



pioneer TROUBADOUR



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

VOLUME 47 - NUMBER 1



FEBRUARY/MARCH, 1996

Reservation forms in this issue for;

Pioneer District spring convention, Lansing, April 26 - 28

Have you noticed... " Roger Lewis asks,



Roger Lewis,
Director of Conventions

...how the quality of singing has improved with every contest?

...how the opportunity for woodshedding has increased at each convention?

...that tag singers are in abundance at every hotel and motel?"

If not, maybe you haven't attended a Pioneer convention for some time. We've enjoyed more quartets, better quartets, more choruses, chorus contests that keep you on the edge of your seat, hospitality everywhere and singing galore!!

Join 1000+ barbershoppers, families and fans for a great weekend in Lansing. Enjoy the many activities:

- * Friday night Quartet semi-finals, Waverly High School.
- * Joe Barbershop Chorus, Noon Saturday, preceding the;
- * District Chorus Contest; A new district Champion chorus.
- * A massed sing - ring the Sheraton with Barbershop chords.
- * Saturday night Quartet Finals - selecting the quartet(s) who will represent the Pioneer District at Salt Lake City.
- * An Afterglow in the lobby of the Sheraton.
- * Hospitality rooms galore - now on the main floor of the Sheraton, in the ballrooms.
- * Browse the Barbershop Shop - something new is promised.
- * Woodshedding - woodshedding - woodshedding, "till when?"
- * Seeing old friends and making new friends, one of the greatest aspects of our great hobby.
- * Sunday morning Worship Service and Gospel Sing. A great way to end a great weekend!

"But my chorus isn't competing," you might protest. Then join the ranks of the Joe Barbershop Chorus, directed by Matt Coombs, director of the current chorus champs, the City Lights Chorus. There will be a Saturday morning rehearsal and the privilege of "kicking off" the chorus contest. Bring your own chorus uniform or just your "Sunday" suit.

Convention registration forms are on page 10 and hotel reservation forms on page 11. Send them early to get the best hotel choice and discounted convention registration fee.

The Gratiot County Chapter will host the convention weekend. They are the kind of chapter that will prepare well, so a good time will be enjoyed by all.



LANSING

A Capital Place to Sing.



pioneer
TROUBADOUR



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

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**TROUBADOUR
ADVERTISING**

Copy Size - Rates

Rates quoted are for *camera ready* copy. Please send check with copy.

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"

Ad sizes available are:

Full page (75 sq. inches)	\$100
2/3 page (50 sq. inches)	\$75
1/2 page (37-1/2 sq. inches)	\$65
1/3 page (25 sq. inches)	\$50
1/6 page (12-1/2 sq. inches)	\$40
Quartet card size (one side)	\$13
Quartet Card Size Annual	\$55

Please measure your ad copy carefully, then multiply the height by the width for the number of square inches required. Thank you.



Presidents Position

by President Larry Parker

First and foremost, I am truly happy to be your district president and thank you for your support. It is the wish of Carole and me that each of you has a Happy and Prosperous New Year!

Nineteen ninety-six begins a new and electrifying chapter in the rich history of our Society. It's the year we start making changes in our management structure. The changes,



recommended by a Society management study team, will start to take place in 1996 and is to be put into action in 1997. Board positions at a chapter level will be akin to those board positions at the district and Society levels.

Within the transition process you'll see, at a minimum, changes in

all by-laws, changes in the number of officers on chapter, district and society boards, the elimination of the Society's Executive Committee and changes in the titles of some officers. This undertaking will take a combined effort of every Pioneer District member. I therefore ask for your commitment in helping with a smooth and speedy transition period.

We can also look forward to a new and exciting membership campaign, "Operation Harold Hill." Twenty-five of the district's 29 chapters registered with the Society for "OHH" before the December 15 deadline. This makes your chapter eligible for all sorts of accolades and awards. If your chapter *did not* participate, you, as an individual member, still have an opportunity to reap the fruits of the campaign.

All that is needed is for you to sign an "Operation Harold Hill" individual recruitment pledge, and this makes you eligible for the individual awards. Ask your chapter secretary or call the Society for a copy of the form. As you can see, this campaign has something for everyone.

If you have questions or concerns about the management transition process, Operation Harold Hill, or anything else, please give me or any one of the district officers a call. Our primary objective is to communicate and facilitate.

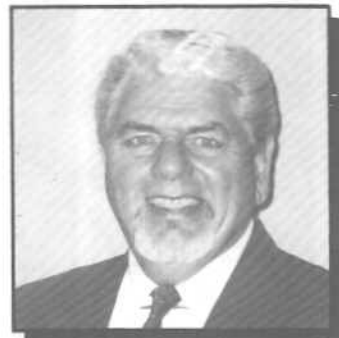


Society Synopsis

by SBM Russell Seely

During the holidays I happened to spot editor Gunn's deadline for the ole' Troub. As I peeked at the '96 calendar it occurred to me that since my induction at COTS as your new, and first Society Board Member (The restructuring of our organization included the replacement of the term "International" with the use of "Society") I wouldn't have a lot to report since I won't attend my first Society board meeting until the Midwinter convention in Jacksonville.

I can tell you that I have received volumes of material to digest including six very large thick envelopes which carry the resumes of your soon-to-be-elected executive director of our Society. A large number of candidates



were screened and subsequently reduced to the top six. One will be elected to replace Mr. Joe Liles.

The reason I use the term "elected" is that I have been in receipt of several letters from various sources urging me to vote for/hire their choice candidate. Being essentially a volunteer organization, the burden of hiring a new "top gun" is a really tough assignment. Few in our society are faced with making a decision that could have such long-term consequences. Let me assure you that *all* six have impressive credentials and are all visible, contributing barbershoppers. Two are presently on our staff.

Hopefully, the best candidate will win and thereby we *all* will win. This Pioneer rep' will call on his best resources to evaluate all this material, including personal endorsements. But my guess is that the final interview, that we will be a part of, will be a major factor for me.

Thank *you* for your confidence in electing this old lead-singer and should you be curious as to who the winner is, call me after February 11, if you haven't already been informed.

Preferred hotels/motels
have booked full early for
the last several conventions.
Reserve your choice now!

The Executive Pitch

by David Cole, Executive V.P.

Happy New Year!

Once again we begin another new year with anticipation, hope, newly created resolutions, and an eye to the future. Have you made your New Years resolutions yet? Whether you have or not, how about adding a couple for your barber-shopping hobby.

Here are a few which might be fun to try:



1. I promise to bring one new member into our fold before the years end.
2. I promise to try to learn how to sing better by attending Harmony Round-Up this year.
3. I promise to try to sing in a quartet - just for the fun of it.
4. I promise to get more involved in chapter activities - maybe even attend a board meeting.
5. I promise to learn what "Operation Harold Hill" is all about.

These are not complicated or difficult.

What they are however, is an opportunity for you to feel better about your barbershopping activities. You need not take any of the above ideas, you don't even have to have more than a handful of ideas. But I will promise you - if you take any of the above, or use one or more of your own, you will be a much happier barbershopper next year.

Looking back at last year

Last year was one of the most exciting years in my barbershopping history. I saw a rebirth of excitement for the west side of the district when **Genuine Blend** and the **Great Lakes Chorus** qualified for the International stage. I saw a good friend who has finished second too many times, finally capture the district quartet competition. I saw what was to be the best (certainly the closest) International preliminary chorus competition of all times. The level of excitement has never before been that high at one of our conventions. I met our new Society President Tim Hanrahan - what a wonderful person. I finally had a chance to meet Joe Liles, another example of what fine qualities barbershoppers are made of.

But the most exciting of all was when I visited "Harmony Hall," our Societies headquarters mansion in Kenosha. Located right on Lake Michigan, it is a sight to behold. If you have never seen it, please make an effort to visit soon.

Here's hoping this new year will bring everyone happiness and promise.



THE HARMONY HOUNDS

Pedigree: Barbershoppers

CONTACT: ROGER LEWIS

Bus. (616) 979-4343 — Res. (616) 965-5714

Paragon*

JAD

1993 top 20

N: A model of excellence or perfection

The perfect barbershop quartet for any occasion

Contact: Bill Businger - 230 Union Street, Arlington, Ohio 45814
(419) 365-5488

Wally

Phil

HIGH BID

A Barbershop Quartet



Bob

Contact: Marv Moran

44763 Charnwood

Plymouth, MI 48170

(313) 459-4218

FIREPOWER!

A BARBERSHOP EXPLOSION

Mark Wilson

Jamie Carey

Jeff Marks

James Hawkins

Contact: Jeff Marks (517) 663-8158

333 N. Waverly Road, Eaton Rapids, MI 48827

Ed Notes - Your chapter's annual show, on a hometown stage for a hometown audience, will provide more barbershop exposure to local prospective, chapter members than any other single activity that you may undertake all year.

And your local newspaper will likely grant more ink, more space in print, to your show than anything else you might do, and it is positive exposure. Publicity releases in reference to your show may carry a brief message with your meeting place and time, as well as an invitation. A few well chosen words in display advertising or on show posters might carry the same message.



Editor: Gordon Gunn

If you print a large admission ticket, there might be room thereon for a recruitment message. Or certainly, any male purchasing tickets may be handed a brochure outlining chapter activities and meeting place and again, bearing an invitation to join

your chapter in song.

Certainly your show program ought to bear a recruitment message and the show MC, chapter president or someone will do well to announce your meetings from the stage, and again, extend an invitation.

And finally, your afterglow, when everybody is excited about the wonderful evening and great music, offers a most advantageous time and place to enthusiastically talk barbershopping and personally invite non-member males in attendance, to your chapter meetings.

Don't be vague and tentative! Be specific and positive! Write down a name and telephone number and follow up with a call the evening prior to your next meeting.

Not all prospects you approach will respond affirmatively of course. But if you make enough contacts, someone will accept.

Your annual show creates barbershop excitement and is a most favorable time to *specifically* invite others to join the fun.

Obviously, sharing the fun with starry-eyed new members is a most satisfying and effective way to *Preserve and Encourage Barbershop Quartet Singing*.

In Memoriam

Al Burgess

October 21, 1923 - December 6, 1995

by Webb Scrivnor, Mart Bomers
and Fred Kendall

Al Burgess was widely remembered in the Society at the time of his death in December, even though he had been relatively inactive since the 1970's. He maintained his membership and participated, when possible, in social events of the Muskegon Chapter.

His birthplace and boyhood home was Hastings. While in high school he acquired a fondness for harness racing and had hopes of becoming a veterinarian. But his love for music, demonstrated through his clarinet, led him and a buddy to "big band" achievement. From the Bancroft Hotel to road travel and finally as a member of the *Russ Morgan* band in Kansas City, Al pursued music as a vocation. He most recently played with the *Jack Pine Savages* dixieland band.

Lured by teaching, Al attended Michigan State University and began his teaching career in Portland, where he joined the local barbershop chapter. Upon moving to Grand Haven and transferring to the Muskegon Chapter, he accepted the duties of directing the Port City Chorus.

Under his leadership the chorus won district championships in 1956 and 1960, and represented the district in four International contests, attaining fourth place on two occasions. Al sang with the Beacons quartet.

Burgess served as Pioneer District president in 1964-65, and on the International board in 1966-67. Al loved to tell of visiting the Institute of Logopedics as a member of the committee who selected the charity as our International service project.

Relatively inactive in recent years due to health problems, he yet attended a few functions and gave advice to Muskegon Chapter quartets.

Al Burgess was elected to the Pioneer District Hall of Fame in 1992. Few barbershoppers could have been more deserving.

take note

by Fred Kienitz,
Director of Music Education

There are some criminal activities out there and it has come to my attention that you are one of the guilty parties.

"Mou?" you ask. Sorry, but that's Miss Piggy's line. Yes, you. Now pay attention. Here is the problem.

We have 28 chapters in our Pioneer District. At last count we have around two-thirds of these chapters with directors that have a pretty fair



knowledge of barbershop harmony. The other third are guys who may lack a broad knowledge of our art form, but are determined to keep our chapters alive. Their choice has been one of pallbearer or director and they have chosen the latter.

Now some of you may have finished reading the expose', but let me tell you how this can happen

Flint had a top notch director back in '53 who was transferred to Detroit. Along came a fat little kid who said he could wave his arms if necessary, and we survived.

This problem is not limited to a few chapters. It can attack any one of our 28 choruses. Allow me to name a few. Traverse City, Alpena, Grand Rapids, Holland, Kalamazoo, Lansing, Motor City Metro, Wayne DOC, and Macomb County have all been touched by this very problem within the past few years.

Add to the list five chapters who presently do not have a full time director.

What I am trying to say is: With over fifty percent of our district chapters having experienced musical direction problems, it's time for our DME to focus in and attempt to eliminate some of these situations before they happen.

Thus, a major push for the May 17-19 Harmony Round-Up will be a weekend of training for assistant directors and aspiring directors. A surprise, qualified VIP instructor will teach this. His name will be announced in the registration packet.

Keep in mind that, to my knowledge, only Jamie Carey, Matt Combs and Al Fisk have a degree in music. And I don't believe either degree includes vocal music or directing skills for vocal groups. Thus, directors also qualify to enroll in the chorus directing class.

And now a message to front line directors and chapter officers. This is a great opportunity to

take out an insurance policy and encourage any chapter member who may aspire to become a top-notch director. You may be the chapter responsible for finding our next Jim Miller, Greg Lyon or Jim Clancy. Your chapter may want to offer financial assistance to aspiring directors for the Harmony Round-Up.

Registration packets for Harmony Round-Up will be in the April/May issue of the *Troubadour*. But, meanwhile, start rounding up and encouraging your chapter's potential directors and assistants.

Funnies

from the NOR'EASTER, Northeastern District

by Wendy Mercier

Actual announcements from church bulletins:

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Don't let worry kill you - let the church help.

Thursday night - potluck supper. Prayer and medication to follow.

This afternoon there will be a meeting at the South and North ends of the church. Children will be baptized at both ends.

Thursday at 5:00 p.m., there will be a meeting of the Little Mothers Club. All wishing to be little mothers, please see the minister in his study.

The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind and they may be seen in the church basement Friday.

Thursday at 4:00 p.m. there will be an ice cream social. All ladies giving milk are asked to come early.

Wednesday, the ladies Liturgy Society will meet. Mrs. Jones will sing "Put Me in My Little Bed," accompanied by the pastor.

Next Sunday a special collection will be taken to defray the cost of the new carpet. All those wishing to do something on the new carpet will come forward and do so.



Lasso these dates for the Pioneer District

HARMONY ROUNDUP

MAY 17-19, 1996

Michigan State University Campus
East Lansing, Michigan

REGISTRATION FORMS & INFORMATION PACKETS

will be published in the April issue of

THE TROUBADOUR

**One low, hasn't-been-raised-in-years price
of just \$90 includes:**

- Two Nights' Lodging and Four Meals
- Classes and Entertainment
- Outstanding Faculty for Coaching & Classes
- Special Guest Quartet you won't want to miss
- All the Chords You Can Bust

SPECIAL NOTES:

- * A confirmation form and map will be sent to all registrants
- * No class will be cancelled this year



**Summary of Minutes
Pioneer District, SPEBSQSA, Inc.
Board of Directors and House of Delegates**

October 20, 1995

Board of Directors:

A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the Consent Calendar as presented, including the minutes of the previous meeting.

The DIP, IBM and membership reports were presented verbally and accepted.

Treasurer's report indicated an updated balance of \$34,325.21

Unfinished business:

A motion to provide \$50.00 for the remainder of 1995 to get set up on the Pio-net was made and tabled until the next board meeting.

A motion was made and tabled until the next board meeting to procure a district copier.

New business:

A motion was made and carried to obtain a separate bulk mailing permit for the district.

A motion was made and carried that the Pioneer District support the Society restructuring and recommend it to the House of Delegates.

A motion was made and carried the Pioneer District support the essence of the proposal that there be only one automatic quartet qualifier from each district with the next 24 qualifiers coming from the highest scoring quartets that did not get the automatic bid. There would be 10 positions reserved for quartets from our affiliated organizations.

House of Delegates:

The treasurer's report was presented, indicating a balance of \$34,325.21.

The minutes of the prior meeting were amended for a misspelling. It was moved, seconded and carried that the amended minutes and the consent calendar reports be accepted.

The reports of the IBM and the DME were presented verbally and accepted.

Unfinished business:

There was no unfinished business on the agenda that resulted in any action.

New business:

A motion was made, seconded and carried that the House of Delegates accept the board of directors recommendation to support the Societies restructuring.

A motion was made, seconded and carried that the district support the modification of the number of quartet competitors to one per district with the next 24 competitors coming from the highest scoring quartets receiving the automatic positions. Ten more positions would be reserved for quartets from our affiliated organizations.

Election of 1996 officers:

A motion was made, seconded and carried that the proposed slate of officers be elected.

Awards:

A Judge Emeritus award was made to John T. Gillespie.

The PROTY award was given to Dan Bezaire of the Windsor Chapter and Jim Styer of the Battle Creek Chapter for their bulletins.

John R. Wearing was inducted into the Pioneer District Hall of Fame in recognition of his contributions to his chapter and the district.

Respectfully submitted, Jack Schneider, Secretary

**Summary of Minutes
Pioneer District, SPEBSQSA, Inc
Board of Directors Meeting at COTS**

December 2, 1995

The treasurer's report was given, reflecting a balance of \$33,750.20.

The minutes of the October 20, 1995 board meeting were presented and accepted.

There was no consent calendar presented; however each DIP and committee chairman presented a brief synopsis of his area of responsibility.

Unfinished business:

It was determined not to purchase a copy machine.

A motion was made, seconded and carried that the novice quartet definition be: "A quartet that is competing for the first time, having no more than two members who have previously competed in a district quartet contest or a Society preliminary quartet contest."

The district Barbershopper's Shop program is again on hold for lack of a capable, qualified individual or couple to run it.

New business:

A motion was made seconded and carried that the district of residence of our Society board member pay the transportation expenses while the host district be responsible for the on site expenses.

It was determined that we will continue to use Ermisch Travel as our district travel agent.

A motion was made, seconded and defeated that the district pay the \$20 assessment fee per chapter for partial payment for officer manuals and supplies.

A motion was made, seconded and carried that we continue our same format for our Senior Quartet Contest.

A motion was made, seconded and carried that a chorus that had a disqualification score at the previous contest would be ineligible for the "Most Improved Chorus" award at the current contest.

It was moved, seconded and defeated that the district pay the cost of contest videos for competing quartets and choruses.

A motion was made, seconded and defeated that we purchase a computer for the Troubadour editor.

A motion was made, seconded and carried that we allocate up to \$200.00 to have the necessary repairs made on the Troubadour editor's computer.

It was moved, seconded and carried that we eliminate the district dues for dual members.

It was moved, seconded and carried that we continue the policy of offering single, free all events convention ticket for new members for their first district contest.

A motion was made, seconded and carried that we offer a 50% reduction in the all events ticket price for competitors in the College Quartet Contest.

It was moved, seconded and carried that the net proceeds of the Windsor Send-Off show be distributed the following year after receipt to the Society Contest based on a formula of 1 unit for each chorus competitor and 2 units for each quartet competitor.

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Schneider, Pioneer District Secretary

Harmony Round-Up

May 17-19

Full details in April/May issue.

Pioneer barbershoppers contributed \$26,792.58 to charity in 1995

Summary, December 31, 1995 - by Alex Willox

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>Heartspring</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Per Capita</u>	<u>Award</u>
Alpena	35	\$500.00	Figures	14.29	Bronze
Battle Creek			not		
Benton Harbor/St. Joe	22	340.00	available	15.45	Bronze
Boyne City	28	548.50		19.52	Bronze
Cadillac	19	250.00		13.16	Bronze
Detroit-Oakland	82	2,210.85		26.95	Bronze
Flint					
Grand Rapids	94	4,331.25		48.08	Silver
Gratiot County	55	700.00		12.73	Bronze
Grosse Pointe	106	350.00		3.30	
Holland					
Huron Valley	40	77.00		1.93	
Jackson	28	915.00		32.68	Silver
Kalamazoo	53	900.26		16.99	Bronze
Lansing	94	3,826.00		40.70	Silver
Macomb County	33	66.00		2.00	
Milford	28	581.00		22.35	Bronze
Black Swamp	18	960.00		53.33	Gold
Monroe North	39	380.00		9.49	
Motor City Metro	90	1,288.88		14.32	Bronze
Muskegon	38	500.00		13.16	Bronze
Pontiac	19	960.00		50.53	Gold
Rochester	49	1,475.00		31.10	Silver
Saginaw Bay					
Sault Ste. Marie					
Swan Valley	22	1,800.00		94.74	Gold
Traverse City	66	61.00		.66	
Wayne	58	1,582.06		27.28	Silver
Windsor	54	550.00		10.19	Bronze
Pioneer District		1,162.00			
	Total	\$26,792.58			

Awards: Bronze = \$10

Silver = \$25

Gold = \$50, Per Capita of 1995 Membership



Phone:
(616) 962-6255
 Outside Battle Creek (800) 999-5245
 26-28 Michigan Ave., East
 Battle Creek, Michigan 49017

**1996 PIONEER DISTRICT SPRING CONVENTION
APRIL 26 - 28, 1996 - LANSING, MICHIGAN**

CONVENTION REGISTRATION

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

REGISTRANT NAME _____

SPOUSE/GUEST(S) NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE R () _____ B () _____

COMPETING QUARTET? YES ___ NO ___

QUARTET NAME _____

COMPETING CHORUS? YES ___ NO ___

CHORUS NAME _____

CHAPTER NAME _____

VOICE PART: TENOR ___ LEAD ___ BARITONE ___ BASS ___

EARLY REGISTRATION: \$15.00 PER PERSON

LATE REGISTRATION: \$20.00 PER PERSON

EARLY REGISTRATION MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN APRIL 13, 1996

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

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

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

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

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

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

**DISTRICT CONVENTIONS ARE HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE. PLEASE INDICATE ANY
SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS YOU NEED TO FULLY PARTICIPATE. _____**



LANSING
A Capital Place to Sing

**PIONEER DISTRICT SPRING CONVENTION
APRIL 26-28, 1996 - LANSING, MICHIGAN**

HOTEL RESERVATION

- * ALL SPACES MUST BE FILLED OUT COMPLETELY - TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.
- * ALL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS WILL BE SENT TO THE INDIVIDUAL WHOSE NAME AND ADDRESS APPEARS BELOW.
- * NO RESERVATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED BY TELEPHONE OR FACSIMILE.
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PIONEER CHAPTERS IN ACTION



A TROUBADOUR SALUTE
TO

Joel Todd

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

Gratiot County Chapter by Joel Todd, Chapter President

We Midstatesmen can't wait to say hello at the upcoming spring convention. We are looking forward to being your host. Big plans are in the works for the barbershop shop - stop by and check it out.

Our new board is rolling. There are lots of things to keep us busy this year. Topping the list is getting used to a new director.

After twelve years of arm waving, Jeff Rayburn made the decision to give them a rest. It is our good fortune that he will be resting them as he sings with the chorus. He will be greatly missed up front, but it will be nice to harmonize beside him.

Under Jeff's directorship our chorus has been to conventions, competitions, family camp-outs, many sing-outs, the Buck-Eye Invitational; We sang our way to the Pioneer District championship in 1988, and the list goes on and on.

Jeff has been our foundation, our faithful leader and most of all, our friend. We know we have always asked a lot of him and hope we have returned a measure of what he has given us. We thank him from the bottom of our hearts.

Our new director is Don Slamka, from that great quartet **Power Play**. Don has set high goals for our chorus and we look forward to working with him. Welcome Don, and good luck.

Flint Chapter

by Ken Rice, Publicity Chairman

Call them new year's resolutions or call them goals for the future. By whatever label you choose, the **Flint Arrowhead Chorus** has a whole set of them, clearly defined by our president, Paul Smith, and music director, John Noteware, at our first meeting of the year on January 2.

One of the psychological strategies of setting goals is to write them down, publish them for all the world to see. That move locks in the commitment and assures maximum effort toward

completion of the task. Consider this epistle our declaration to the world of barbershop that we mean to reach these goals.

Goal #1: For several years the Flint Chapter has been the sponsor of the Pioneer District's "Most Improved Chorus" award. Now, we're not indian givers, but it's our intent to win our own trophy. We don't wish to discourage any of the rest of you from trying, but here's official notice that the competition is going to be tough. Better singing. Better choreography. The Arrowhead is flying.

Goal #2: What's the name of this organization? It's a whole bunch of letters, one of which is a "Q", standing for "Quartet." A little research (two frantic phone calls) into chapter history revealed that Flint hasn't had a quartet since the 60's and 70's when the **Beantown Four**, **Suspend-A-Chord**, and **Sound Objective** were busting chords with regularity. It's our objective for 1996 to stimulate some serious quarteting, targeting 1997 as the year to have a registered, practicing foursome in action.

Goal #3: Statistically, for the first three quarters of 1995 (fourth quarter reports aren't in as of this writing), Flint was the fastest growing chapter in the Pioneer District. We're proud of that distinction. We've invited over 80 men who enjoy singing to a January 23 open house, and we're going after the Harold Hill contest with gusto. The 1996 target: 25 new members for the year.

Goal #4: "Marketing" was once a foreign word in the barbershoppers vocabulary, but not anymore. We're mounting a virtual campaign to sell this chorus to the community. Entertain at the Buick Open golf tournament banquet? Why not? Can do! Computerized database of performing opportunities... we'll have it all by year's end.

Goal #5: As if the first four goals aren't enough to keep us busy, we're planning to boost the social schedule a notch or two. More activities including spouses. More inter-chapter events. Members who aren't already retired are going to have to quit their jobs to maintain the pace. Ah, but when you love singing the way we do, who needs income?

So, that's the Arrowhead agenda for the year ahead. Ambitious? Yes. Aggressive? Certainly. Achievable? We think so; otherwise we wouldn't have engaged this psychological ploy of announcing our plans to our barbershop peers. Now we ask you to help us out by holding our feet to the coals...er, goals.



Detroit-Oakland Chapter

by Tom Uicker, Bulletin Editor

The Christmas rush is over and the **Gentlemen Songsters** are busily preparing for our annual show coming up February 16 & 17. Our feature quartets are **Keepsake**, 1992 gold medalists from Florida, and **Yesteryear**, the 1995 silver medal winners from Ohio.

The show will again be performed at the Clarenceville High School in Livonia. All seats are reserved, so you should arrange for tickets right away. If you missed our ad in the last *Troubadour*, just call ticket chairman Fred Peedle at (810) 258-9601.

On the social scene we held our annual Ladies Night / Honors Banquet / Officer Installation on January 5. District President Larry Parker came over from Lansing to install our new executive board. This reporter welcomes Jim Kunz to the office of president of the Detroit-Oakland Chapter, a position I have held quite long enough. Of course as immediate past president I am still a member of the board and as bulletin editor I will be kept busy.

Two awards are regularly presented at this annual event. The first is the Barbershopper of the Year, elected by popular vote of the membership. The second is the Hal Bauer award, awarded by prior recipients to a chapter member whose contributions extend beyond the chapter level, to the district and Society. It is my proud, albeit awkward duty to report both of these awards were presented to this humble reporter. (I believe it is a bribe to keep me from working my tail off).

Anyway, if you happen to be in the neighborhood of Royal Oak some Monday night about 7:30, stop by our Presbyterian Church at Thirteen Mile and Crooks Road and sing a couple with us. Or, if you are free on Thursday afternoons, our daytime singers meet at the same church between 1:00 and 3:30 pm.

Macomb County Chapter

by Roy Gurney, Music Vice President

To relieve any concerns about the health of our chapter, we are alive and well and prospering in Macomb County. Jack Slamka is directing our **Harmony Heritage Chorus**, and we have been growing steadily.

We will present a dinner show March 9, at the First United Methodist Church in Mt. Clemens. The catered buffet will start at 6:30 pm. Seats are limited. If you plan to attend, contact anyone in our chapter for tickets very soon. The price for the dinner and show is only \$15.00 each.

The show will feature our chorus with the quality singing you've all learned to know and

love, top district quartet, **Onyx**, a newly formed quartet, **Passport**, and of course, district champs, **Power Play**.

In the past three months we have performed at three retirement homes and twice at the gazebo in downtown Mt. Clemens. But the highlight of our holiday season was when we were invited to sing for the "Toys for Tots" program with WOMC radio at Macomb Hall. Besides singing twice on the radio and giving a sizable donation, Diana Lewis of channel 7 news video taped part of our performance. The Harmony Heritage Chorus was featured that night on the 11 O'clock news! Twice!

Our newly elected officers attended COTS and besides having a good time, we are fired up about the coming year. We are committed to the Harold Hill campaign and learned some new ideas to help us. We want to thank the district and faculty for another fine school. So we're back in the swing and look for big things to happen in the very near future.

Grand Rapids Chapter

by Dick Williams

The tides alive and on the swell, filled with new members, new music and a renewed excitement as our plans for SLC begin to fall into place.

In the coming month we will be doing our singing valentines.

In the ensuing months we have some fantastic coaches coming in to help us prepare for the challenge that lies ahead. Our regular coaching staff of Evans, Mills, O'Donnell and Kinche will also be honing our skills, all under the direction of the great little dynamic ball of fire, Jim Pollard, our loving but tyrannical director.

Yes sir, the tides the place to be if you desire fun, excitement, enthusiasm, action, great singing and camaraderie.



Sure hope your quartets have all their **Singing Valentines** plans made long before now. Here's a late reminder from your ole' editor, just in case - and *get a move on.*

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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 9 Macomb County Dinner Show
Mar 16 Kalamazoo Show
Mar 17 Jackson Show
Mar 30 Muskegon Show
Apr 13 Sault St. Marie Show
Apr 13 Windsor Show
Apr 20 Flint Show
Apr 26-28 District Convention
May 11 Battle Creek Show
May 11 Cadillac Show
May 16-18 Harmony Round Up
Jun 14 Windsor Send Off
Oct 18-20 District Convention
Nov 1-2 Grand Rapids Show

1997

Feb 14-15 Detroit-Oakland Show
Mar 1 Lansing Show
Apr 25-27 District Convention
Oct 17-19 District Convention

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