

Pioneer Troubadour

Official Publication of the Pioneer District,
Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of
Barbershop Singing in America, Inc.



JUNE/JULY

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Spring Convention '97

District puts another Spring Convention to bed

The glowing comments within these pages says it all: the Spring '97 convention was a hit. Folks can't stop gushing about what a fine job Detroit-Oakland Chapter did of running the show, and talking about Lansing Chapter's send-up of the Great Lakes Chorus Saturday night.

In congratulating DOC for their work, Windsor's Dan Bezaire says that the weekend went off "without a hitch."

President Larry Parker points out that the chapter has a knack for packing the house for convention. In their past times as hosts, DOC has hit or nearly hit the

1,000 person mark for registrants.

The return of Power Play electrified audience members district-wide. Society Board Member Russ Seely calls them "simply marvelous" and FIREPOWER! calls their performance "inspired."

Grand Rapids' Great Lakes Chorus took charge of Saturday afternoon as they "rose" to the occasion with their set. Macomb's Roy Gurney says that Great Lakes will "represent us well" at International, and that sentiment is repeated throughout this issue.

This convention marked the first meeting of a newly reorganized House

of Delegates (*President's Position*, pg. 3). At that meeting, the 50-year and Hall of Fame awards were given out. Turn to page nine for photos.

After such high praise from its membership, the Pioneer District isn't resting: as the "Chapter in Action" reports testify, choruses are just getting started. Activities like Harmony Roundup and Top Gun, the Windsor Send-off, International Convention and Harmony College, in addition to chapter activities, mean that convention, though cool outside, has helped spark the beginning of an exciting summer.

International Quartet Reps say 'Thank you, Pioneer!'

PowerPlay thanks the Pioneer District. It has been awhile since we crossed the stage. Yes! It was a thrill to win. But there are also mixed feelings. We all thought at least two other quartets should have been going with us. Now the pressure is on for us to do our very best not only for ourselves but also for those that are not going.

PowerPlay feels very lucky that we come from a great District and are blessed with many good friends.

A special thanks to the following people who opened their homes to us when we needed them.

Tom & Tina Conner
Wally & Joanie Dorosh
Phil & Sis Haines
Kevin & Laurie Peil
Roger & Carol Cox
Fred & Joan Keinitz
Jaminie Carey

This year we will be singing for a very special lady who we will all miss, Grama Slamka was not only the head of the Slamka clan but our #1 fan....This one is for you Gram!





Publication authorized by the Pioneer District, SPEBSQSA, Inc.

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President's Position

Larry Parker, President

DOC hosts another successful convention



I am not sure how they do it or what secrets they may possess, but the Detroit-Oakland Chapter has a knack for bringing in the people when they host a convention. Here's what has happened when they've been the host chapter:

The 1990 spring convention in Battle Creek: **1,032 registered**. The 1994 spring convention in Lansing: **971 registered**, and this year, **965 registered** for the convention. Could it be that the people all come just to hear Bill Wickstrom's "Korny one-liners" when

he emcees the Friday night show? Whatever the motivation, it looks as though the chapter seems to do the right things. I extend my personal thanks to Bill Wickstrom and his crew for doing another fine job.

Congratulations and best wishes to **Power Play**, the lone representative from our District to the International convention. They gave two outstanding performances Friday and Saturday nights. Good luck in Indianapolis.

The **Grand Rapids Chapter** and the **Great Lakes Chorus** was "tuning up," so to speak, as they came away with another Pioneer District Chorus crown. Having won the right to compete at
see **PARKER**, page 14

Number One with a Bulletin

Chad Sanders
Troubadour editor

In my first issue, I outlined three lofty goals for myself as *Troub* editor. I soon found at least one of them to be loftier than I thought. Not many of you got this paper by the first of the month. I forget that not everyone lives down the street from me, and it takes awhile for mail to get places.

I still feel things can get sped up on my end, and I'll continue to work on getting you a *Troub* that has articles that are timely, not outdated. In Tom Uicker's Chapters In Actions piece for DOC, he says that he's writing "in hopes that the *Troubadour* hits the streets expeditiously," so that the news he has ("Return of the Jug" Night, June 6) is still of some use. I hope the same, Tom. And bonus points for using a five-syllable word.

Thanks to all of you who were so encouraging after my first ish. As I get more free time (last documented free time: summer, 1991), I want to tinker with the design and add some new features.

Special thanks to some folks who had some good suggestions: Bob Huntley from Frank Thorne pointed out that I didn't have a date on the cover, and Doug Pearson from Lansing was nice enough to point out ("I'm sure you've already fixed this, but...") that *Troubadour* was misspelled in the front page flag! Ack!

---pause while readers dig for back issue and laugh at Editor's glaring blunder---

Keep coming with the comments and suggestions! And a hearty **thank you** to everyone who submits via e-mail or disk. It makes my life *so* much easier!
-Chad



Society Synopsis

Russell Seely, SBM

The Internet... bane or blessing?



Now that all the quartet prelims are over we are afforded the luxury (?) of knowing exactly where each competitor throughout the Society finished in a never-ending, consolidated scoresheet which is available to the whole world via the Internet. Example: Yesteryear came in first when all the scores had been posted. Now, this doesn't mean that this fine JAD quartet is a cinch to win the gold at Indy, but the odds are definitely in their favor. At the other end of the qualifiers is a quartet from Seneca Land District who did not gather the minimum amount of points to qualify but did

(thank God) qualify for the "at-least-one-quartet-per-district" rule. We don't have to be Vegas oddsmakers to determine that their chance for gold is zip! Pioneer's Power Play, who were simply marvelous in Lansing, wound up in the 22nd spot. Hard to believe for their many supporters. Excaliber appears to be a strong Top Ten candidate and we kind of expect them to be there. This giant scoresheet raises a number of questions as to its value, with the number one being; does this not add fuel to the fire of prejudging the "big one" at Indy? I'm not a judge, never have been one, nor do I aspire to be one, but in prior years I would scan the scoresheet to see who was repeating the current year and kind of anticipate the forward movement,
see **SEELY**, page 16

Here's to You

David Cole, Executive & Member Services VP

What does that "Q" really stand for?



If you were touring the dictionary, as I'm sure we often do, you would be spending very little time in the "Q's". It's not because there aren't good words that begin with the letter Q, it's simply that there aren't very many of them.

In my last few articles I have mentioned, and elaborated on my "4-Q's" of barbershopping. I have already expounded on "Quality Singing", therefore, I must move on to the next most important — "Quarteting".

Are you currently quarteting? I have no idea how many times in the last three years I have asked this question. The answers usually range from: no, I don't dare; to : yep, just started a new quartet. One thing is for sure though, Quarteting is the backbone of our society — I think that's why the "Q" is in "SPEBSQSA, Inc."!

Granted there are many avenues available to all members of our society, from quarteting, to gang singing, to choruses, to mass singing at conventions. But there will NEVER, EVER be anything that compares to the thrill of learning a song(s) well, and singing it in front of an enthusiastic crowd! So I'm asking: "Are you quarteting?"

Compared to many members of our see **COLE**, page 8

Chapter Coaching

Doran McTaggart, DVP-CSLT



This is the initial article that I will be writing about the Chapter Coach program and how it will affect you and your chapter. Our new Society structure places the individual chapter member (you and me) at the top of the organizational structure. Simply put, let's ask the chapter member what he wants and then give it to him. The new

member-directed Society will support his wishes beginning with the chapter leaders, then the District officers and the Society committees.

What is a Chapter Coach? He is not a spy. He is not a person who says, "Do it this way!" He is not an expert but is well-trained and continually updated with coaching materials and resources. He is a good listener and a friend of your chapter. He is a facilitator that can access assistance from District officers and the appropriate Society committees.

Dozens of quartets and choruses have all sorts of coaching to improve their per see **MCTAGGART**, page 14



Mailbag.

Directory Corrections

Pull out your District directory, get your red correction pen in hand and ready... mark!

The name of the Alpena President is Centala, not Centrala. The Alpena Chapter's secretary's phone number should be (517) 734-3799 and his e-mail address is now ejatkowski@george.lhi.net.

E-mail corrections:

Boyne City - Kurtis Busman
busman@torchlake.com

Lansing - Blaine Simon
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Public Relating

Doug Pearson, Marketing & Public Relations VP

Choruses, quartets get creative and generate positive publicity



Boy, oh Boy — What a district convention! What exciting competition, good singing, and socializing. And what an excellent opportunity for

some productive marketing and public relations!

As I mentioned in my last column, we enjoy a hobby that puts us constantly in the public eye, and therefore lends itself to positive community exposure. Well, I feel we got that exposure for our convention through several articles in the *Lansing State Journal*, pre-convention mentions on television, local television coverage and articles in the out-state media.

From a marketing standpoint, one of our traditional mainstays has been the Barbershop Shop. Congratulations go to the host Detroit-Oakland chapter for their efficient handling of this key district activity. Barbershop Shop sales totaled around \$8,300 which equaled a nice profit, happy customers and wide exposure of barbershopping throughout the state. Nice going, gang!

As you know, our district conventions provide a superb opportunity to renew friendships and share information, and you can certainly include me as one of the beneficiaries. I ran into my former Lansing buddy Al Fisk, *Heart Of The Hills* chorus director, and he gave me an interesting rundown on some his chapter's marketing accomplishments.

Al says the Rochester chapter has

achieved the Gold Level standing of contributing over \$50 per man to various charities such as Sing America/Sing Canada and Heartspring. Through proceeds from a successful Singing Valentines program, they donated \$300 in scholarships to both Rochester High School and Adams High School. And the chapter continued its tradition of helping the local Rochester Leader Dog School for the Blind by contributing \$1,000. Al tells me that last year's donation was covered by the *Rochester Clarion*. "The coverage resulted in a great photo of our president, the president of the school, and a leader dog who had the check in his mouth," Al said. This is what we like to see in our district: Good marketing of our product, followed by good publicity.

The Lansing chapter recently used a simple formula any chapter can follow by setting up a photo of its recent Michigan State basketball half-time performance and sending it to the *Harmonizer*. It ran in the May/June issue.

And from Boyne City Tracy Ulrich of the Snow Belt chorus tells me of some fine publicity his chapter received as a result of creativity and initiative. Tying in National Barbershop Harmony Day, Tracy and his Quadravox quartet stopped in at the Local WKHQ radio station to surprise a well-known deejay during his morning radio show. The appearance generated a lot of free publicity (as you might expect) on the radio station, plus a big photo of the quartet with the deejay in the *Petoskey News-Review*. A special Valentine's Day appearance also netted the quartet a photo in the *News-Review*.

see PEARSON, page 15

Bush League '97 promises fun and music in Nature

If you were at convention, you saw the signs. You heard the hype. And now, it's getting closer. Bush League '97, scheduled for October 10 and 11, is fast approaching.

Bush League, sponsored by Boyne City for 50 years, will be held at Treetops Sylvan resort in Gaylord. The newly-formed Gaylord Chapter will be its new sponsors, assisted by Boyne City in coordinating the event.

Bush League is an opportunity for new or novice quartets to compete against other quartets in a friendly, no-pressure atmosphere. And the chance for experience seems to pay off: many of the district's top five quartets throughout the years have gotten their start at Bush League.

Competing quartets must have at least two singers who *have never* competed in a top three district level quartet. This makes for a perfect chance for newer quartets to get onstage, and not feel like they're up against impossible adversaries... they're in it with others quartets like themselves: a lot of enthusiasm, but not as much experience.

Even though the emphasis is on newer quartets, everyone is invited to spend a weekend relaxing and enjoying Northern Michigan in its glory. Possible activities include a color tour, golf, nature trails, shopping, and much more.

The two-day event includes the contest, pre- and afterglows, coaching and evening shows with headliner quartets and former Bush League Champions.

Treetops offers a package of great lodging, excellent meals, game rooms for the kids and other events for the whole family.

Everyone interested in reserving a spot for Bush League '97 should call (517) 731-1169 for more information. It's not a mistake Bush League's slogan is "Birthplace of Champions: Past, Present and Future." Come and see what tomorrow's champs look like, today!

FIREPOWER! offers congrats

The FIREPOWER! quartet would like to say congratulations to some folks who have recently distinguished themselves within our district for their conspicuous service and/or achievement.

First, congratulations to the whole Pioneer District. We salute your enthusiasm which you show by attending our conventions in ever-increasing numbers, by your kind applause and cheers, and by constantly striving to make each convention better in terms of enjoyment by everyone. The most recent convention, hosted by Detroit-Oakland chapter was a fine example of hospitality and service, which is becoming a hallmark of our conventions. This is a fine tradition, and speaks louder than words about the character and commitment of the members of the Pioneer District.

To the Detroit-Oakland chapter, congratulations for understanding that for the most part, if you don't notice the host chapter too much, it means they have done their job well. Hosting isn't a matter of making sure you're noticed. It's a matter of only being noticed when someone is in need. You can all be proud of your effort.

To all the quartets who participated in the International Prelims, congratulations for making this one of the highest scoring contests in recent memory. In spite of the fact that we had only one quartet qualify for International, the scores "across the board" were as high as they've ever been. This says that the Pioneer District will soon be producing multiple qualifiers on a regular basis.

To the Great Lakes Chorus, congratulations on yet another District Chorus Championship. However, even more important is the fact that your singing continues to improve. You appear to be intent upon raising your standard for achievement, and as a result may well raise the standard among Pioneer District choruses as a whole. Thanks for "pushing the envelope" by your willingness to be leaders, and by challenging the district to broaden its

thinking. We wish you success in Indy and we are proud to have you represent us.

To the Power Play quartet, back from a three-year hiatus, congratulations on showing that absent doesn't mean dead. Even though circumstances have kept you off the contest stage since 1994, it hasn't dimmed your desire to compete at the highest level our society offers. Your inspired performance at the International Prelims affirmed your position as the dominant quartet in the Pioneer District, and reestablishes the Top Twenty as the benchmark for achievement, not simply qualifying. Welcome back, guys, it's great to have you here again. Good luck in Indy!

Finally, congratulations to the Lansing Chapter for their successful reign as District Champions. In your year as champion, you have continued to grow, not only in size, but in skill. We all look forward to a riveting fall contest.

By the time this is printed, we will have had the honor of participating in the first district "Top Gun" quartet school, presented in conjunction with Harmony Roundup, May 16-18. We thank the Pioneer District for their support of quartets in the district, and for making "Top Gun" a reality. This program represents a strong commitment to the future of quartetting in the district, and we are honored to be among the first to benefit from it. We also want you all to know how much we appreciate the many kind and encouraging words we were offered at Prelims. We will be proud to represent Pioneer District at the Buckeye Invitational, and we hope to make you all proud of your representative.

Don't forget to call us for guest nights, open houses, or other events. We continue to be at your service (free) for non-revenue events as our schedule permits.

Sincerely,

FIREPOWER!

Wayne Chapter claims year's top editor(s)

Jim Styer

PioNet operator

Ed Wojtan and Gary Simon of the Wayne Chapter have been honored as the Pioneer District's Bulletin Editors of the Year.

Wojtan and Simon were co-editors of the chapter's *Chordinator* for 1996. Simon has taken over as editor this year.

Placing second in the district contest was Dan Bezaire, editor of the *Windsor Chordster*.

The awards were presented at the spring district convention in Lansing.

These editors now are entered in the Society's international bulletin contest. Winners will be announced at the international convention in July in Indianapolis.

Other entrants in the contest were Art Lane, editor of Holland's "Windmill Blade" and Ernie Marlow, editor of the "Milford Chapter News."

The contest was close. The Wayne team received 1,602 points, Bezaire was just 9 points behind that, and Lane was 32 points behind first place.

All four of the bulletins scored quite high in the grammar and style category. Lane was just seven points shy of a perfect score of 600 and the Wojtan-Simon team was only 17 points below 600. The other two scored 569 and 554. Wojtan-Simon led the district in the content category with 540, followed by Lane with 533. Tops in layout and reproduction was Bezaire with 525 points.

All chapter bulletin editors who publish at least eight issues this year are eligible to enter the next competition. Deadline for entries will be Jan. 15, 1997.

All entrants receive a detailed analysis of their bulletins from the judges, with tips on how to improve their bulletins further.

The Holland Windmill Chorus Announces

A weekend of family fun and sun on
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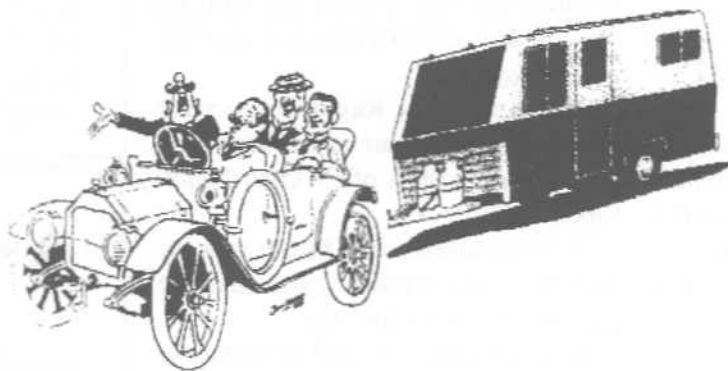


Schedule of events:

Friday : Check in and registration, bonfire and gang sing, woodshedding and tag singing.

Saturday : Pancake breakfast, golf outing, tag singing workshops, tag contest, pig roast, barbershop show, shopping, swimming, hiking, tennis, volleyball, softball, fishing, boating, and just plain bein' lazy and having fun.

Sunday : Gospel sing, chili luncheon, more singing, check out.



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Raymond Larson McCalpin 1919-1997

Grosse Pointe charter member stressed quarteting

Raymond Larson McCalpin died suddenly Thursday evening, April 10, at the age of 78.

Ray was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, a son of the late Raymond and Lola (Coon) McCalpin. He spent some time in Iowa before settling in Detroit in 1938.

He was united in marriage to Virginia G. Chamberlin, a one-time Sweet Adeline, on July 1, 1944 in Detroit. The couple made their home in Detroit for five years before moving to Eastpointe where they have lived for the past 42 years. Ray was a graduate of Lawrence Institute of technology and worked as an architect his working years. Ray lived for his family and loved camping and skiing.

He was raised in Masonry January 2, 1945 in the Army and navy lodge #512, Detroit and was a member of the Jefferson Masonic Lodge F&AM St. Clair Shores.

His first experience as a barber-shopper was going to the Oakland County Chapter with Carroll Adams, the International Secretary at that time. Before the evening was over, Carroll told him about the Grosse Pointe Chapter forming on the East Side. So Ray contacted the president, Mark Roberts, and Ray and his father, ray Senior, became Charter members in the Grosse Pointe Chapter in 1945. Ray admitted that it was his father that got him into singing before bar-



bershopping was around. Ray was member of Grosse Pointe for 52 years. He held every office in the Chapter but Treasurer.

Ray was a staunch supporter of quartet singing and was often quite verbal about his feelings in this regard. He had many humorous stories to

tell, and ole "Methusela" admitted to a prank or two in his past.

One of Ray's creations at Grosse Pointe, the Quartet of the Month, was where the Four-Fits got started in 1959. Ray was singing lead, but soon switched to baritone. And everyone has enjoyed the "Fits" for all these years. Ray had sung with three or four quartets earlier. Two of these quartets featuring Mark Roberts were call the Chordsmen. Any quartet that Roberts sang in was called Chordsmen, according to Ray.

We're proud of Ray McCalpin for being an integral part of our beginning and of the 52 years of his contribution since.

A loving and devoted family man, he will be deeply missed by the many he has touched in his lifetime.

Raymond is survived by his loving wife, Virginia; his devoted children, Susan (Robert) Phardet, Bruce (Angel), Robert (Stacey), Kyle and Lynn. He is also survived by six grandchildren.



Bulletin editors: time to revise mailing list

Herb Bayles, editor of PROBEmotor, is resigning his post effective Sept. 1, 1997. He will be replaced by Tom Pearce, editor of the Richmond, Virginia Chapter's fine bulletin, *The Old Woodshed*.

If you have been sending your bulletins addressed to: PROBE MOTOR, PROBE MOTOR c/o Herb Bayles, or simply to Herb Bayles, in Escondido, California, please revise your mailing list to reflect the new editor of PROBE motor. He is:

Tom Pearce
1409 Grove Road
Charlottesville VA 22901
(e-mail: pearce@virginia.edu)

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Ed

50-year and Hall of Fame awards presented at Delegates



PLAQUE ATTACK: Clockwise from top L: Lowell Boyer receives his 50-year award; Raleigh Bloch picks up the 50-year award for George Dieffenderfer; Hall of Fame award-winner John Bauer has his award accepted by Gene Johnson; A member of John Gillespie's chapter picks up his award; Devere Middleton's award is received.

Take Note, continued: 'Are you quarteting?'

COLE, from page 4

Society / District, I am just a baby re: years of membership. But already I have experienced quarteting in three different quartets. Each one had a different mix of people and talents, and each one was VERY SPECIAL to me. You don't know what the song "That Old Quartet of Mine" means until you have tried to sing it while remembering your old quartet. So I'm asking: "Are you quarteting?"

If a picture can say a thousand words, the walls of the Holland Chapter must speak millions, as there are pictures of each district champ quartet since the 40's, and pictures of most of the "famous" quartets having sung on their shows, hanging on their walls. In each one of those pictures you can sense the comradeship and friendship which evolves within everyone one of those foursomes. We're not talking bowling league or golfing foursome type friendship, I'm talking about blood, sweat and tears, letting out all your emotions, baring yourself to the world of emotions. It takes that type of dedication by all four members to make a quartet work. Sound

like fun yet? Let me ask you: "Are you quarteting?"

The beauty of quarteting is that it can range from casual, to competitive. Ever heard of the "Win - Win Scenario"? That's when all parties involved in a transaction come out winners. Currently I'm involved with a Dr. Jeckyl and Mr. Hyde quartet. Half of our songs are religious, so we can perform at local churches. The other half is of a comical - slapstick nature — no churches. In either case, we experience the thrill of entertaining our audiences, and gracefully accept their appreciation for our performances. Let me ask you: "Are you quarteting?"

Are there emotions involved in quarteting? Try this shoe on for size (I wish it were about me). You've been with the same four guys for the past ten years, singing barbershop. You know everything about the other three, both personally and otherwise. You've sung across the country on a variety of chapter shows. You've gotten beaten up by an endless amount of coaches and judges over those ten years. You've won your

district several times, enabling you to sing on the international stage. Finally, after all of the blood, sweat, and tears, you have made the first cut at International, then the second cut, then they announce your quartet name as the champs. Any emotions in quarteting? Let me ask you: "Are you quarteting?"

The list of quarteting experiences is endless. I'd love to hear from anyone having sung in a quartet! Why not send it to our new web-page!!!

Often you will hear the question, "who's your favorite quartet"? If you'd ask me I'd tell you the one that I'm currently in, but I wish I could sing like "Keepsake", be as entertaining as "The Suntones," and be as dedicated as "Furniture City Chord Company."

If you haven't been, or aren't currently quarteting, you won't know these emotions. You also won't be helping you chorus become better — imagine a chorus completely comprised of quartets. WOW !!! Let me ask you: "Are you quarteting?" If you've answered no, please give it a try — you'll get the high of your life — better than coffee!

Chapters in Action

Saginaw Bay

by Ralph Brown
Bulletin Editor

It is fairly obvious that OUR organization, SPEBSQSA, is undergoing a renaissance and many changes are taking place. Of these changes, perhaps two of the most important are quality performing in public and changing the Public's perception that barbershop singing should be reserved or pigeon-holed to be brought out only for special events such as "Frontier Days" or occasions promoting 'the good ole days.' You know: the straw hat, red and white striped shirts with arm bands and the handlebar mustached quartet singing "Sweet Adeline." Our chapter has undergone a major change in this vein by changing our name from Timberland Chordsmen to Harbor Sounds. As our director pointed out, the old name has served us well over the years, but, it no longer depicts the area. At one time, Bay City was a timber town and was overflowing with Lumber Barons. Today, the emphasis is on the Saginaw Bay and Bay City as a harbor town with the full gamut of lake and river activities to attract tourists from around the Country.

As a fledgling just approaching my first official year as a Society member, I am awed with the number of activities available in which Barbershoppers can get involved.

A few of us traveled to Pontiac for their annual Woodshed Contest on April fourth. My first thought was, 'this is organized chaos'. It looked like a bunch of chickens strutting around looking for mates. I soon learned that you have to tend to business and get four parts together for a quartet before all the good song selections are gone, at least those that are known and lend themselves to

impromptu arranging by the group that is formed. Since you can't have more than two singers from the same Chapter or more than one Registered Quartet member in a group, there is quite a scramble to get all four parts together. Baris and tenors seem to be at a premium. I used this first visit as a learning experience and just watched, listened, and learned. However, next year I will be ready to give them all a run for the medal. An amalgamation of twelve quartets competed and two members of our Chapter, Bill Grumbley (tenor) and Tom Roozenburg (bass) joined with Lyle Howard (lead) from Rochester and Dave Lonsbarry (bari) from Flint to win the coveted First Place honors singing "I Want A Girl...".

Chapter Officers were mentioned in a previous article, but, were officially installed on April 12 along with the Board Members. We were elated that FIREPOWER! conducted the installation and then put on a show for our families and friends. Adding our fine chorus under the Direction of Bob Winters, and our two quartets, Smokey and the Bandits, and New Release, made it a super time for everyone. After the official program and dinner was over, a few clusters around the room 'sang and rang' a few tags which capped off a most memorable evening.

On May 4, we returned to Mayville along with other Chapters and a Sweet Adeline Quartet for a school fund-raiser Show. It was gratifying to see the new stage curtains that were purchased as a result of last year's Show. This year, the proceeds will go toward new lighting and sound system for the school auditorium. The local Lions club sponsored the event. We gave another sterling performance and we enjoyed the "magic of the applause" for a job well done.

May 14 found the chorus performing for the Great Lakes College's commencement at Heritage Theater in Saginaw. On the program, under Musical Interlude, we were listed with our new name, "Harbor Sounds." I don't think the students or audience were ex-

pecting to hear a barbershop chorus. I noticed questionable looks from some of the students seated down front. As the sounds of "Hi, Neighbor" resounded about the auditorium I think we woke-up a few noddors. I think there was a general relief to find Musical Interlude didn't mean chamber music or some form of high-brow music. One could not miss the genuine excitement and electricity in the applause. This may be a biased opinion, but I think we left them wanting more. With over three hundred students plus faculty and families, it was the largest group we have performed for this year.

In closing, we want to thank the Swan Valley Chapter for their surprise visit and for gracing us with the Detroit Oakland Traveling Jug. Before the printing of this *Troubadour*, we will have passed it on to the Lansing Chapter.

Windsor

by Dan Bezaire, Bulletin Editor

First of all, we would like to congratulate the Detroit-Oakland chapter for the outstanding job they did hosting the recent Pioneer District Convention. Way to go, guys! It went without a hitch.

We would also like to take this opportunity to invite everyone to the Windsor Chapter's annual Send-off Show. This event has been on-going for more than twenty years, and is considered by many a highlight in the barbershop year.

The evening consists of an all-you-can-eat pasta dinner (sorry, still meatless), followed by first-rate entertainment. Every chorus in attendance will perform on stage, as well as our District representatives, the Great Lakes Chorus from Grand Rapids. Also on the program will be two of our district's premiere quartets, Power Play, and our fantastic Seniors' foursome, The Silver Domes, who represented us so well at Mid-Winter this year.

A highlight of the evening is the Mass see **WINDSOR**, page 11

Chapters in Action

WINDSOR, from page 10

Chorus; approximately 300 barbershoppers will get up on the risers and perform a dozen or so songs, including both national anthems, to the rest of the audience. Few barbershoppers anywhere ever sing in a chorus that big!

The event is a fundraiser for the International Competition. Last year, we turned over nearly \$3000 to help defray our competitors expenses.

It's a great evening, so plan on coming over to Windsor on Friday, June 13. For further information, contact your chapter president, or e-mail me at dbezaire@wincom.net.

Milford

Ernie Marlow
me19@kode.net

I think this is the first time in 50 years The Milford Chapter has had a column in the Troub. Maybe someone can correct me, but there will be more columns in the future issues.

NEW IDEA?

We are planning a new twist to membership encouragement. We are involving the local barber shop here in Milford to the extent that we will offer free hair cuts. Any male, non-member person that shows up to our regular practice on a Tuesday night in May at the Muir Middle School and practices with the chorus that night will be given a ticket that will entitle him to a prepaid hair cut at Ray's Barber Shop. Our membership drives have proved to be fruitless in the past by using the old standard Society approach. We will also have a 1/2 page ad in the local Monthly Shopper and in school show programs with big letters stating "FREE HAIR CUT" and the rest of the information on how to get to the meeting place and the barber shop with a small map included. I'll let you know how it turns out in another issue of the

Troub.

On May 4, our Chapter was invited by the Pontiac Chapter to sing in a combined chorus singout along with Flint, Saginaw Bay and Swan Valley choruses and quartets to put on a benefit show in Mayville, for the local Lions club to benefit the high school there. Pontiac Chapter has been heavily involved in this project for two years and is now an annual project by those chapters.

Grosse Pointe

by Nick Piccione

When the Grosse Pointe Chapter was formed in 1945, Ray McCalpin was among its initial members. He continued for 52 years until his death on April 10.

Ray could not only be seen routinely at our weekly practices, but often entertained us by singing with the "Four Fits," a quartet that first started in 1959.

He was the last of our charter members still active. We will greatly miss his broad smile and rich voice.

We had another substantial loss to our chapter in April in the death of Leroy Lenhardt. To be treasurer of an organization like the Grosse Pointe Chapter is a difficult and time-consuming task. Leroy held that position for almost five years up to the time of his death.

We have indeed been blessed to have people like Leroy who give of themselves so unselfishly. An excellent bass, Leroy loved to sing and was well-loved. At the ladies' night Dinner in March, Leroy was cheered enthusiastically as he was deservedly pronounced the 1997 Barbershopper of the Year. Approximately 60 chapter members showed up to sing at his wake and his fellow "Good News Singers" performed beautifully at his funeral.

The "Good News Singers" are a group composed of 24 of our chapter members, under the very able direction of Sterling Berry. In addition to singing at Leroy's funeral, they have so far this year performed at six luncheons, three church services, three funeral home appearances, one nursing home, a number of

chapter meetings and the Sunday morning worship service at the Pioneer District Convention last month.

Recent weeks have found our Lakeshore Chorus preparing extremely hard for convention and our show in May. The show is titled "Grosse Pointe Goes a Bit Irish" and includes as special guests Three Men and a Tenor and a mixed barbershop ensemble called Fanfare. More on all this next time.

All this flurry of practice activity has caused someone to write the following graffiti on the men's room wall:

"Where we meet not far from St.
Clair Lake

Our directors won't give us a break.

It is not so grand on

these risers we stand on

and the damn things are starting to shake."

Grand Rapids

by Dick Williams

The contest is over, old friends met, new friends made, laughter, tears, happiness, sadness, winners, losers, just a memory now as our final good-byes are made along with promises of "wait'll next fall" are exchanged. We all head for home till next October, when it starts all over once again.

Our thanks and appreciation to the Detroit-Oakland Chapter for doing an outstanding job as the convention hosts. Great job, gentlemen.

What an exciting quartet contest we had. Some great singing which had a lot of us hoping or thinking that maybe we would be able to send two or three quartets to Indy. But that was not to be. Power Play reigned supreme, took the lead from the get-go and never looked back. They were great. Our humble congratulations to that gang of Slamkas, Don, Mike, Mark, and Jack. We look forward to seeing and hearing you in Indy and you can be sure you can count on our full support and encouragement.

Heck, FIREPOWER!, Onyx, and Fermata weren't too shabby, in fact all of the see **GRAND RAPIDS**, page 12

Chapters in Action

GRAND RAPIDS, from page 11
quartets were outstanding.

We would like to salute and acknowledge the Plateau Chorus Champions: Macomb County, Huron Valley, Kalamazoo and Detroit-Oakland for their performances.

All of the choruses really were wonderful and all should be proud of themselves. Kudos from all of GR to all of you.

For the chorus contest, as you might imagine, we are extremely happy and proud to have won this contest over so many fine choruses and we feel honored to be your 1997 pioneer District Champions, especially since there was a certain amount of innuendoes this past fall and year about our victory last October. So we feel in this contest we affirmed and vindicated ourselves that last fall was not luck or a fluke, that we did earn it on stage, and that our wonderfully talented director is for real and here to stay. Thank you very much!

I might add, that we did not show you our complete contest package, none of the magic or props we will use for Indy. You'll have to be there to see it.

We are working very hard because we not only want the very best for ourselves, but we sincerely want all of you to be proud of us also. It is really an honor, one which we do not take lightly, to be able to represent all of you in the pioneer District.

By the time you read this, we'll have had another coaching session with Dr. Greg Lyne, a retreat with Dr. David Wright, performed for the GR Festival and seen a lot of you at the Windsor sendoff.

Detroit-Oakland

by Tom Uicker
Bulletin Editor

In hopes that the *Troubadour* hits the streets expeditiously, let me remind you

that June 6 (the first Friday of June) is the date for the "Return of the Jugs." This year, we will be at Edward Cardinal Mooney K of C Hall, 25300 Five Mile Rd. (between Beech and Telegraph), in Redford. An admission of five dollars each covers all the great entertainment and a late repast. Bill Wickstrom has agreed to emcee the evening, and he is also rounding up some local quartets to sing for us. Power Play, our International quartet representative, had already agreed to appear this year as we welcome the jugs back from their travels.

The jugs have been traveling since last August through Divisions I, II, III, V and VI; and now it's time to call them home. Unfortunately, they did get put aside at times and a few of the chapters were passed over, but most of the chapters were visited and were able to participate in this fun way of raising money for our quartet representatives. I'm sure Power Play thanks you for their support as they prepare for Indianapolis, and I thank the chapters for taking time out of your busy schedules to continue the tradition of interchapter visits.

The Gentlemen Songsters have had two public performances since convention. We are now starting to work on new songs for next February's show. It looks to be a busy summer in Royal Oak as we continue to learn our craft, but it's never too busy to welcome a visitor on some Monday night (7:30-10:30) or Thursday afternoon (1:00-3:00). So if you happen to be in the area, stop by Starr Presbyterian Church on the corner of Crooks Road and Thirteen Mile in Royal oak. Drop in and sing a few with us.

Lansing

Doug Pearson
VP, Marketing & Public Relations

Once again during the District Convention, our Capitol City Chordsmen — some 80 strong — were on stage, but the judges in front of us seemed strangely silent. Usually noted for their furious scribbling and sometimes scowl-

ing faces, these judicious gentlemen of note were barely in evidence.

Not that they needed to be since, as defending District Champs, we sat this one out. Well, not exactly *sitting* (80 men with their posteriors firmly planted on planks of wood does *not* pose a pretty nor professional picture for the audience).

What we *did* manage to accomplish on Saturday night was our farewell performance as Pioneer titleists, a performance that gained an unusual dimension via a memorable parody on the Grand Rapids Great Lakes Chorus, penned by our talented transplant Bruce Evans.

Titled "Great Lakes' Not Perfect", the song advises: "Make sure the guys with ugly faces, hide behind the skirt" - a not-so-subtle reference to Great Lakes' Director Ann Jarchow. However, we were quick to tunefully add that "No one's perfect this we know because we missed the cut." At any rate, it was a lot of fun, and I understand that Bruce at this very moment is at Grand Rapids' Amway Grand Hotel selling tapes and CDs of his parody.

When our chapter isn't busy performing parodies, we actually manage to delve into a few other projects while setting up a fairly full agenda for the coming months.

By the time your *Troubadour* goes to press, we will already have participated in the Mini-Hep Conference at Michigan State. We were one of three choruses invited to participate in the worthwhile event. Hope to see you there (or, actually, hope you *were* there).

And then comes the real fun stuff — an annual tradition of unpredictable musical nonsense, masterminded by Dave Barrett and more commonly known as the Crazy Kwartet Kontest. During this four-part free-for-all, literally anything goes, including liberal bribing of judges, interchanging of parts (interpret that anyway you want), improvising words, and stage presence that could curl the hair on your grandmother's toenails. And to serve as a special bonus, the contest will include
see **LANSING**, page 13

Chapters in Action

LANSING, from page 12

some *really* crazy guys as we've invited the Grosse Pointe Chapter to attend and compete.

Getting back to more serious matters, the Chorus will be performing at a state-wide educational meeting on June 4 at Lansing's Holiday Inn South. Three days later, we'll be involved in an all-day coaching session with International's Jim DeBussman.

On June 13, we plan to fill a bus with chapter songsters and head off to Windsor to attend the annual Windsor Send-Off Show. Wrapping up a busy schedule for us is a chapter picnic, a major singout in Owosso, hitting musical homeruns at a Lansing Lugnuts game and a chorus retreat at the Kettner Center in Tustin.

Last, but certainly not least, we're currently messaging our tonsils in preparation for the Fall Contest. And I don't think Director Jamie has any parodies planned for this one.

Holland

Art Lane
Bulletin Editor

The Holland Chapter is selling its Harmony Hall, putting the money in the bank, and looking for a new hall, with room for sectional rehearsals and space for performances.

During the search for a new home, weekly meetings will be held in the music room of Evergreen Commons, Holland's spacious and attractive senior citizen center.

More than 10 years ago, the chapter bought a former pizza parlor on Holland's gritty near north side and converted it into a meeting hall. Over the years, hundreds of pictures and choruses and quartets, champions and otherwise, were added to the knotty pine walls by

historian Dale Bekker. Now the furnishings will be put in storage, awaiting a bigger and better Harmony Hall. The chapter seeks a building that seats several hundred persons for chorus performances, along with practice rooms for four voice parts.

According to director Myke Lucas, "we decided to sell our building in order to get better facilities, a better location and a better address. Selling the building gives us an opportunity to focus on what we are, a singing society."

Tag-singing campout planned

The Holland Chapter's annual Chester P. Oonk Memorial Tag Contest has been expanded to a weekend campout and tag enthusiasts from throughout the Pioneer District are invited.

The weekend of barbershopping will be July 18, 19 and 20 at Saugatuck Campground, just south of Holland. Campground owner Tom Zuidema, a bass in the Holland Windmill Chorus, has set aside some camping spaces and rental units for barbershoppers from near and far.

The weekend will include an outdoor show, tag teaching, tag singing, a tag contest, woodshedding, pig roast, swimming, golf and a barbershop Sunday Service. For information, call Steve Foster, 616-335-2218. For reservation, call 1-800-336-9724.

Great timbre in singing garage sale

Ever been to a singing garage sale? Here's your chance. It's not that the Holland Chapter has talented garages, but thuswise: on Saturday, June 21 the chapter is renting the Holland Civic Center and holding a giant garage sale. When people buy a lot of stuff, we'll sing them a song.

Since the Civic Center will hold more stuff than the chapter can possibly accumulate, district barbershoppers with an oversupply of good, clean, workable stuff are invited to donate it for our garage sale. To make arrangements, call 616-335-2218. Proceeds will go to a good cause, the chapter's 1998 trip to the Netherlands. Remember, the more you give, the longer we'll stay.

Holland barbershoppers honored Bing Miller, the chapter's oldest member, April 1 on his 90th birthday, with some songs and a cake. Attending "Bing Miller Night" were his wife Ella, daughters Norma and Bonnie, and several members' wives.

Bing has been a barbershopper since about 1957. Several generations of barbershoppers recall summer picnics at his cottage on Lake Michigan.

Quartet reaches out to high school students

A quartet from the Holland Chapter visited high schools in the area recently to introduce the students to barbershop harmony and a little barbershop history.

The quartet included president Dick Plaisted, Bob Eastman, Tom Whitney and Steve Foster. They went to high schools in Holland, West Ottawa, Hamilton, Hudsonville and Fennville, singing a few songs, emphasizing the Society's commitment to music education and promoting Harmony Camp.

On June 8, Holland barbershoppers will travel north to sing in services at the Baldwin Congregational Church. After church, there's a barbecue nearby at the home of Ken and Toni Ver Beek.

Macomb County

Roy Gurney
Music/Performance VP

What a rewarding weekend we had at the Spring convention. We are so proud of power Play and we will look forward to seeing them at International. Also very pleased with the job the Great Lakes Chorus is doing. They will represent us well. It was a truly great convention and I want to thank DOC for a great job running it.

Before I go any further, I want to thank all of the people who passed compliments on to us for our chorus performance. People I don't even know would see the chapter name on my badge and offer compliments. That just solidifies our commitment to "stick to the basics" and "perform the song."

Looks like it's going to be a busy summer—see **MACOMB**, page 14

Chapters in Action

MACOMB, from page 13

mer with the Mt. Clemens Art Show, Centerline Summer Fest, Sarnia Bridge Fest, Harmony Roundup, Harold's Pig Roast, the Send-off Show and the International Convention so close by, then our summer retreat. Now that's what I call Barbershopping!

I forgot to mention in my last article that we named Dick VanDyke as Barbershopper of the Year at our Spring Dinner Show. A lot of things get done around this chapter because of Dick's continued efforts and enthusiasm. Thanks a bunch, Dick, from all of us.

If anyone would like to visit our chapter meetings you are more than welcome, any time. And if you know any singers in our neighborhood send them around, too. We meet at the United Methodist Church in Mt. Clemens at 7:30 on Tuesdays.

Rochester

Eric (Ric) Matus
Communications VP/Treasurer

With the Spring Competition behind us (congratulations to all the big winners!), we are turning our heads toward our next offering May 18 at the American House Retirement Community and ultimately our Fall Show.

Fortunately, we enjoy our practice sessions along the way almost as much as the events themselves.

Our multi-talented director, Al Fisk, set off on a 62-mile bike ride on behalf of the American Diabetes Association (all pledges/contributions gratefully accepted). Congrats, Al, for a job well done.

Proceeds from our successful "Singing Valentines" endeavor made it possible for our chapter to bring smiles to the faces of those who work at the Leader Dogs for the Blind in Rochester, Michigan. Dan Bajorek, our Chapter President, along with other chapter representatives, were able to present Bill Hansen, President of Leader

Dogs, with a check for \$1,000 to be used as they see fit in the training of these fine animals and administration of the program.

In addition, we have started scholarship programs (\$300 each) at both Rochester High Schools (Adams and RHS). This money is to be used by underclass vocal music students to attend either Interlochen or Blue Lake Fine Arts Summer Camp . . . thus participating in the spirit of Sing America/Sing Canada.

The Heart of The Hills Chorus will again sing at Rochester's Memorial Day services. For the past few years we have been included in this event. We feel that we represent all Barbershoppers when we sing at these special events and feel a commitment to all of you as we do. Later on this summer, our many activities will give us a chance to further this commitment. We are, indeed, proud to be Barbershoppers, continuing in the Barbershop tradition.

A guest at one of our recent meetings got the award for having come the longest way to join us in our singing and friendship. His home? England! He was here on business, and looking, on the internet, for someone with whom to sing. He sings with a chorus of about 90 in England, is involved in international singing, and is fun to listen to as most British are.

Some of us will be joining many of you in Indianapolis in July. We wish all competitors well and thank them for making this opportunity for education and entertainment possible.

Art Cardy - Tenor
David Hundt - Lead

Larry Wise - Bass
Larry Parker - Baritone

GALLERY

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Larry Parker
1200 New York Avenue
Lansing, MI 48906
(517) 376-8590
or David at
(517) 669-1188



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Pedigree: Barbershoppers

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

President, cont. PARKER, from page 3

INDY last fall, winning this championship put the frosting on the cake. I wish you all good fortune!

The House of Delegates met for the first time under our new management structure. I feel that your District is in good hands with a group of hard working officers, and their committees, who are dedicated to serving the membership. You can help in the continuation of this by telling your success stories and relating your problem areas to them.

Last, but not least, it was my pleasure to announce the name of **John Bauer**, the newest member selected to the Pioneer District **Hall of Fame**. Unfortunately, for health reasons, John was unable to attend the convention. At the time, he had just undergone a complete blood transfusion and wasn't up to the trip. I ask you to please send a note of congratulations to John. I know he would appreciate hearing from you.

Bari'ly yours . . .

Coaching, cont. McTAGGART, from page 4

formance. Now we can offer you a Chapter Coach who is willing to make a long-term commitment with your chapter. It's like having a mini-COTS all year long. He will keep in contact with your chapter with personal visitations, by telephone, e-mail and snail-mail.

Dave Anderson, Ed Fritzen, Maurie Allen, Earl Berry and I have been trained at Chapter Coach candidates. By the end of 1997, the Year of Transition, we hope to be providing services to fifteen chapters. Please be patient as we all learn together.

Your Chapter Coach will assist you in making your Unique Chapter Mission Statement. He will be the conduit that enables your chapter to be that best that it can be.

The program is free and user-friendly. Give me a call if you want to get on board.

New District by-laws affect office nominations

Election of District Officers

President, Secretary, Treasurer,

Vice President of Membership and Outreach

Vice President of Chapter Support and Leadership Training

Vice President of Chorus Director Development

Vice President of Contest and Judging

Vice President of Events

Vice President of Marketing and Communication

Vice President of Music & Performance

Society Board Member (when applicable) will represent Pioneer and Land O' Lakes Districts

Notice of Nomination Procedures

The election of the District Officers listed above takes place each year at the Fall District Convention. The new District By-Laws which will be in effect beginning January 1, 1997 require that all nominations of persons for District office be reviewed by and be acceptable to the appropriate Society Committee. This procedure must be followed for nominations anticipated to be made from the floor at the fall House of Delegates Meeting as well as for nominations by the District Nominating Committee.

Therefore, nomination from the floor at the fall House of Delegates meeting of any person to fill a District office must be preceded by submission of the potential nominee's written permission, résumé, and credentials to the District Nominating Committee by June 1, 1997

for forwarding to the appropriate Society Committee for review and acceptance. Nomination from the floor of any person for any District office will be disallowed if this procedure has not been followed. Additionally, nomination from the floor of any individual whose name has been submitted to the appropriate Society Committee and who has been found not qualified will be disallowed, but the nomination from the floor must be accompanied by the Society Committee's reasons for disapproval and its recommendations, if any, as to what steps can be taken to make the proposed candidate acceptable to the Society Committee.

SPEBSQSA, Inc.
Pioneer District
Laws and Regulations Committee
April 1, 1997

Public Relating, cont.

PEARSON, from page 5

Finally, if you want to take notes on how a district marketing campaign is run, try keeping up with Gaylord's Hank Hedges (which I tried to do unsuccessfully at the convention). In addition to serving as president of Gaylord's Miesters Chorus, Hurrying Hank is spearheading this year's Bush League Contest, October 10-11, in Gaylord. If planning, enthusiasm and marketing skills are indicators, the contest will be a success.

So how is *your* chapter's public relations? You just heard from Al, Tracy and Hank, and what they've been doing. Their accomplishments only skim the surface of our district marketing and public relations activities. How about *your* chapter, *your* chorus or *your* quartet? Any good public relations or marketing stories you'd like to share? If so, let me know.

Correction:


Endeavor named 1996 Novice Quartet winner

CORRECTION

Whoops! Hold the phone! We goofed, when we announced the wrong quartet as winner of the Novice Quartet award at the 1996 fall convention.

Let the record show that the quartet **Endeavor**, from the **Rochester Chapter**, is the 1996 Novice Quartet Champion. Their trophies will be presented on stage at the convention this fall. Please accept our apologies for the oversight and our congratulations!

Bruce Craig Mike Brian



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Fanfare



an a cappella ensemble

Marv Moran
(313) 459-4218

Bob Wisdom
(810) 879-7083

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Mark Wilson Jamie Carey
Jeff Marks James Hawkins

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333 N. Waverly Road, Eaton Rapids, MI 48827

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NOTICE:

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e-mail: csanders@lsd.k12.mi.us

Phone: (517) 485-3641

Fax: (517) 482-7466

Chad Sanders
1616 West Rundle Avenue
Lansing, MI 48910

Upcoming Events

1997

- June 6-7 Traverse City Show
- June 13 Windsor Send-off
- September 13 Alpena Show
- September 13 Saginaw Valley Show
- September 20 Grosse Pointe Show
- September 27 Gratiot County Show
- October 17-19 District Contest
- October 25 Rochester Show
- November 1 Grand Rapids Show

1998

- February 20-21 Detroit-Oakland Show
- March 6-7 Wayne County Show
- March 7 Lansing Show
- March 14 Kalamazoo Show
- March 28 Muskegon Show
- March 28 Monroe North Show
- April 24-26 District Contest
- June 12 Windsor Send-off
- September 26 Muskegon Show
- October 16-18 District Contest
- October 24 Rochester Show
- November 6-7 Grand Rapids Show

1999

- 2/19-20 Detroit-Oakland Show
- 03/5-6 Wayne County Show
- 03/06 Lansing Show
- 11/5-6 Grand Rapids Show

NOTE: All chapter show activities must be cleared through the District Secretary.

Please notify:

Jack Schneider, District Secretary
1311 Northlawn, NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49505
R (616) 361-6820

Society Synopsis, cont.

SEELY, from page 3

especially of the previous medalists. Now *that* information is current and available on your PC. With all this knowledge, doesn't it seem logical that our adjudicators might just review the percent of efficiency each group achieved? What's your guess? Frankly, I'm a traditionalist who loved that magic moment when the doctor said, "it's a boy." Don't ruin my surprise or my hopes. Make me do my own simple scoring when the first competitor hits the stage. By placing a number on each quartet seems like it might be a little demoralizing to the "just made the minimum guys". Speaking of numbers, some really great quartets missed the minimum score and we share in their disappointment. Borderline scores by Onyx & Firepower, who qualified as Pioneer reps last year, had many of us scratching our noggins, why? LOL's Northland Gold & Jackpot will also have to wait 'til next year! In my 40+ years of this super hobby I've witnessed many changes in our judging system(s) and personnel and I have a feeling that we're not "finished cookin' yet." How 'bout you? Do you like/understand the latest systems? Remember, it's your society and your input IS important.

MORE STUFF

It was sad to note that only three college quartets entered the Pioneer & LOL contests. That's an awfully large area from Monroe to Saskatoon, Sas Canada to attract so few. What are we doing wrong?

Pricing our International Convention with an early registrant discount proved to be a wise move since close to 10,000 folks are going to be heading to Indy the first week of July. The price of the mid-winter convention will escalate to \$45.00. See y'all in Indianapolis!

Grosse Pointe Chapter will not look back at April of '97 as a rewarding time in its colorful history. Three members-one a charter member- passed away and we join their families in their grieving.

Ray McCalpin, a 50-year Society member and the last remaining charter member of the Grosse Pointe Chapter, left us suddenly on April 10. Ray was a past chapter president and best known as the baritone of the '65 Champs - the 4-Fits. Marv Burke, John Wearing and I sang for Ray's funeral with help from four members of the Lakeshore chorus and the remaining trio delivered the eulogy as requested by Ray's family. Certainly the toughest engagement we've ever been asked to do. Our current BOTY and chapter treasurer Leroy Lenhardt lost his battle with that dreaded disease just days after Ray. More barbershop tears. Then, that mystical three was completed with the demise of Gardner Martin who, in his very senior years, succumbed to a long-time illness. They will be missed. Makes me wonder: when is the last time you told a loved one that you loved them?.