid three days prior to and three days following the specified meeting dates.

In addition, Camelot Travel Services, the Society's official travel agency, will return 3% of each ticket cost directly to the member. Member and Society benefits also apply to travel booked on other carriers. Camelot can be reached at (800) 877-5444.

In order to receive maximum benefits, members are urged to use Camelot for their travel needs; however, reservations can also be made through American Airlines at (800) 433-1790 or through a preferred travel agent. In any case, you should mention:

Star Number S9672

A personal agent must use this number when booking on American Airlines to obtain your discounts. Use of the star number allows the Society to track member travel history, which provides additional benefits to the Society.

'55 to come alive in Miami Beach

A commemorative brunch honoring participants in the 1955 international convention in Miami Beach is scheduled for Wednesday, July 5, 1995 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Fontaine Room at the Fontainebleau (HQ) Hotel on Miami Beach.

The cost is \$30 per person, including tax and gratuity. If you wish to pay by credit card, call (800) 327-7888. If you would prefer to pay by check, please make it payable to the "Miami Chapter" and mail to Jan Stenback, 6556 Windsor Dr., Parkland, FL 33067. Receipt will be made by postcard. Deadline for accepting reservations is June 15, 1995.

More next time.



Dan Daily
Publications Editor

PIONEER DISTRICT
S P E B S Q S A, INC.
1311 NORTHLAWN, N.E.
GRAND RAPIDS MI 49505

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
GRAND RAPIDS, MI
49501
PERMIT NO. 26



NOTICE: Please send all
copy, photo's, advertising
& correspondence to Editor;
Gordon Gunn
2296 Pillon Road
Twin Lake, MI 49457
Ph (616) 744-3211 / Fax 744-0088
Next Copy Deadline - July 15.

Postmaster: Dated material - Please RUSH!

*An official Publication of the Pioneer District Association of
Chapters of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement
of BarberShop Quartet Singing in America, Incorporated.*



*Everything's
Coming up
Barber Shop!!*

1995

Jun 9 Windsor Send Off
Jun 9-10 Traverse City Show
Jul 2-9 Int. Convention, Greater
Miami, Fla.
Sep 23 Alpena Show
Oct 7 Gratiot County Show
Oct 14 Pontiac Show
Oct 20-21 Dist. Conv. Lansing
Oct 27-29 Holland's 50th
Anniversary Whopper Weekend
Oct 28 Jackson Show
Oct 28 Rochester Show
Oct 28 Benton Harbor/St. Joe.
Show
Nov 3-4 Grand Rapids Show
Dec 8-9 Motor City Metro Show

Note: All chapter show activities must be
cleared through the district secretary.

PLEASE NOTIFY:

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



A BARBERSHOPPERS' CAMPGROUND*
JUST NORTH-EAST OF SARNIA, ONTARIO

- REASONABLE MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE
- SEASONAL OR CASUAL CAMPING TOO
- CHAPTER FUNCTIONS WELCOME
- COME SING WITH THE "HARMONY
WOODSMAN" CHORUS

**COME VISIT AND ✓ OUT
OUR FACILITIES**

* owned and operated by
barbershopper society
members

**FREE WEEKEND OF
CAMPING
FOR FIRST TIME VISITORS**
CONTACT: John Szewc (313) 676-8739

or
Doug Petch (519) 633-8341
for details