

pioneer

TROUBADOUR



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

VOLUME 46 - NUMBER 6

DECEMBER, 1995/JANUARY, 1996

Great Lakes Chorus to International, Firepower new quartet champs

Larry Parker will lead district; David Cole elected executive vice president



President elect, Larry Parker

New district officers will first convene December 2

No other nominations were made - there was no contest. The nominating committees selections were elected to office by the district House of

Top three choruses separated by only 10 points; Firepower achieved their goal

Grand Rapids Great Lakes Chorus will again represent Pioneer in Salt Lake City, by the narrowest of scoring Margins. They bested the City Lights Chorus by only three points and Lansing's Capitol City Chordsmen were close behind, trailing the leader by but ten points.

Any of the three might easily have won the preliminary contest, and we can be proud of the

level of competition.

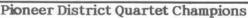
But the victory did fulfill the plans of Great Lakes, for Jack Schneider, chapter treasurer, said their extensive preparation for this contest began two years ago. We will report more on their 24 months of dedicated effort, culminated in a spirited "pep rally" on Friday evening at the Sheraton Hotel, in a later issue.

Delegates October 20, in Lansing. Larry Parker was elected district president and David Cole, executive vice president.

President Parker will convene the first meeting of the new board at COTS, on December 2, at Gull

Lake.

Newcomers to the board are David Anderson, Richard Plaisted and Paul Smith. The complete directory of the 1996 Pioneer District Board of Directors, with phone numbers and addresses, is on page two.



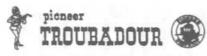


Firepower!

James Hawkins - Mark Wilson - Jamie Carey - Jeff Marks
(see page 7)

Meanwhile, there was no question about the plans of the Firepower quartet, and they were on target. The new district champions bested their closest rival by 230 points. The foursome also improved their own score by 159 points since April, when they qualified for International.

The enthusiastic audiences also enjoyed greatly improved performances by the High Bid and Beyond Measure quartets, who scored second and third.



Publication authorized by the Pioneer District, S P B B S Q S A, Inc.

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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 published by the authority 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 relevant to issue. Malicious or vindictive letters or articles will not be published.

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

MEMBERS: DO NOT SEND CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO EDITOR. Mailing labels are furnished by SPEBSQSA, Inc., 6315 Third St., Kenosha, WI 53143-5199. Please furnish change of address to your chapter secretary and SPEBSQSA, with your name, chapter name, chapter and member number, your old and new address. Copies not deliverable at time of mailing will not be forwarded.

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President's Position

by President Russell Seely

Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy 1996! We kid a lot with the old line; "Time sure flies when you're having fun", but I'm here to tell you – it's a fact. I must have had more than just fun these past two years being your president 'cause I just can't believe it's over already.

The two years just rocketed by and I'm



scratching my noggin trying to figure out how I can thank everyone who contributed so generously to the success of my term. But the answer is obvious; it's simply the members (which includes families of course, and special someones) who get involved. Sincere

thanks to everyone who became more than "card

carrying" names on a roster.

The line "You can't receive your gift if you don't attend the party," really makes sense with everything we do in life; education, social life and, more importantly, family life. Rarely do we see failure if we simply get involved. So to those of you who have been and continue to be involved, our heartfelt thanks.

I love your participation in trying to preserve what we do best: the barbershop treatment of our grand and beautiful "old songs." We respect and cherish some of our seniors who, for obvious reasons, can't get as involved as they'd like to. Believe me, we need their support.

Just some of the "warm fuzzies" that will remain in my fondest memories of serving as president have to include:

- The publishing of Bob McDermott's "History of the Pioneer District."

 Official formation of the Association of District Quartet Champions which culminated in our first performance at the fall convention.

- Four well run, well attended district conventions with tons of woodshedding.

Establishing our Golden Anniversary Award to
 year members. (Very classy, Mr. Funk.)

- Having Al Burgess, Bill Wickstrom and John Wearing enter the Hall of Fame.

- getting to know Past Society President Ernie Nickoson, current President Dick Shaw as well as soon to be President Tim Hanrahan (and isn't Tim's wife, Pat, neat?)

 Finding, through MSU, the Kellogg facility on Gull Lake for COTS and enlisting the tireless Continued - please see SEELY, page four.



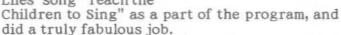
International Perspective

by IBM Roger Lewis

Grrr-r-r-r-eat convention - - Congratulations to Firepower, our new district quartet champs and the Great Lakes Chorus, our representatives to Salt Lake City next July.

They will both serve us well. For the Great Lakes Chorus it's "Deja Vu" all over again, as they represented Pioneer in Salt Lake City in 1986.

Tuesday, November 7, I was privileged to represent the Society at MENC's (Music Educators National Conference) taping of the World's Largest Chorus at Interlochen Fine Arts Academy. The Ritz, our 1991 International quartet champions, sang Joe Liles' song "Teach the



Composer, arranger, pianist, singer Mervin Warren emceed the event, and a 70+ children in the auditorium joined the Interlochen Symphony, singing some great music.

Perhaps you wonder as I did how this can be

the World' Largest Chorus?

MENC provides music to their members around the world. The program is to be aired on PBS March 7, 1996 at 1 pm. At that time, childrens choruses around the world will join in, and the music teachers will send a certificate to MENC, verifying their participation. MENC expects 8 million singers to participate. This is the 8th year MENC has done a World's Largest Chorus.

Suppose that barbershoppers joined the Ritz in singing "Teach the Children to Sing." Perhaps we could increase that number by a few thousand? So, mark your calendar, set your VCR and be a part of the Worlds Largest Chorus. Even if you're only a spectator, it'll be worth it.

This is my last article as your International Board Member. Congratulations to Russ Seely, our new IBM, soon to be called Society Board Member, and to our new President, Larry Parker.





The Executive Pitch

by Larry Parker, Executive V.P.

The ladies hospitality room was a grand success - My wife, Carole, tells me the success of the fall convention Ladies Hospitality Room was due to the help and generosity of several people. Mike Cirrito for acquiring the 5th floor suite for our use, and Sue Lewis, Lorie Cole,



Shirley Seely, Jan O'Donnell, Jean Schneider and Joan King for their donations of gifts for door prizes. Carole extends her warmest gratitude to each of you.

Those lucky ladies who won prizes are: Sue Kesti of Lansing; Pat Rose, Alpena; Jenie DeMarr, Grosse

Pointe; Bea Phillips, Grand Rapids; Mary Jo Kampe, Lansing; Julie Grabil, Grant (Grand Rapids); Pat McCarthy, Grosse Pointe; Phyllis Acre, Elsie (Lansing); and K. Junck, Ann Arbor (Wayne).

Carole also asked me to relay her thanks to all who have helped her these past two years and also asks that you join her in pledging support for Lori Cole, who will be your hostess next year. See you then.

SEELY, continued from page three.

Past Everything, John Gillespie to coordinate COTS. I'm really happy Gull Lake is near his home, but I suspect he would serve anywhere.

- Our out of Society people: New mom Julie from Lansing's V&C Bureau, Robin from the Sheraton, Bob from Kellogg's Gull Lake Station, so many smiling faces, so many extra courtesies.
- Many great chapter shows some celebrating 50 years, including my beloved Grosse Pointe, plus the special events like Canada or Uncle Sam Nights. Don Bazely's surprise farewell party at the "Sue."
- So proud of our quartets and choruses as they compete and perform at International.
- The *Troub*, always on time, thanks to Gordon and Dobb's Printing. Also, it's just nice knowing the Gunns.
- Windsor's meatless spaghetti dinner at send off, which is totally run by our Canadian neighbors, as well as DOC's Jug Night where all proceeds go to our deserving quartet and chorus reps to International.
- Watching Mr. MC Doran work. So spontaneous

but so organized. He and Margaret are International treasures. Keep 'em laffin' friend.
— The always stimulating board meetings. The Town Meeting format of our House of Delegates meetings. Great questions posed to Ed Waesche, Roger Lewis and Tim Hanrahan. And these dedicated Society reps answered any and all questions.

The thoughtful letters and notes, handshakes and hugs the Seelys' received - don't stop those.
 Just singing barbershop! I may have set a record for singing time while being pres and I'll

never forget that.

Sadly, the loss of Bob McDermott, Bill Warner, Harold McAttee, to mention a few, all Hall of Famers, affected me, as well as Nels Gregersen, Don Humphries and Fred Hunter, quartet buddies that are always part of the family. While you're "up there" you all seem to "Shine a Little Light on Me."

So, Mr. President Elect, Larry Parker, if you and Carol have half as much fun and cooperation as Shirl and I have, your cup will be filled. The morale of the district is high, financially, we're very healthy. By the end of your term you'll have three past presidents on your board who are also dedicated and willing to help you.

As the song goes "I'll Be Around" as your representative on the Society board of directors and by the end of my term I'll also represent the Land-O-Lakes District. Imagine Seely representing Saskatoon!!

Operation Harold Hill

by Larry Parker, Director of Membership Development

In the film "Music Man", Professor Harold Hill said, "Oh, we've got trouble, right here in River city." Well..., we also have trouble. Our River City is the loss of membership within our Society, our district and individual chapters. The membership campaign "Operation Harold Hill" was conceived as a mobilization of our members to increase membership during the first six months of 1996.

To participate in this energetic endeavor, all you need do is complete the chapter registration form that was sent to your chapter's secretary and mail before the *December 15, 1995 deadline*. Then your chapter will receive \$40.00 worth of free membership material, additional help and guidance from the Harmony Hall staff, and a chance to qualify for chapter awards and individual prizes.

Operation Harold Hill is a win win crusade for membership. You have much to lose if you choose to ignore this fabulous offer. How about it? If you haven't signed up yet, please do it today. Let's have 100% participation of our Pioneer chapters. Remember the deadline, December 15,

1995.

ADD-A-LINE

by Jim Styer, Communications Officer

PioNet will be delayed, possibly until the first quarter of next year. I am having serious computer problems and, in testing my Internet hook-up, I am finding concerns about the reliability of downloading messages I would forward to other PioNet members. I don't want to



start the network officially until these problems are resolved, because it should be a reliable means of communication.

Meanwhile, anyone who wants to be a part of this should e-mail me your e-mail address so you can be included. We still have not heard from anyone in about 10 chapters.

Dennis Wortz of Lansing has been named the District Communications Officer for the new year. I will be his liaison for bulletin editors and will be handling PioNet, and will help him any way I can. I need a break after several years of doing this.

Dennis has just returned from a forum in Kenosha and has some great plans for the district. Give him all the support you can and contact him in Lansing anytime you need PR help. He'll be listed in the 1996 district directory.

Quartet Champs Chorus debut, a big convention plus

The Pioneer District Quartet Champions Association (PDQCA) Chorus of Champions is here to stay. The groups first performance following Saturday nights quartet contest finals received a standing ovation. Director Russ Seely (4 Fits '65, Foreign Policy '76) expressed the thrill felt by the 32 chorus members at the audience reaction. The elite group had but one half hour, after breakfast rehearsal, Saturday morning.

The PDQCA's second "Breakfast of Champions" featured a roasting of retiring champion Genuine Blend and special recognition of our new Hall of Famer, John Wearing (4 Fits '65, Foreign Policy '76 and Saturday Nite Feature '81). Members also elected founder Bill Wickstrom (Aire Tonics '56 Sharplifters '67) it's first president, and Denny Gore (Vagabonds '69, Center Stage '80, Legacy '88, Stay Tuned '91) secretary. Others present included Marv Burke, Gene Hulka, Andy Clements, Jim Gross, Len Johnson, Jerry Koning, Bruce LaMarte, Mark

PR and BE contest entries due

by Jim Styer

Many good chapter PR officers and bulletin editors do outstanding job for their chapters, often without recognition.

Two district contest are open to offer that recognition and to provide help with the job. Each entrant will receive that help from judges comments about their work. District winners will be announced at the spring convention. Winners of either contest may enter the Society contest.

January 15 is the deadline for the Bulletin Editor of the Year contest.

Entries will be judged on layout and reproduction, content, grammar and style.

Eligible bulletins must be published at least eight times in the year. Submit three copies each of three consecutive issues published in 1995. One copy of each must be an off-the-pressissue; the others may be copies.

The two top entries will be recognized and will be asked to submit three additional copies of any bulletin for the Society contest.

Mail your entry to Jim Styer, 72 Allison Dr., Battle Creek, MI 49017-1828. Phone (616) 965-6456 if you have questions.

Public Relations Officers or others who wish to nominate a PR Officer for the contest are also asked to mail the appropriate entry to Jim Styer before the March 1 deadline.

Write a summary of what was done, the results and why you feel the work is noteworthy. There are no minimum or maximum length requirements. Enclose back up material, such as information used in planning the activity, outlines, reports, internal communications, letters, news releases, clips, tapes, posters, programs, ads, etc.

The cover letter should also include information on chapter size and resources and on area media to the extent this affected the work and the results. Also include the nominees name, address, phone number, chapter and title, and a brief summary of the nominees PR and barbershop experience.

The district winner will be entered in the Society PROTY contest, which requires entrants to be PROBE members.

Lantinga, Mike McClary, Bob Marshall, Joel Mills, Bernie Poelman, Craig Pollard, Jeff Rayburn, Bob Reidel, Russ Seely, John Seeman, Don Slamka, Jack Slamka, Bob Winters, and Bob Wisdom. Joining the chorus later were Bob Demchak, Wally Dorosh, Jamie Carey and Mike Woodruff.

Saturday evening, PDQCA President Wickstrom presented the District Quartet Champion trophy to newly crowned Firepower, while Genuine Blend presented individual trophies. Other members welcomed Firepower into the Association with quartet champion pins.

Ed Notes — President Russell Seely told the House of Delegates at the October convention that he enjoyed serving as president for the last two years and would be happy to do it all over again. He can't of course; Russ has new responsibilities. For the next two years he will represent the Pioneer and Land-O-Lakes Districts on the Society board of directors.



Shirley and Russell Seely

But we have enjoyed and appreciated his, and First Lady, Shirley's, term of service also.

Russ often referred to himself as "Da boss," and frequently asked if there was any way he could be of help. He and Shirley have both provided much friendly support.

We certainly offer our thanks for their past good services as well as our best wishes to them in their new, expanded barbershop roles.

We hope Russ may, in two years, proclaim that he enjoyed serving on the Society board and would like to do it all over again.

If some phrases in reference to the Society seem strange in this issue, there is a good We formerly used the reason. International and Society interchangeably and with synonymous meaning, in reference of course, to the International Society SPEBSQSA. But the rules have changed. Now, Brian Lynch at Society offices advised, the word International will be used only in reference to the International contest. Otherwise, we are to use the word Society or the phrase Barbershop Society, or like terminology. For example then -We assume - our former International Board Member (IBM) will hereafter be known as a Society Board Member or SBM.

Our apologies to DME Fred Kienitz, the good barbershoppers of the Alpena Chapter, and everyone else, for all the mistakes in the October/Novemberissue. Put together in great haste, the issue was b-a-a-a-d, and we are ashamed of all the errors.

In Fred's column for instance, we moved Alpena 179 miles and referred to them as Alma.

We don't expect to ever publish a perfect issue, but have definite plans to improve. After all, the only way to go after that last issue, is up.

**

We received a hand written page labeled with a chapter name which apparently was meant for publication in the "Chapters in Action" section. Unfortunately, it bore no by-line or other identification.

Terribly sorry guys, but publishing an article without an identifiable source would be a breach of ethics. After all, anyone could mail anything about an unsuspecting chapter with erroneous and perhaps harmful information. Sorry.



John Gillespie - Judge Emeritus

John Gillespie, past International Society President, past International Board Member, past District President, member of the Pioneer District Hall of Fame and with many other accomplishments in service to the Society, is now the Pioneer District's first and only Judge Emeritus.

Firepower!

biography prepared by Jeff Marks

Firepower! was formed in August, 1994 and two months later finished second in the Pioneer District quartet contest and in April 1995, qualified to represent the district in the 1995 International contest in Miami Beach.

Tenor Mark Wilson is a long time barbershopper, having sung for eight years with the Blue Ribbon Coalition. He is past president of the Gratiot County Chapter and is just ending a three-year stint as Division V, district vice president. Mark works in his family's retail business and lives with his vamily in Sumner.

Lead Jamie Carey is a well travelled singer and director in the district. He began directing in Cadillac, has directed the Swan Valley chorus and is currently directing the Lansing chorus. His quaret experience includes Executive Suite and 1993 Pioneer District champion quartet, Full Chord Press, who competed at International in 1993. Jamie teaches vocal music at Grand Ledge where he lives with his wife, Johaana.

Baritone Jeff Marks started barbershopping in the Southwestern District before moving to the Pioneer District where he sang for several years with Collectors Choice and Crescendo. Jeff is employed as an electrical estimator and lives with his wife, Deb, and their two kids in Eaton Rapids.

Bass, James Hawkins was a tenor when he began singing in the Far Western District, but got straightened out, singing bass, once he arrived in Pioneer. He sang with several quartets out west and, most recently competed in the Cardinal District with Back Home Again. James works for a medical records service in Detroit, where he live with his wife, Gail, and their two children.

We owe some big time thanks to our families who have supported our efforts one hundred percent. We absolutely couln't have done it without their love and support. We also want to thank our coaches, Joel Mills and Clay Shumard. Their vision, guidance and commitment to the barbershop craft is truly an inspiration.

And finally, we want to thank the Pioneer District members and their families who came out to cheer the quartets and choruses at the contests. We appreciate your enthuasiasm and thank you for your genorous support. We look forward to representing all of you during 1995–1996 and sincerely hope we can live up to this great honor.

New district president has short, very active barbershop history

Larry L. Parker joined the Lansing Chapter in March, 1986. He said he "Immediately jumped, with both feet into the thick of the chapter's administrative activities." He was elected program vice president in the fall that year and served in that post for three years. He then served two terms as chapter president and is currently serving his third year as chapter secretary/treasurer. That term will continue through 1996.

While yet serving the chapter as PVP, he was appointed to the district office of area counselor. Larry was appointed division II vice president in 1989, to fill the vacancy when Byron Davis resigned. He was nominated and re-elected to successive terms in that office through 1992.

But after only a brief interval, he was appointed Director of Membership Development in 1993. He was elected district Executive Vice President for 1994-1995 and continued as DMD. Larry said "I now look forward, with great anticipation, to being the next president of the Pioneer District."

He also reported "I have been a member of three registered quartets, Four Goodness Sake, followed by Fundamentals, and our current quartet, Gallery. Singing with Gallery gives me great pleasure. We have a lot of fun, but also work at improving our performance skills. The quartet attended the 1995 edition of Harmony College."

Larry is 58 years old and has been married for 37 years to Carole, "A wonderful lady who supports my every barbershop move." They have 4 children, all grown, and 4 grand children. He retired from G.M.'s Oldsmobile Division in June of 1992. "I went from being a part time to a full time barbershopper, but still find time to fish and play golf," Larry said.





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presents



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featuring

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KEEPSAKE
1992 International
Champions

MAIN STREET

YESTERYEAR 1995 International Silver Medalists

THE GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS

Directed by Steve Sutherland

Friday, February 16, 1996 7:59 p.m. Saturday, February 17, 1996

7.07 5.111.

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Ticket Information: (810) 258-9601



Pioneer District Quartet and International Preliminary Chorus Contest S P E B S Q S A, Inc., Lansing, Michigan, October 20-21, 1995

Pioneer District Quartet Contest

International Preliminary Chorus Contest

QUARTET	TOTAL SCORE	CHORUS	SCORE
Finals			
Firepower	1854	Great Lakes Chorus, Grand Rapids	907
High Bid	1624	City Lights Chorus, Motor City Metro	904
Beyond Measure	1614	Capitol City Chordsmen, Lansing	897
Bayshore IV	1551	Mall City Chorus, Kalamazoo	828
Passport	1454	Cherry Capital Chorus, Traverse City	807
Unlawful Assembly	1430	Lakeshore Chorus, Grosse Pointe	775
Four Ever Yours	1351	Gentlemen Songsters, Detroit-Oakland	704
The Royal Masters	1263	Renaissance Chorus, Wayne	681
		Sun Parlour Chorus, Windsor	672
Semi-Finals		Shoreline Chorus, Muskegon	658
		Huron Shore Chorus, Alpena	592
Fraternity	582	Stateline Chorus, Blackswamp	510
Harmony Transfer	574	Huron Valley Harmonizers, Huron Valley	497
The Nauticals	514	Snowbelt Chorus, Boyne City	440
Picture This Four County Road Four	500 484	Interlakes Chorus, Cadillac	423

Firepower is the 1996 District Champion Quartet.

The Royal Masters is the 1996 Novice Quartet Champion.

Great Lakes Chorus, Grand Rapids, will represent Pioneer District at the 1996 International contest in Salt Lake City.

City Lights Chorus, Motor City Metro, is the International contest alternate chorus.

* Lakeshore Chorus, Grosse Pointe Chapter has been named the Most Improved Chorus following a post contest recount.



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John R. Wearing, 1995 Hall of Fame recipient

by Russ Seely

Truly the Cal Ripken of barbershop, Johnnie Wearing was named to the Pioneer District Hall of Fame October 20, 1995.



John R. Wearing

He appeared in over 140 contests in his 35 plus years as a member. Some years John competed as many as eight times - two choruses in the Spring and Fall, one chorus at International, plus a quartet in each event.

He was a member of three district champion quartets as well as the Bush League Champs and was also a member of our first Senior Quartet Champs, the 4-Fits.

John served as chapter president with the Grosse Pointe Chapter and was instrumental in chartering the Port Huron Chapter. He has served on chapter boards since beginning with Niles-Buchanan, serving also, Oakland County, Grosse Pointe, Detroit # 1, and Motor City Metro chapters.

The consummate barbershopper tenor, John has long donated his time and talent to preserving our heritage.

Pioneer's first Worship Service/Gospel Sing successful

by Stan Williams, District Treasurer

Now that I've finally gotten off the high of our first ever Gospel Sing, I will try to write a few lines of reflection and pass on my thanks to those who helped. The famous line from the movie "Field of Dreams" was, "If you build it, they will come." That's how I felt on Sunday morning at convention, when, at about 8:55 with a great deal of relief, I was able to go into the room where the Lansing Sunday Singers were warming up and report the audience finally had more people than the choir. I had thought for some time a worship service would provide a nice close to our convention weekend, as well as fill a void that regular church attenders had to endure to go to convention. The standing room only crowd confirmed my belief.

For those of you in attendance it was probably quite obvious I was thoroughly enjoying myself. To have all the facets of the service come together so successfully was unbelievable. It was a blessing to me, and a real inspiration to keep this as a regular part of our Pioneer conventions.

I must thank those who helped make our first

Gospel Sing such a success.

First and foremost, thanks to Jim Pollard for presenting exactly the type of inspirational message the program needed. Thanks too, to all the following: The Lansing Sunday Singers, with a few last minute additions, and their director, Larry Parker. To the Good News Ambassadors Quartet, the organist from Cornerstone College, Jennifer Brattain, and Mike Cirrito and the convention committee. And most of all, thanks to the 120 plus members and guests who attended. I think it was amply demonstrated that a larger room will be needed at future conventions.

I am interested in any comments or suggestions for planning the second Gospel Sing for the spring convention. If there are gospel singing quartets, assistant pastors, divinity students or others with something to add to our Sunday morning program, please call or write me.

I'm sure we can plan the Spring service even better with more advance notice to those

participating.

The collection received on Sunday morning amounted to \$270.00 and was split evenly between the Cornerstone College Choir and Sing America/Sing Canada, with the amount contributed credited to the Pioneer District.

Great Lakes Chorus

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The Barbershoppers of Gratiot County

Warning - the annual barbershop shows at Alma are habit forming

Margaret and I, with Robert and Jane Weber, first made the pilgrimage to Alma in 1993 because the newly medaled International quartet champs, the Gas House Gang were featured. They were outstanding, as was the entire show.

On that October evening, as the curtain parted, the audience became witnesses to a lifelike shipwreck on the shores of an picturesque, deserted south seas island.

In 1994 we were all part of the musical

merriment in an animated toy store.

So, October 7, 1995 found Marg and I again driving to Alma expecting to share a good time -

and we were not disappointed.

While this years stage setting was not as ornamental, it revealed creativity and was appropriate to the theme. For we traveled back to December 8, 1941 into a radio studio complete with news anchor desk and suitably appointed, elevated control booth.

The opening and closing of the segment were broadcast recordings of Presidents Roosevelt and Truman describing the incidents which began and ended WWII for our nation.

But in between, oh my - yes; in between we were treated to music of the fondly remembered

"Big Band" era, on a radio variety show.

The Midstatesmen Chorus, directed by Jeff Rayburn, sang a four part version of Hoagy Carmichael's "Stardust" and a Glenn Miller Medley among other old favorites. The Sweet Ad's Prime Time quartet, Pam Adams, Liz Miller, Sue Higgins and Delores Coltrop offered Andrews Sisters arrangements including, "Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree".

The Suitable Union - Jim Hall, Ken Smith, Dale Kemler and Don Piper, along with the Blue Ribbon Coalition - Mark Wilson, Jeff Rayburn, Randy McLaren and Dave Rayburn added much to the vocal harmony, while a band (unamed in the program) provided instrumental "swing", opening with the unforgettable, always popular, Glenn Miller arrangement of "In the Mood."

Sweet Adeline Regional Champions, Accolade, Jeanne Lundberg, Susan Gleason, Lynne Erskine-Peirceand Dodie LaMarte returned us to the realm of pure barbershop to open the second

half of the show.

Yesteryear, 1995 International Silver Medalists, sang the old barbershop standards with every chord ringing true and, to the delight of the audience, provided the expected zany barber shop show routines between numbers. The champ-ionship calibre quartet from Ohio are Rod Nixon, Randy Baughman, Dan Trakas and Mark Blake.

Post convention notes

by Mike Cirrito, District Director of Conventions

So ends another successful Pioneer District convention, attended by more than 1300 people. Our conventions continue to attract similar

numbers each spring and fall.

Our thanks to Host Chairman Dennis Wortz, of the Lansing Chapter and his coordinators and volunteers who were all instrumental in keeping all events of the convention moving like clockwork. The Lansing Chapter did an altogether terrific job hosting the affair. Gratiot County will be hosting the spring convention in 1996.

Pioneer District was honored to have as our guest, Tim Hanrahan, the Society's next president, and his wife, Pat. They couldn't say enough about our Pioneer hospitality and we certainly enjoyed having them with us.

How about our new district quartet champions, Firepower and the Great Lakes Chorus. Didn't they both put on a great performance? We can be proud of the 14 quartets and 15 choruses who

participated in the competition.

Certainly, one of the highlights of the convention had to be the 30 man Chorus of District Quartet Champions who made their inaugural appearance on the convention stage. It was quite a memorable experience. Our thanks to Bill Wickstrom and those who assisted him in the monumental task of organizing the Association of Pioneer District Quartet Champions.

The Senior Quartet Contest continues to draw big crowds and is enjoying success. Thanks to all the quartets who sang and congratulations to A Very Quick Idea, who won the trophy. And thanks again to Bill Wickstrom who coordinated

this event.

We hear the Ladies Hospitality room, relocated to the 5th floor Executive Lounge was a big hit.

We enjoyed good media coverage all weekend, with local spots on CBS and NBC affiliates, as well

as coverage in the local newspaper.

A convention first was attended by more than 100 people - standing room only in the Reo Theater on Sunday morning - when the district held it's first Worship Service/Gospel Sing. We will need to relocate to larger quarters for future Sunday services.

Thanks to Stan Williams who orchestrated this event with the help of Jim Pollard, who provided the words of inspiration, the Lansing Chapter Sunday Singers and the Good News Ambassadors

from the Motor City Metro Chapter.

It was quite a weekend and I am most grateful

to everyone who made it so.

Ed. Note - It was quite a weekend and Mike Cirrito's last convention as the district director ot conventions. We are grateful for his services.

1995 Senior Quartet Champions



A Very Quick Idea
Walt Quick - Gene Harrington
Rusty Ruegsegger - Fred McFadyen

1995 Senior Quartet Contest

by Bill Wickstrom, chairman

Another capacity crowd cheered on eight quartets in the Senior Quartet Contest, Saturday, October 21 in Lansing. After all was sung and done, only nine points separated the top three, making this the closest contest yet.

Wayne Chapter's A Very Quick Idea won the trophys, with Pontiac Chapter's Sunnyside only two points behind. Lansing's High Fibre Octaves were a close third. Foursomes from Alpena (2), Holland, Muskegon and Traverse City completed the field.

The retiring champion Left Overs sang their swan song and presented trophies to the new champs who will represent The Pioneer District at the International Seniors Quartet Contest in Jacksonville, Fla., in January, under their officially registered name, The Very Idea.

The judging panel included Bruce Evans, music, Roger Lewis, presentation, and Ed Fritzen, singing with Larry King as contest administrator. Contest Chairman Bill Wickstrom emceed the proceedings.

Obituaries

We have received word of the deaths of two long time Pioneer District members:

The Detroit-Oakland Chapter reported the recent loss of it's most senior member, Ed Fach. Ed was a member for 56 years. Tom Uicker reported the chapter's Daytime Singers sang for Ed on his 92nd birthday August 18, when they presented him with his new membership card. He died less than a month later.

Irving "Doc" Bernstein, was a member of the Flint Chapter for 30 years and of the Detroit-Oakland Chapter in recent years. "Doc" died on November 5, at age 82.

One of his final wishes, expressed in his will, was for a barbershop quartet to sing "Nearer My God to Thee" at his funeral service. A Foursome from the Flint Arrowhead Chorus fulfilled his final wish.



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SOCIETY'S CODE OF ETHICS

- 1. We shall do everything in our power to perpetuate the Society.
- We shall deport ourselves and conduct the Society's functions in such manner as to reflect credit upon the Society and its membership.
- We shall conform in all respects to the By-Laws of the Society and the rules from time to time promulgated by its International Board of Directors.
- We shall accept for membership only congenial men of good character who love harmony in music or have a desire to harmonize.
- 5. We shall exhibit a spirit of good fellowship toward all members.
- We shall refrain from forcing our songs upon unsympathetic ears.
- 7. We shall not use our membership in the Society for personal gain.
- We shall not permit the introduction of political, religious or other similar controversial issues into the affairs of the Society.
- We shall, by our stimulus to good music and vocal harmony, endeavor to spread the Spirit of Harmony through-out the world.
- We shall render all possible altruistic service through the medium of Barbershop Harmony.



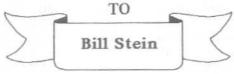




PIONEER CHAPTERS IN ACTION



A TROUBADOUR SALUTE



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

Black Swamp Chapter

by Bill Stein, Secretary

"Holey Moley" has become the official battle cry of the Stateline Chorus. Although a 12th place isn't much to "write home about" for most choruses, it's pure pleasure for a chorus who had only 12 performers and a director on stage.

Due to unforseen circumstances, including an unfortunate accident to Mr. Al Rash, our appointed director, our numbers dwindled during the week just prior to the district contest. We are in debt to Ernst "Bing" Meinen for keeping us together and stepping forward to direct in our time of need.

We would also like to pass out other thankyou's. First; to the unidentified gentlemen from the Windsor Chapter, who, while handing out flyers told us to remember two things while on stage; (1) relax and (2) have fun. We did both. To the Lansing Chapter, thank fellas, great job.

When you're a small chapter, far from the center of the Pioneer District, little things mean a lot. District VP Larry King not only visited our chorus rehearsal earlier this year, he also graced us with his presence at our hospitality room at the Holiday Inn. We know some of that is part of his duties... but we also know that singing song after song with us is above and beyond the call of those duties. Thanks Larry, your visits bind us to the Pioneer District.

Another thank-you is directed to the three quartets who visited our hospitality room. You meant a great deal to us during our weekend. Just Friends aka The Royal Masters, Unlawful Assembly, and Firepower, aka district champs, performed admirably for us. It was great seeing them on stage, but in person and having fun with we strangers from Black Swamp, made us feel complete in our barbershop experience.

A personal note to Firepower lead, Jamie Carey, thanks for the pep talk and noting that smaller chapters should "keep on comin' and competing," because that's what it is all about.

Latest numbers show us with 27 members, up 69% from 1995. We hope that continues.

Detroit-Oakland Chapter

by Tom Uicker, Chapter President

First off, let me congratulate the Lansing Chapter on the fine job they did, both in hosting the fall convention and earning the most improved chorus award in such a close chorus competition. While I can't say Detroit-Oakland was happy with a seventh-placefinish, we were happy that we have improved our singing, We will be back in the spring with a brand new package.

One of the difficulties of being one of the oldest chapters in our Society, is that we have some of the oldest members (except those chapters in the warmer climates). Since my last

article we have lost two dear friends.

Ed Fach was our most senior member, claiming not only 92 years of age but 56 years in our Society. He wasn't still active, but I reported last time on our Daytime Singers going to sing at his birthday party. We are glad we went when we did; he died less than a month later.

In early November we had to say farewell to Irvine "Doc" Bernstein, a dual member of Detroit-Oakland and Flint chapters. years, Doc Bernstein was still active up to a few months ago, when his illness forced him into a nursing home. Our Daytime Singers were able to visit him also, and he insisted on singing with us at different spots around the home. Shalom, Doc. We'll miss you.

Meanwhile, we are busy preparing for our annual show in February. We are bringing in both Keepsake and Yesteryear for your listening pleasure, along with the Gentlemen Songsters as we present "Dear Hearts and Gentle People."

Check out the ad elsewhere in this issue, and come out and see us at the Clarenceville High School in Livonia. The dates are February 16 &

17, 1996.

Grand Rapids Chapter

by Dick Williams

The smoke has cleared, the dust has settled, the auditorium is again silent, empty and dark. The sounds of chords ringing are just another memory for now, 'till we sing again.

What a great convention weekend.

The Lansing Chapter was outstanding as hosts. Great job Lansing - but wait, could it be ... Could we have another Doran McT in the making? Stan Williams... Think about that.

Congratulations to Firepower, the new district champions - they were terrific. A job well done. Congrat's also to High Bid and our Continued next page.

Grand Rapids - continued

own Beyond Measure. Kudos to the novice champions, The Royal Masters, and the senior

champs, A Very Quick Idea.

We had a very hotly contested and exciting chorus contest, wouldn't you say? To close to call, kinda like trying to decide who's number one in college football. Consequently we feel very fortunate to have persevered over so many great choruses, champs all, especially City Lights and the Capital City Chordsmen. You can imagine our elation when they announced we would be the 1996 reps to Salt Lake City. Wow!

I'd like to acknowledge the help of Bruce Evans, Wayne Kinde, Joel Mills and Mike O'Donnell. And we must congratulate each chorus member and Director Jim Pollard.

After every successful contest we throw the director in the pool and this time we included John Bloomquist, our outgoing president, who will soon move to Phoenix. John has been a true asset to the chapter. He will be missed but we will see him in Salt Lake City where he will join us on the risers.

Our annual show was a smashing success. Marquis and Allied Four were awesome and all the chapter quartets did an outstanding job as well and the chorus wasn't too shabby either. The afterglow was rock'n and roll'n all night.

Our 1966 officers are: President - Dan Cassematta, MVP - Peter Westers, PVP - Tom Frens, MVP - Dale Mattis, Secretary - Jay Smits and Treasurer - Jack Schneider. Board members are: Steve Brown, Ken Harr, Jim Horton, Bud Kraft, Jim Russell, Don Strong, Dick Williams and Ron Wyse.

I must mention how wonderful the staff of the Sheraton was to us. We had some last minute changes Friday night for our pep rally and they never flinched. They were very understanding and handled everything for us. They added to our success and enjoyment of the weekend and we are grateful to them.

A special thanks to Phylis Branch for getting everyone together Friday and for the great cheering section on Saturday. That was truly exciting to hear from backstage as we prepared to sing. I still get goose-bumps thinking about

Great Lakes, Great Lakes, Great Lakes. Thank you, all who were out there. You're the best. Grand Rapids - 56 years old - a proud heritage. The legacy continues...

Flint Chapter

by Ken Rice, Publicity Chairman

We're told we should never stop learning, that in every experience there is a lesson. That being the case, let's examine the great truths gleaned by the Flint Arrowhead Chorus from a very busy month of October. Truth #1: Singing in an unusual setting can be a hoot. We're talking here about a full-scale performance, in costume, on a paddle-wheel boat in the middle of Mott Lake, part of the Genesee County parks system. On a balmy Wednesday evening we boarded the *Genesee Belle*, a spanking new excursion boat with a capacity for 175 passengers. Departing from Stepping Stone Falls, the 90-minute trip featured a 30-minute presentation of our "Showboat Adventure" package, after which we went topside for nearly an hour of extemporaneous harmonizing. It also served as a dress rehearsal for...

Truth #2: It's a lot more fun and a lot less work to do a guest performance on someone else's show than to produce your own. We had the privilege of opening the second act of the Pontiac chorus' show, at Brandon High School Auditorium in Ortonville on October 10. Again adapting our spring show package, we enjoyed all of the adrenalin surge, felt all of the excitement, absorbed all of the applause and basked in those "warm fuzzies" that always follow a satisfying performance. But we only shared a modicum of the chores that go with show sponsorship, like selling tickets or program ads, or planning an afterglow. Thanks, Pontiac, for letting us have all the fun and just a little of

the work.

Truth #3: Bee keepers can be a mighty appreciative audience. One more time we donned our 1890's costumes and polished up the Showboat package to sing for the Michigan Bee Keepers Association at their annual meeting in Frankenmuth. Some of the entertainment was at the audience's own expense as emcee Mark Twain pointed out that the most audacious temptations along the Mississippi River in those days included riverboat pirates, gamblin' men, dancin' girls, and worst of all, Bee Keepers! A leathery old Union soldier exclaimed, "Mark Twain, I love you man." To which Twain replied, "Your not getting my Bud Light, Johnny." Well, you had to be there. The biggest reward of the evening was an invitation for a repeat performance at the Bee Keepers convention next spring. We'll bee there.

Truth #4: You get to know your chapter brothers in a little different way when you're both wearing aprons and working side-by-side. On Sunday, October 29 the Arrowhead Chorus sponsored and hosted a chicken dinner, served at Flint's Masonic Temple. For three hours and over 300 diners we filled the buffet tables, set places, scurried for beverage orders, refilled coffee cups, cleared and bussed dirty dishes... and sang. Any time we could free four parts we'd serenade our customers, and they loved it. Good money maker, too, and Heartspring will be the major beneficiary.

Let this be a lesson to you. Trivial or profound, there's a truth to be found in everything you do.

Happy New Year!

Rochester Chapter

by Frank Mirasola, VP Public Relations

Awesome! How else do you describe the experience of sharing the same program with Acoustix? By all accounts, the Heart of the Hills Chorus' twentieth anniversary show, "Strike up the Band," was a smashing success. Feeding off each others enthusiasm the chorus, guest quartets and the audience created an air of electricity not often experienced. It was great music and most of all, great fun.

The show committee did an outstanding job, but special kudos go to Chairman Don Reddy, Assistant Chairman Kurt Kiesling and Stage Manager/Choreographer Dan Bajorek. Director Al Fisk did his usual extraordinary job of reaching seventh heaven and bringing the chorus with him. Jim Troeger, in his onstage debut as assistant director led the chorus through "Old Songs Are Just Like Old Friends," that was flawless. Everyone is still basking in the satisfying afterglow of a job well done. Visiting barbershoppers said the chorus never sounded better.

Three chorus members became casualties just prior to the show. Lyle Howard had quadruple by-pass surgery two weeks before the show, yet attended rehearsal a week later, and attended the show. Thirteen year old Chris Blakely broke his non-performing hand the day before the show and still went on. A week before the show, George Schmidt was hospitalized with a kidney problem. Recovering quickly, on show night he was standing tall on the risers.

Our summer-endoutdoor performances were at opposite weather extremes. The chorus' appearance at the Arts and Apples Festival was blessed with beautiful blue skies, mild temperatures and record breaking, enthusiastic crowds.

Our pay-the-rent performance at the University Presbyterian Church Corn Roast was under cloudy skies, with biting winds and fifty degree temperatures. Fortunately, there was lots of good food and good singing to distract people from the elements. Later that day we joined other barbershoppers at TV channel 56 pledge drive to man the telephones during the September 17 broadcast of "Keep America Singing."

Our November 2 guest night, chaired by Dave Pearcy was a memorable evening of music and companionship. We were surprised by a "Jug Night" visit by Macomb County Harmony Heritage choristers along with a guest appearance by Grosse Pointe's Passport quartet, Rob Smith, Steve Pauling, Jim Ryan and Tom Conner. We also enjoyed our own Uncalled Four.

On November 3 our Chordmeisters, Al Fisk, Bob McCaffrey, Dan Bajorek and Kurt Kiesling entertained at the Michigan State/Michigan pregame, alumni pep rally. There is no neutral ground at this event. Go Green/White -Maize/Blue.

November 19 the Uncalled Four, Wayne Andrews, Dave Pearcy, Gary Glomstead and Don Reddy, entertained at the Great Oaks Mall, a benefit for Leader Dogs of America, sponsored by Jacobsons.

Grosse Pointe Chapter

by Mike Sullivan, Membership VP

Most Improved Chorus? Sorry Lansing, maybe next time. Between the two chapters, it appears we'll have to buy the district a better calculator. Through an error in scoring, the award was presented to the Lansing chorus but was later corrected by the district and presented to Grosse Pointe. I Guess it was the districts way of saying farewell to outgoing President and Grosse Pointe Chorus Director, Russ Seely.

Grosse Pointe was well represented in the quartet contest as three made it into the finals. All right, one was the mike testers. Congratulations go to our own Passport, The Royal Masters, and Fraternity. This chapter certainly believes in the Q in SPEBSQSA. And our own quartet regular, John Wearing, was inducted into the Pioneer District Hall of Fame at the fall convention. There is no better tenor in the district, with a wide repertoire and performance credentials.

Incoming President Tim Hanrahan was gracious enough to join our chapter at our convention dinner. I believe that with individuals like Tim, the Society is in good hands. He teaches some mean tags and doesn't mind pitching a song up a step or two. We were especially honored by his acknowledgment of our chapter at the quartet finals as being an example of what chapters should strive for.

Rick Schaefer will carry on as our chapter president for another year. Under his leadership, membership continued to grow in 1995 and stands at about 112. We must be doing something right.

Several of our members were unable to get accommodations at the Sheraton headquarters as in the past. As it turned out, this was a blessing in disguise. We got to meet and convene with lots of barbershoppers at other hotels, we don't normally get to sing with. I would like to personally thank the Windsor and Traverse City Chapters for the great conviviality of their hospitality rooms.

Pioneer District and barbershopping will be getting a big boost if the proposed chapters are chartered. Escanaba, Gaylord, and Albion may be the next "up north" chapters. Stop in and support their efforts if you are in the area.

Grosse Pointe has a unique undertaking Continued on next page.

Grosse Pointe, continued.

coming up on December 14, at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial. We will present a Christmas concert and share the stage with the Eastport Chapter of the Sweet Adelines.

Why is it, when it's your turn to pick a song your mind goes blank an all you remember are the polecats? You remember the really good old chestnuts only after you've had your turn.

See you at COTS.

Holland Chapter

by Art Lane, BE and PR Officer

The Holland Chapter's 50th anniversary celebration on Oct. 27, 28 and 29 was as advertised, a Whopper of a Weekend.

Events started Friday with the Diekema Bowl. a singing contest using the arrangements of the late Will A. (Bill) Diekema. Master of Ceremonies Myke Lucas read a tribute to Diekema, who founded the Holland Chapter, arranged more than 200 songs in barbershop style, and wrote "Keep America Singing." In the Diekema era Myke sang in the Chord Counts, for whom Bill provided some arrangements. Myke recalled old times learning music in the '50's and 60's around the grand piano in the sun-room of the Diekema home. He noted that in the 1960's the Holland Chapter and barbershop friends from across the country gathered in Holland to honor Diekema. "We threw this great big shindig -- named the streets -- because Bill was getting old." But he just kept on barbershopping, and was still arranging music at age 88. He died in 1988 at the age of 96.

Eight quartets competed in the Diekema Bowl contest. Winner was Mach I, Dean Burrill, Mark Spear, Don Burrill and Dorn Burrill, of the Battle

Creek Chapter.



Mach I and MC, Myke Lucas

They received a standing ovation for their beautiful performance of "Three Bells," a favorite in Holland (Where it is known as "Jimmy Brown") since the days of the Chord Counts. The quartet winners were awarded inscribed wooden bowls, commemorating the Diekema Bowl.

Holland's Windmill Chorus directed by Myke Lucas won the chorus competition of the Diekema

Bowl.

Special guests at the 50th anniversary weekend were, attending from Florida, Bill Diekema's daughters, Sally Hunter and Dorie Grahm, with all three of Bill's grandchildren. Relatives and old friends of the late Bill and Bea Diekema attending numbered about a dozen.

50 Years of Harmony

On Saturday the chapter unveiled goldstriped barber poles made by Jim Wojan, fired up a giant speaker system in Holland's early postwar Civic Center and put on a spectacular anniversary show, titled "Fifty Years of Harmony."

The Windmill Chorus led off, singing a number of Diekema songs while narrator Del Doctor recounted vignettes from the history of the chapter. SPEBSQSA'S Good News quartet followed and district champ Genuine Blend wrapped up the first half with it's big sound.

After intermission the Banks of the Wabash Barbershop Chorus from Terra Haute, Indiana, directed by Jeff Bounsall and Leon Williams, marched onto the stage singing "Wabash Blues." The chorus offered a preview of some songs it would be performing soon during a concert tour in Japan, where they headed seven hours following our show.

The evenings headliner quartet, Chordiac Arrest, proceeded on stage in their operating room garb and kept the audience laughing with their great parodies and comic routines on the medical profession. The chapter salutes Dick Johnson, Marty Jahnel, Lynn Hauldren and Earl Meseth for a fine act.

The finale joined the Banks of the Wabash and the Holland Windmill Chorus on the risers. Myke Lucas directed them in two Diekema arrangements, "The Trolley Song," and "May the Good Lord Bless and Keep You" with soloists Dan Doctor Jr. and Emiko Oonk.

Master of Ceremonies was Russ Seely, district president, of Grosse Pointe, who's good humor and enthusiasm added a lot to the show. He kept the Holland audience laughing with ethnic jokes — about Italians.

A remarkable afterglow followed the show. Singers from out of the past joined today's groups for songs and tags. There was truly "50 Years of Harmony" right there, in action.

Hallelujah Amen

On Sunday the chapter held a free gospel concert in the civic center as a "thank you" to the people of Holland for years of supporting barbershop. Don Lucas was MC and the Rev. Mr. Marion de Velder offered an invocation 50 years of joy and singing.

The Holland Chapters 50th anniversary, nine months in the planning, was chaired by Dale Bekker and Dick Plaisted, with inspiration by Jack W. Oonk and work by practically everybody. Named Barbershopper of the month for October for his help in carpentry was canny contractor Ken Cook.



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October 1995



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



Harmonizer to carry special section

The forthcoming Nov/Dec issue of The Harmonizer will carry a special 16-page section in the center of the magazine. The section actually addresses two themes; the articles have been combined into one section in the magazine at considerable savings in publication costs.

The first 12 pages of the section are devoted to SingAmerica/SingCanada, the Society's outreach effort to support vocal music in schools and communities. It contains a wealth of information about the program, including specific tips for chapters to employ in establishing the program within their own communities.

The last four pages of the section are devoted to Harmony College/Directors College, similar to the special insert carried last Nov/Dec. Details of revised proceedings, class schedules, curricula selection and registration forms are included.

Recipients of Update are asked to make other members aware that the special section covers two separate subjects. Both are important.

Looking for quartets?

Looking for the names and addresses of available quartets within a given locale? We now have the capability to provide those to you. Through our new quartet database program, we can call up, by zipcode sort, a list of quartets within a certain area. You provide us with the zip codes, and we'll tell you what quartets are active within those areas. For more information, call or write Lani Dieter at the Society headquarters.

Convention registrations update

At the end of September, registrations for 1996 conventions stood at: Jacksonville midwinter382 Salt Lake City3,300



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1995

Dec 8-9 Motor City Metro Show

1996

Feb 16-17 Detroit-Oakland Show

Mar 1-2 Wayne Show

Mar 2 Lansing Show

Mar 9 Monroe North Show

Mar 9 Huron Valley Show

Mar 16 Kalamazoo Show

Mar 30 Muskegon Show

Apr 13 Sault St. Marie Show

Apr 26-28 District Convention

May 11 Battle Creek Show

May 16-18 Harmony Round Up

Jun 14 Windsor Send Off

Oct 18-20 District Convention

Nov 1-2 Grand Rapids Show

1997

Mar 1 Lansing Show

Mar 8 Huron Valley Show

Mar 8 Monroe North Show

Mar 15 Kalamazoo Show

Apr 25-27 District Convention

Oct 17-19 District Convention

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



May you enjoy the Blessings

Of the Season and

Know Peace and

Harmony

in the

New Year

Gordon and Margaret

