



pioneer TROUBADOUR



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

VOLUME 48 - NUMBER 1



FEBRUARY/MARCH, 1997

THE DISTRICT AND SOCIETY LOSES A GOOD FRIEND



Editor: Gordon Gunn

On December 21, 1996 we were all saddened to hear of the passing of one Gordon Gunn, long-standing member of Muskegon's Chapter and Shoreline Chorus. His loss to us will be felt and his enthusiasm and dedication to our craft and hobby will be long remembered.

He took over the reins of this publication after the death of one Bob McDermott and the new editor, at that time, had found this job to be one that was close to being full time. Gordon had asked the, then, Pioneer District president if he could assume the responsibility and then drove to the Detroit area with our own Bob Weber to pick up the District's equipment. The rest of this story is history.

We have long been impressed with the quality of this publication. It became a living testimony of the love and dedication that Gordon had always exhibited. This issue is being dedicated to one of the finest men I have had the privilege to know

and one of the most dedicated Barbershoppers our Pioneer District and Society has ever seen.

Gordon, you might have left us, but you will always stay alive in many of our hearts and minds. What is to follow is an expression of appreciation for the fine work you did.

Respectfully submitted,
William B. "Bill" Tobias
acting editor

Goodbye to Another "Good-Guy"

We have lost a coworker, a husband, grandfather and our friend! The sudden passing of Troubadour Editor Gordon Gunn on December 21, 1996 has left a big hole in the lives of everyone who knew and loved him.

During one of our conversations at COTS weekend, Gordon described to me his eagerness in tackling his new job, District Vice-President for Marketing and Public Relations. His zest for life and doing a good job was first in his mind.

To Margaret, his wife, we say, "Thank you for allowing us to have a share in Gordon's life. We all join you in your sorrow." We will sorely miss him.

Larry L. Parker
Pioneer District President



pioneer
TROUBADOUR



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Editor: Gordon W. Gunn, 2296 Pillon Road, Twin Lake, MI 49457
Phone (616) 744-3211 / Fax (616) 744-0088

1997 PIONEER DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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MARKETING & PUBLIC RELATIONS VP

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R (616) 744-3211 Fax 744-0088

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R (616) 465-6223 B (616) 426-4444

TREASURER

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421 Franklin Street
Leslie, MI 49251
R (517) 589-5586 B (517) 322-5996

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Fax: (517) 482-7466
Phone: (517) 485-3641
E-Mail: csanders@lsd.k12.mi.us

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Presidents Position

by President Larry Parker

Transition ... What's Going to Happen?

Several wise men have said, "Transition means change, and it's only human nature to resist change!" Yet we all know that without change, stagnation sets in. When that happens, the best laid plans wither and die. Others say, "Why fix it if it isn't broken?" Well, they are correct. It is not broken, but why wait.



The Prologue, written by Dean Snyder, for the Management Study Team's Final Report: "Society Governance: A Brief Resume of Development and Changes since 1938," is a four-page document which briefly outlines the management structure changes our Society has gone through in the past

fifty-seven years. Dean is the Society's Historian Emeritus, former international officer and Society Board Member. In some of Dean's closing remarks, he says, "Our management structure has been changed many times as the need arose, and there is no doubt that it will be changed in the future."

So now we begin! The next twelve months will be interesting, to say the least. We all have a lot of work to do. It takes teamwork and that's the key to success of any venture.

There may be some stumbling blocks as we slowly progress through 1997,

Continued, please see PARKER, page 5



Society Synopsis

by SBM Russell Seely

The trouble with becoming a lifetime Barbershopper is that most of the time having just a nodding acquaintance with a fellow Barbershopper just isn't possible. I'm sure some psychologist could tell me why it's easy to create such close friendships because of the singing, especially the nature of most of our songs which include mother, home and friendships. I guess that I don't really need an analysis of these ties ... I just keep on enjoying them. Some trouble, eh?

The downside is that when we lose a Barbershop buddy the hurt seems to go that much deeper. My latest "hurt" was inflicted by our good friend, Gordon Gunn. Even though Gordon was a 30 + yr. Barbershopper, we hadn't crossed paths until he came to the rescue of the TROUBADOUR just a few years ago.

Although he did not have the advantage to be tutored by one of the Pioneer's finest - Bob Mc Dermott - Gordon took over the monumental task of reorganizing our publication and got it delivered month after month on a timely, professional basis. Among many other things he taught ALL of us what the word deadline meant.

The beauty of his volunteered service was that it renewed, I felt, his love and enthusiasm for our



Continued, please see SEELY, page 6

Here's to You

by David Cole, Executive VP,
VP Membership Services

My Resolutions Can Be Your Resolutions

Looking to add something to your list of New Year's resolutions? Well look no further my friend because here are two items which you can add, and YES you can even accomplish both of them! Throughout this year and into the year 2000 you will be hearing a lot about my "4-Q's" and my "Project 2000."



First, what about those "4-Q's?" During the past years of service to the Pioneer District, I have observed far too many chapters having either no goals, or totally incorrect goals. While a

chapter having absolutely no goals is astonishing enough, having incorrect goals is the reason for my "4-Q's."

Let me give you a prime example. A chapter who is singing well sits down with their board and music team and decides to have "Winning the District Competition" as their goal -- nothing else, just winning. The result -- the chorus wins district, has no further goals and falls flat on their face in two years.

I'm not picking on any one chapter, rather I'm reinforcing my "4 - Q's." What are they, you ask?

Quality Singing

Believe it or not, very few chapters have had this as a goal. I ask you, how can you properly promote your chapter if you don't sing well?

Quartet Activity

Get more quartets involved and started in your chapters. They will aid in getting and keeping more people, more happily involved in Barbershopping, and will help promote and improve "Quality Singing."

Quick Paced

Meetings, shows, sing-outs and everything else the chapter does, must be quick paced which will keep everyone on their toes, and excited to do it again.

Questionnaires

I detest questionnaires, but if you (Mr. Board Member) don't know what your members enjoy, how can you be sure that you are giving them the correct thing?

* * *

All of the above goals are achievable during 1997. So get them started and see where they take the chapter. This has been (and shall continue to be) successfully tried in two chapters with huge success.

"Project 2000" (You're right it has something to do with the year 2000!) but also, and more importantly, has everything to do with membership in the Pioneer District. Currently we have just over 1,400 members in Pioneer. It is my goal (and hope soon to be yours) for Pioneer to reach 2,000 members by the year 2000.

We have had very good fortunes with "Operation Harold" and "Let's Make a Deal." We need to keep the ball rolling. Don't worry about our society, they'll come up with another membership campaign, but we need to keep up the momentum within our own ranks.

Continued, please see COLE, page 5

COLE (continued)

WIIFM? What's In It For Me? That's an easy one -- MORE MEMBERS. So let's get 1997 off to a great start and make the "4-Q's" and "PROJECT 2000" two successful programs which PIONEER started!

On another note. I recently had an opportunity to room with a fine gentleman at COTS. While I have had the pleasure to spend time with him before, I discovered over those two days that he was a very caring person. While we hate to see any of our members pass away, I will miss Gordon Gunn very much. He had an interesting whit, and his attention to detail was impeccable. Our prayers go out to his family.

* * * * *

PARKER, continued from page 3

our transition year. The only thing I ask is that you do your best, and I know you will!

* * *

Need Help?
Give Us a Call!

Do you need help in finding a chorus director? Would you like someone to coach your quartet or chorus? Need some advice on how to do a particular event? Do you have an administrative problem? Well, answers to these questions and more, along with hands-on help, is just a telephone call away. Your seven new vice-presidents, their committees, and any of the other officers are here for the asking and at your service.

However, we may not wait for you to call. We may call you! We hope to give you inspiration and ideas for a wide range of programs to help your chapter prosper and grow. Many educational resources are available to help chapters. It would be a terrible shame not to take advantage of them. When we call, don't hesitate to ask for help.

A WORD FROM OUR PIONEER DISTRICT PIONET OFFICER

Jim Styer

The Pioneer District is moving into the computer age.

PioNet should be in operation by the time you read this. This is an automated listserv, just like the Society's Harmonet and using the same computer host, Humber College in Ontario, Canada. We have been offered use of this site at no cost to the district.

Any computer e-mail sent to the listserv address will automatically be sent to all other subscribers.

If you wish to send e-mail to individual barbershoppers in Pioneer, you will still have that option, of course.



PioNet can be used to share chapter, division and district announcements, information and ideas with other barbershoppers and chapters in Pioneer. You can ask questions, get answers, bring up your concerns and praises, raise issues and get involved in e-mail chats about anything that affects your Pioneer barbershop life. You will also have contact with your district officers and they will be able to get info to you directly and quickly.

I expect initial subscribers to include our District President, Executive Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Troubadour editor. As this gets started, I had 40 e-mail addresses from members in 20 chapters. I suspect most will sign up for PioNet.

Continued, please see STYER, page 6

STYER, continued from page 5

I did not have e-mail addresses for any active members in Cadillac, Flint, Grosse Pointe, Jackson, Monroe North, Motor City Metro, Pontiac, Saginaw Bay, Sault Ste. Marie or Wayne.

If you have e-mail capability and would like to sign up, or know of any other Pioneer barbershopper with e-mail, let me know by e-mailing me at JIMSTYER@VOYAGER.NET.

If you don't have an e-mail link, Juno is a free, nationwide e-mail-only service from many local phone exchanges, paid for by its advertisers. call 1-800-654-JUNO for a program disk to set you up.

For this to be a full communications medium, we would like to have **AT LEAST ONE** representative from every chapter.

PioNet mail traffic at first probably will be slow as we get used to using it. Its success and growth can't be predicted, other than to say it depends on your participation.

After PioNet is running well, and after I get my new computer system, I hope to find time to begin setting up Pioneer District pages on the World Wide Web. These eventually will link to any Web pages your chapter may have now or develop later.

I would also like some input from you: How would you like to use PioNet? What would you like to see on it that would benefit you and/or your chapter?

Do you have any questions? E-mail them to me.

SEELY, continued from page 3

Society. Rarely did I submit an article or make a presentation about Barbershopping that I didn't elicit

a response from Gordon. I have a collection of his memos.

When Gordon became aware of the position of PR and Marketing Vice-President, he immediately "applied." We tried to talk him out of seeking the position since, we felt, he was busy enough editing the old TROUB. But he insisted that he could handle both. In our computer age, he assured us, "no problem!"

The last time I saw Gord was at COTS where we spent time discussing his strategies for the new VP job that he had just been installed for - yeh, he convinced us that he could handle two major tasks. And now he's gone. He joins a growing list of Barbershop brothers that have volunteered for the BIG CHAPTER. The list **WILL** get larger as attested by the ever elevating age of our singers/supporters increases.

I purposely included the word **supporter** since one more thing that has changed is the attraction of guys, kind of like Gordon, who love to just come to a Chapter meeting and **ENJOY** - not necessarily participate - in what we do. 'Twould be a shame if we get to the point where there wasn't an open door for that type of person. For every star there must be a supporting cast.

Sometimes we lose sight of the fact that our conventions would not exist without the men and women who attend simply because they love not only the sound of our music, but what we stand for. People just like Gordon and Margaret Gunn. Gordon may never have been a "front row" kind of Barbershopper that a large number aspire, but he and his "type" are an integral part of us. We will miss Gordon and our heartfelt sympathy goes out to his Margaret. He left with at least one enormous point: A great Barbershopper does not necessarily mean a great singer. Gordon was a great Barbershopper.

THE EXPERIENCE OF C.O.T.S. 96

For those not familiar with this event, this is an opportunity for newly elected chapter officers from across the Pioneer District to be guided and trained by the best of our District and the Society.

The focus of our district and our Society has been changed. As chapter officers we were directed to view our individual chapter members as our customers. It is for them that we have been charged with the responsibility to help in the perpetuation of our craft. The traditional corporate organizational pyramid has been changed totally with the membership now being our prime focus.

When the session first begun we were all introduced to our Society's new mission statement, and chapter officers from across the Pioneer were encouraged to translate each section into their own words so we could carry the message back to our membership. The excitement and enthusiasm was shared by each participant. I am sure that many left the session feeling as though they attended a revival. We have a message to share and even those who asked themselves at the beginning why they were there, left with this new zeal.

Some of the comments from each individual group charged with interpreting each section of the mission statement were as follows:

"I am singing history when I am up on the stage. I am D.C. Cash..."

"Barbershopping is FUN, means FUN, and if you're not having FUN, Barbershopping will die."

"We have to perpetuate it fairly and truly. We have to have an understanding of what it is."

"We have to keep the art form pure...how we present it in a way to keep it current."

"Barbershopping is not a hobby...it is part of my life...It is love, and depending on your commitment, it becomes a life style."

"Barbershopping is done for me. It is a team sport, I do it for other people."

"We all have to understand what is Barbershopping before we can perpetuate it."

"Everyone needs a role. Understanding others' talents. We must all understand and appreciate the value they can be."

"We must have a solid orientation of new members (i.e. 'You're a stranger here with us but once.'"

"We must have a lot of time for fellowship - for members and our wives and friends and to make them all feel like part of our organization."

"We have to be aware of our true customer: 'Joe Barbershopper.'"

"Proper promotion is of brotherly love. There has to be a lot of vitality in every meeting."

"We have to encompass all musical abilities."

"We must perpetuate the art form and enjoy ourselves."

"We need to encourage our own members and we must support them."

* * * * *
To provide you with just one small sample of the talent and enthusiasm shared this weekend, Mel Knight, one of the coveted C.O.T.S. faculty,

Please see COTS, page 8

COTS, continued

what Barbershopping meant to him. He responded by saying "I like the sound of it. It allows me to grow. It changed my life. I want to change others' lives."

Each of us were given a message to pass on. "It is now our responsibility to perpetuate Barbershopping for our children, and our children's children." It is extremely clear that the musical quality along with the future of our chapter and the Society as a whole depends, in part, on the officers of the chapter: its leadership.

Accountability has entered into the duties and overall responsibilities of each officer. We are individually charged with contributing equally to the growth of our chapter and the organization as a whole.

**The Society's Unified Chapter
Mission Statement
&
New Standard Chapter Bylaws**

All chapters are encouraged to use the Society's Unified Chapter Mission Statement, as defined in Article 11 of the New Standard Chapter Bylaws, effective 1997, as a filter through which to better serve their members, audiences and committees:

"To perpetuate the old American Institution, the Barbershop Quartet and;

To promote and to encourage vocal harmony and good fellowship among its members and;

To serve the musical needs of all current and potential members by providing and actively supporting a wide variety of Barbershopping opportunities which

may include organized quartetting, chorus singing, and group or 'gang' singing and;

To encourage and promote the education of its members and the public in music appreciation, and;

To initiate, promote and participate in charitable projects, and;

To promote public appreciation of barbershop harmony."

The new Standard Chapter Bylaws also state:

"Every chapter shall have a mission statement reflecting its own place in the community, and in the Barbershop Society."

**NEW
TROUBADOUR
EDITOR**

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Chad R. Sanders as your new Troubadour Editor.

The lovely Pamela married Chad four years ago, and they reside in Lansing. Chad has a Bachelor's Degree in English and Speech. He teaches journalism at Lansing Everett High School. Among his many talents, he edits and publishes the school's newspaper, "The Viking Voice," and the school's year book. He is also the editor of the Lansing Chapter's bulletin, "The Woodshedder."

Chad will take over the editorial duties in time for the next issue. You will find his address, telephone number, fax number and E-mail address later on in this article.

See NEW 'TROUB' EDITOR, page 9



*A Great Gift Idea -
for your favorite barbershopper*

*Rates and registration form
on goldenrod page four*

1997
Pioneer District
HARMONY ROUND-UP

May 16 - 18, 1997
Michigan State University
East Lansing, Michigan

Growth Through Learning -
A Must for all Pioneer Barbershoppers

A weekend of fun and Barber Shop Educational Activities
Amid the Beautiful Surroundings of the M.S.U. Campus

Full details on the following pages - or you may telephone
District Vice President of Music and Performance,
Gene Hanover - (616) 465-6223



1997 Pioneer District Harmony Round-Up

Regular Classes (All Day Saturday) 6 - 8 Hours

100 Direct Hit -
101 Fundamentals of Music -
102 It Ain't Magic -
103 Apprentice Coaching -

Faculty
Fisk
Evans
Faculty

104 Quartet Workshop -
105 Chorus Workshop -
106 Joe Barbershop Chorus -
107 Pick-Up Quartet Coaching -

Faculty
Faculty
Faculty
Faculty

Mini Classes (Sunday Morning) 2 - 4 Hours

200 Tag Singing -
201 Gang Singing -
202 Sections Leaders Workshop
203 How's and Why's of Warmup

Fisk
Fisk
Faculty
Faculty

204 Sight Singing Skills -
205 Marketing for Members and Money -
206 The Art of Woodshedding -
207 Judges, What do they really want? -

Stephens
T.B.A
Faculty

Evans, Mills, O'Donnell

Class Descriptions

100 Direct Hit - Faculty. This course is designed to focus on the new, young and/or aspiring arm waver. It will also aid present directors but will concentrate on the basics of directing. All students will direct and be critiqued by the instructor and peers. Individual sessions will be video taped so you may see your own progress.

101 Fundamentals of Music - Al Fisk. This course is designed to teach the student how to identify various notes and their value. It teaches key signatures and how to identify the key in which the song is written. It touches on intervals and generally makes those dots on the paper user friendly.

102 It Ain't Magic - Bruce Evans. This class will be great for the barbershopper who wants to know more about the mysterious phenomenon called music. It will touch on melody, harmony, scales, pitch, meter, half-steps, whole steps, harmonics, and musical instruments, including your own; your voice. It will furnish a laymens view of all the dots, squiggles and flags we see on the paper.

103 Apprentice Coaching - Hanover. In this class you will be assigned to a quartet coach while he is working with his assigned quartet. Thus, you will observe, but not be involved in coaching. Following the session, the coach will advise the apprentice of the weakest part of the groups performance and what he did to help them improve. You may be assigned to alternate coaches for p.m. sessions.

104 Quartet Workshop - Faculty. This class is for quartets only; who want to improve their performance package. Each coach will work on your problem areas first, moving toward your strengths as the session progresses. Please advise the coach of your concerns at the beginning of the session.

105 Chorus Workshop - Faculty. This class is for chapter choruses only. You must have a majority of you chorus in attendance and supply risers. You will be coached in all areas of your performance. Be prepared to do a strenuous days work. See reduced price schedule for choruses. Your chorus will be expected to perform on the Afterglow.

106 Joe Barbershop Chorus - Faculty. Each man registering for this class will be given music and learning tapes for two songs the chorus will rehearse, be coached on and perform on the Saturday night show. A great class for everyone. Indicate your voice part when registering.

107 Barber Polecat Pick-Up Quartet - Faculty. An extension of the quartet experience class of the past. This is your opportunity to sing and be coached in a quartet. Indicate your voice part when registering and have all of the words and music of the polecat songs learned.

200 Tag Singing - Al Fisk. Al has a compilation of about 180 tags from which to choose. The class is designed for full enjoyment in a very relaxed atmosphere for instant gratification.

201 Gang Singing - Al Fisk. You will relax and enjoy winging with members of other district chapters. This is a fun class.

202 Section Leader Workshops - Faculty. Learn the basics of teaching parts to chorus members to help you be a more effective section leader.

203 How's and Why's of Warm-Up - Faculty. This class will help you get your whole body ready to sing. It will include posture, the "warm air" concept, and breath management.

204 Develop Sight Singing Skills - Jim Stephens. This class will explain what all the black dots and all the rest of the marks on the sheet music mean. You will learn basic skills to help you learn music faster and will receive hand outs to refer to back home.

205 Marketing for Members and Money - T.B.A. This class will provide some sure-fire ways to recruit new members and to market your chapter in your area. You will receive step-by-step instructions on how to be successful in executing tried and proven methods.

206 The Art of Woodshedding - Here is your chance to learn how to woodshed or become more proficient in the art. Every man will have an opportunity to sing in a VLQ and/or a quartet.

207 Judges, What do they really want? - Evans, Mills, O'Donnell. Have a heart to heart discussion with certified judges from the singing, music, and presentation categories. Find out how to recognize the "do's" and "dont's" of your performance. You will have an opportunity to use your new found knowledge. A great class for chorus directors and assistants, quarteters, and anyone else who performs.



TOP GUN '97

Free Trade Agreement and Cascade Connection to headline 1997 Harmony Round-Up

from the District Music and Performance team

Two quartets will be featured at the 1997 Harmony Round-Up being held on May 16-18 at Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan.

Free Trade Agreement gets their name from the international accords reached in 1994 between the North American countries. (they didn't think NAFTA was very catchy!) It reflects the composition of the quartet, with two parts living in Pennsylvania, one in Maryland, and one in Ontario, Canada.

Lead singer Jay Butterfield, who is the head of the music department at Lampeter-Strasburg High School, has been barbershopping since age 10, winning a gold chorus medal at age 15 with the Dallas Vocal Majority. He also directs the Red Rose Chorus in Lancaster, PA.

Baritone Ron Knickerbooker had been a barbershopper for more than 29 years. He has been in a number of quartets to date finishing in the Top 20, Top 10, and Top 5 at International. His crowning quartet achievement came as the baritone of the 1974 International Quartet Champion Regents. Ron directs the Chordbusters Chorus of Chester County, PA.

Tenor Rick Taylor is a displaced baritone who has won a gold chorus medal with the **Alexandria Harmonizers** and has served as baritone section leader. He has also been an International Top 20 quartet competitor numerous times. Rick has been barbershopping for 27 years.

Bikes Al Baker (the Ontario contingent) has been barbershopping since 1960, has made multiple appearances in the Top 20 International Quartet contests, as well as having been a certified judge and Category Specialist in the former Arrangement Category.

All four are very active as coaches and instructors across the Society, and have served as faculty at many district and Internationally sponsored schools. As a matter of fact, singing together informally at these schools is what led them to organize officially as a quartet.

In their first contest, they won the right to represent the Mid-Atlantic District at the 1996 International Contest in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Back by popular demand, is the Evergreen District's, **Cascade Connection**.

Tenor Jim DeBusman. and baritone Mel Knight

are known to most of us because of their work on the Society's music staff (Mel is now retired) and because of their exceptional, and extensive quartet and chorus coaching they have done in the district.

Lead Reid Stewart and bass Jerry Harrison are known here because of the excellent coaching that they performed at the 1994 Harmony Round-Up. Both men are highly sought after coaches and when paired up with Mel and Jim, they make a great quartet. The quartet was their districts 1982 Champion Quartet.

Two of the men in the quartet are judges and the quartet recently toured Australia and New Zealand and headed the first "Harmony College" in the Southern Hemisphere!

Our goal is over 300 Pioneer barbershoppers in attendance for the 1997 Pioneer District Harmony Round-Up.

We are still negotiating with outstanding people to complete the faculty for the event, but we wanted to get this information to you now, so you may make your plans to be there.

The complete faculty roster for the Round-Up will be published in the February/March issue of the *Troubadour*.

Gene Hanover, VP Music and Performance

Please take special note of the discount offer for full chapter chorus participation in the 1997 Harmony Round-Up.

All rates, early registration discounts, and a special offer for free, Harmony Round-Up T-shirts, are listed on the next page!

Please complete the forms provided on the next page and reserve your place early!

- * You are responsible for your own Friday evening meal.
- * Select one from each series (100 and 200 classes) and an alternative from each.
- * Chorus Workshop singers (quartets too) may elect to audit any of the classes offered for one to four hours at any time during the day to avoid fatigue.
- * Special rates for chapter choruses are listed below. If you have any questions, call me, (Gene) at 616-465-6223.
- * Sunday morning classes followed by a short farewell to the faculty and will be over by 11:30 A.M. giving you plenty of time to get home.

Here are some possible price combinations

Full registration \$95.00 - includes 4 meals, lodging, materials, all classes.
 Commuter registration \$75.00 - includes 2 meals, materials, all classes (no breakfasts)
 Chapter chorus member full registration \$75.00 - includes 4 meals, lodging, materials, all classes.
 Chorus member commuter registration \$50.00* - includes 2 meals, materials, all classes (no breakfasts)
 *Note: To qualify for chorus member prices, your chorus must attend at least 4 hours of coaching.

Special notice for our Canadian Brothers paying by check or in Canadian currency;
 Full Registration, add \$20.00 Full chorus registration, add \$15.00
 Commuter registration, add \$15.00 Chorus commuters, add \$15.00

Register Promptly

All prices listed will be honored through May 1, 1997. Registrations postmarked after this date will be subject to an additional \$20.00 late fee per registrant. Joe Barbershop Chorus registrants must register not later than April 27 to receive music and learning tapes.

Register before May 1 and receive FREE Harmony Round-Up T-Shirt!
 Please be sure to circle your T-Shirt size: S M L XL XXL XXXL

INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____ Chapter _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Home Phone () _____ Business Phone () _____

Note: Commuters may attend all sessions but lodging and breakfasts are not included.
 Chapter members attending with their chorus for chorus coaching should complete this form and give to chapter or chorus official for group processing.

List your class preferences below

1st choice regular class _____
 2nd choice regular class _____
 1st choice mini-class _____
 2nd choice mini-class _____

Golf (18 Holes) ___ You will play on the MSU beautiful 18 hole course Friday afternoon.

Full registration fee includes two nights lodging, fees, materials, all meals.
 Smoker? Yes ___ No ___

Please check appropriate blank
 ___ Full Registration @ \$95
 ___ Commuter Registration @ \$75
 ___ Chorus Full Reg @ \$75
 ___ Chorus Commuter @ \$50

\$30 minimum deposit required

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Make check payable to Pioneer District and Mail to;

Gene Hanover
 PO box 322
 Bridgman MI 49106

QUARTET REGISTRATION FORM

Quartet name _____
 Tenor _____ Chapter _____
 Lead _____ Chapter _____
 Bari _____ Chapter _____
 Bass _____ Chapter _____
 Contact Man _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Home Phone() _____ Business Phone() _____

Note: Commuters may attend all sessions but lodging and breakfast not included.

Full registration includes two nights lodging, fees, materials, all meals for one quartet member.

Please enter the appropriate no.

___ Full registrations @ \$95
 ___ Commuter Registrations @ \$75

Minimum Deposit \$120 required

Amount enclosed: _____

Make checks payable to Pioneer District and mail to;

Gene Hanover
 PO Box 322
 Bridgman MI 49106

NEW 'TROUB' EDITOR (continued)

Please join me in wishing Chad much success in his new job.

Chad's Statistics

Chad R. Sanders
1616 W. Rundle Avenue
Lansing, MI 48910

1-517-485-3641 (Home)
1-517-325-7362 (Business)
1-517-482-7466 (Fax)
E-Mail: csanders@lsd.k12.mi.us

Larry L. Parker, President

PLEASE NOTE

Our District's own Gene Hanover wishes to let each of you know that you can now use your Bank Americard to help you with the fees for the upcoming **PIONEER DISTRICT HARMONY ROUND-UP**. This event, of course, is to be held on the beautiful campus, ever so **GREEN**, Michigan State University in East Lansing.



Mark Wilson - Tenor
Mike McClary - Bass
Jeff Marks - Baritone
Jamie Carey - Lead

**FIREPOWER!
RELOADS**

As many of you are already aware, the **FIREPOWER!** quartet has had a recent membership change. Bass singer James Hawkins had planned to relocate to Los Angeles in the summer of 1997, but the timetable was changed in November when he received a job offer that was too attractive to turn down. We will miss our friend greatly, and we wish him the very best.

On the upside, we are pleased to announce that Mike McClary, two-time District Champion bass (**LEGACY**, 1988 and **GOOD NEWS**, 1983), has accepted the position and we are hard at work for the upcoming prelims in April. We also want to thank all the members of the Pioneer District who offered support and encouragement during our search, we all really appreciate your concern.

We also wish to express our condolences to the family and friends of Gordon Gunn, who passed away recently. Gordon was a true friend and supporter of **FIREPOWER!**, and we will miss him, as will the whole society.

Thanks again for your generous support, and we'll see you all in April!

THE NEW FIREPOWER!

A WORD FROM THE ACTING EDITOR

My thanks to Muskegon Chapter President "Webb" Scrivnor for volunteering me, and to Pioneer District President Larry Parker for providing me with the honor of taking these reins once more.

Bill Tobias



PIONEER CHAPTERS IN ACTION



Detroit - Oakland Chapter by Tom Uicker, Bulletin Editor

Christmas is past for another year, and with it the rush to sing carols at various hospitals and nursing homes. The **Gentlemen Songsters** regularly visit both Beaumont (Royal Oak) and Providence Hospitals (in Southfield). This year our Day-time Singers group sang at the Arnold Home (in Detroit), the Salvation Army Center (Royal Oak) and the Presbyterian Village of Detroit (in Redford).

You might think we would be taking a breather, but we are busily preparing for our annual show coming up February 14 & 15. Given those dates, you won't be surprised to hear some more singing valentines as we present "Heart to Heart." Our feature quartets are **Marquis** (1995 Gold Medalists from Cincinnati) and **Cornerstone** (the 1995 Buckeye Invitational Champs from Seneca Land). The show will be held at 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 give ticket man Kevin Breck a call at 1-810-543-7099.

On the social scene, we managed to get ten brave souls to face the winter snows and travel south to sunny Windsor for "Uncle Sam Night." Unfortunately there wasn't a tenor in the lot, but Windsor and Grosse Pointe supplied enough tenors to provide a grand night of singing.

On the next Friday, we held our annual Ladies Night/Honors Banquet/Officer Installation party. District Vice-President Fred Kienitz was kind enough to perform the installation. Most of our board members are repeating for another term, although PVP Dave Montera is

taking on the new title of Vice-President of Music and Performance. Jack Clarke and John Northey are taking positions as members-at-large to replace Darl Wiley, Lou Maglione and Richard Lewis. MVP Earl Berry is also retiring, but there is no one who can fill his shoes.

Two awards are regularly presented at this annual event. The first is the **Barbershopper of the Year**, elected by a popular vote of the chapter members. This year it goes to the aforementioned Earl Berry. Although he received a lot of help on membership campaigns this year, his work on the After-glows for our annual show as well as his zeal in selling Entertainment Books are just a couple of samples of his unceasing devotion to the success of our chapter.

The second is the **Hal Bauer Award**, awarded by previous recipients to a chapter member whose contributions extend beyond chapter level to the district and/or the Society. This year we have chosen to honor Darl Wiley, who has not only been an assistant director for our chapter but director of Milford's Mill Valley Chorus for many years. A firm believer in the Harmony Education Program (as witnessed by his many trips to Harmony College and Director's College) he has also served as a member of the district Music Education Team for the past few years. Dale and Earl, we salute you.

In closing, if you happen to be in the neighborhood of Royal Oak, Michigan some Monday night about 7:30 p.m., stop by Starr Presbyterian Church at Thirteen Mile and Crooks Rd. 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 p.m.

The Grand Rapids Chapter by Dick Williams

Another year is upon us here in G.R., and the "TIDE" is starting to roll. Our plate is really full for the next six months with some serious coaching in the following months with Dr. Greg Lyne, Mr. David Wright and, with our own Mr. Joel Mills and Mr. Wayne Kinde and Ms. Cindy Hansen (**Choreographer Supreme**). She does the choreography for the **Masters of Harmony**, the **Phoenicians**, to name a few. She is doing the choreography for our new contest song.

Now, throw in our Singing Valentines, another Barbershop show in March, a retreat, the Spring Contest, Top Gun, the Windsor Send-Off and the International - not to mention some new music for the March show - you get the idea. Very challenging and a lot to accomplish, but very exciting when you can see, hear and feel the difference what smart hard work can do.

It is amazing the difference Ann has made in us and how much fun we are having singing to her.

Note of interest: We sing first at Indy. Speaking of Indy, we are extremely proud to have our own Joel Mills sitting in the pits with the rest of the judges. That's right, Joel is one of the judges. **CONGRATS** Joel and well-earned!

The following chapter men were honored: Mr. Jack Schneider as our **Barbershopper of the Year** and Mr. Jack Sidor was selected to the **Grand Rapids Hall of Fame**. Both of these gentlemen are very deserving. This was the third time for Jack Schneider. Both are older than dirt, but I love 'em and I am proud to say that I've known them both for over 28 years and are really super guys.

Our 1997 Chapter Officers are Jim Russell as President, Jay Smits as Secretary, Jack Schneider as Treasurer, Dan Casamatta as VP of Spe-

cial Events and Tom Wheeler serving as VP of Music and Performance. Other members of the board are Ken Harr, Bud Kraft, Dave Kutter, Bill Mousel, Don Strong, and Dave Back. They kicked me off, doggoneit.

The only sad note to what was to be an otherwise tremendous year for us, was the sudden passing of Mr. Gordon Gunn, Editor of the Troubadour. I met him last year for the first time and was impressed with his warmth, his sincerity, his love of Barbershopping along with his zeal for the "TROUB." A sad loss for our District and for those of us who knew Gordon. Our prayers and sincere condolences to the Gunn Family.

* * * * *

Midstatesmen Gratiot County Chapter

by Daniel Palmer

As I am now starting my second year as our local bulletin editor, I felt it was about time I started sending news to the Troubadour, instead of leaving it to Joel Todd our Chapter President. Even though Joel does a great job, my new year's resolution is to get busy and start sending it in myself (I want to be sure to give Joel a lot of credit, as I may still call on him in the future).

Our chorus has been very busy this holiday season helping to spread joy throughout the community. This has included several nursing homes, area businesses like J.C. Penny's, Ashcrafts, Wal-mart and K-mart. We also participated with the local hospital for their "Lights of Love" Christmas program.

In addition, we donated one sing-out to be auctioned off at a fund-raiser for our local Big-Brothers and Big-Sisters organization. The one who purchased this concert requested

Continued, see MIDSTATESMEN, page 11

MIDSTATESMEN, continued

that we sing at the Christmas open house for Tower Components, where she works in Greenville. Singing in a factory was a new experience for us. The acoustics were not something we were used to, however, everyone still had a great time.

On January 4th we held our chapter Christmas Party with Doran McTaggart and his lovely wife as our guests. Doran was our MC for the evening as we celebrated our 50th anniversary. He also took part in the installation of the officers for the coming year. The chorus sang a few songs along with the **Blue Ribbon Coalition** entertaining us, in style, as they usually do.

Making their debut performance was **His & Hers**, made up of our director Mark Slamka and his wife Staci with our former director Jeff Rayburn with his wife Cathy. I am sure that their agent will be busy with future bookings. Although a departure from the usual barbershop quartet, I can easily say the wives certainly added a special touch. They were not only a pleasure to listen to, but also to look at.

As in real barbershop tradition, an afterglow was held at Jeff and Cathy Rayburn's home until the wee hours. A few minutes were spent in front of the television, watching and listening to **Acoustix on the Statler Brothers Show**. It is great to see that Barbershop music is getting some of the recognition, publicity, and acceptance among other professionals. They sounded fantastic! This evening was a good way to start out the new year, with everyone having a good time.

Don Slamka has announced some exciting things for this coming year for our chapter, as we will be working with a coach (Wayne Kinde from Grand Rapids), learning new music, and using the Inner Game of Music workbook.

From our chapter to yours: We wish you much success and enjoyment throughout the coming year as we all strive to share a little happiness as we spread the barbershop style of music.

* * * * *
THE MACOMB COUNTY CHAPTER

by Roy Gurney, Music/Performance VP

Well, here we are in a new year and ready for some new exciting adventures. We were well represented at COTS, and it looks like the new chapter leadership format will work well for us. The use of outside coaches is one addition to our musical training and one session will be held at a weekend retreat. This will be held in the summer and will probably be a family affair. I can hardly wait!

Our dinner shows have been very successful, both financially and performance-wise. So, until we increase our numbers a little more, we will continue this scenario. Our next one will be held at the Mt. Clemens Elks Club on Saturday, March 22nd. We will have two or three guest quartets and a new show program by the chorus. For our second show of the year we are thinking about having a Christmas Show.

As we start the new year, we remember those we have lost. **Doug Drouillard** passed away on November 29, 1996 after an extensive bout with kidney trouble. Doug was a dedicated Barbershopper and loved to watch his convention tapes as well as take part in singing. We will all miss him.

The main thrust of our music program is that all songs will be sung at a level of quality and emotion that can be used in a performance. With

Please see MACOMB COUNTY, page 13

MACOMB COUNTY (continued)

that we can also use any combination in contest. When mediocre singing isn't an option, it makes the pursuit of barbershop singing all that more exciting.

A correction to my report of the summer quartet that sang for various church services, the tenor was **Rick Anderson**, not David Walker. Sorry, Rick!

1996 was a successful year in which we had a small amount of growth and we will build on that success and continue on. Good luck to all of you and we'll see you along the way. We also fully intend to start having our **Quarter Quartet Quontests** again starting on Tuesday, February 11th. Get a quartet and come on over.

* * * * *

**MUSKEGON CHAPTER
SHORELINE CHORUS**

by **Bill Tobias**

Gordon Gunn's enthusiasm has been contagious, as we have Bob Weber and Ken Zeck, to name just a couple, who were brought into our hobby by this wonderful man. Bob Weber, by the way, put together an octet to sing at Gordon's funeral service composed of many of his friends, along with a few new faces who didn't have the pleasure of knowing him. This was one of his last requests, to go out as a Barbershopper...and a Barber-shopper is what he was!

His desire was to keep fun as part of each weekly rehearsal. Gordie, if you're listening right now, I can assure you that at least one of the current board of the Muskegon Chapter will be carrying on in this tradition while we all are working together to achieve excellence and become one of the best choruses in the Pioneer District.

He has left a wonderful wife, Margaret, who has stood by him through

both the good and the bad. She has helped him put together a fine family...and a close one too! She would help him put together "the Troub" like my wife did a few years ago. Quite a few times, we both had given thanks for the wonderful women whom we have married. Margaret, we salute you!

The Muskegon Chapter has a brand new administrator to get us closer to the new millennium. As of January 1st, our Wilber ("Webb") Scrivnor has taken the helm from our Mike Simpson. For a lot of years Mike has been extremely patient with all of us, and I sincerely hope he will continue to contribute to the good of our chapter.

We have a few new faces on the executive board such as Chuck Kitchka, as our Chapter Secretary (taking the place of our Ken Hampel who has served quite ably in this capacity), and Brian Dunn, one of our members-at-large. I have had the honor and the privilege to be re-elected as Music Vice-President. Frank Scott, one of the workers/soldiers in our chapter, has been voted once again as our Membership Vice-President along with Dave Jones serving ever so ably as our Program Vice-President (we have not followed all of the new recommendations of our Society). Jim Duff returned once again as our ever so great Treasurer along with Fred Kendall as our Publicity Vice-President. Marty Bomers, a long-time Barbershopper has returned as our other member-at-large. Tom Porritt has returned as our Chorus Manager.

It is our wish that each and every one of you have a happy and safe new year. May each of us remember those of whom we have been indebted to in the past years. Let us all remember to give thanks for all of our blessings, especially the hobby that we all share.

Saginaw Bay Chapter

by Ralph Brown

Our Chapter is alive, well and growing. As in all organizations, if there are not constant vigilance and promotion for new members, participation wanes and membership dwindles. Promotion of our chapter has been spearheaded by Bill Grumbley, and in recent months his efforts have been shored-up by other chapter members (in particular, Frank Bateson and Tom Matuszewski).

We have moved to a new location, and we are enjoying the space especially since it's free! Free! Free! Free! Our new address is as follows:
Saginaw Bay Chapter; Bangor West Elementary School; 3175 East Wilder Road; Bay City, MI 48706.

In the first few months of 1996, we increased our membership from 13 to 20, and during the second six months we were over the thirty mark. It is anticipated that we might reach 50 paid members by June of 1997. Under the "Harold Hill" contest, we set a goal of 5 and had 7 new members.

Special note should be made that we have some high school students attending fairly regular. We have established a "Youth Fund" so we can provide scholarships for young people to help pay membership fees. If you don't bring in younger singers, you are doomed to extinction.

Looking at the year in review, we see that even though we were small in number, we had great participation. At the "Harmony Week-end" in Harrisville, we took home the trophy for the highest percentage of paid-up members present. That makes it two years in a row for the Saginaw Bay Chapter.

Bob Deming - Bass, Doug Beaver - Baritone, Bill Grumbley - Tenor, and Jack Ware - Lead (also known as Smokey and the Bandits) helped entertain the crowd.

Since then, they are temporarily on hold while Jack recovers from cancer treatments. He currently is on respite in Florida. We all wish him a speedy recovery and return to the fold.

A new Quartet has emerged in the persons of Len Johnson - Bass, Mike Revard - Tenor, Randy Meldrum - Baritone, and Tom Peil - Lead.

We had a sing-out in Mayville and, although we were the smallest chorus participating, many complimentary comments were made after the show. Not only by some of the audience, but also by members of the other choruses. "You were the only chorus that sang the traditional Barber-shop, and it was GREAT!," remarked an older couple. And another much younger couple were awed when the quartet featured Bob Deming singing his signature song, "Wagon Wheels."

Bill Grumbley, Frank Bateson, Randy Meldrum, and Martin Musolf attended COTS on December 7th and 8th at the W.K. Kellogg Education Center in Hickory Corners, Michigan. One important thing we learned from their report to the chapter was that the Pioneer District and the International are moving in the direction of "Inclusion" as apposed to "Exclusion." One who expresses an interest in promoting Barbershop singing can find a place within the organization whether it be in the chorus, a quartet, or as an officer, or on one of the committees.

The new officers for 1997 are as follows: Frank Bateson - President, Bill Grumbley - Membership Vice-President, Tom Matuszewski - secretary, and Martin ("Marty") Musolf - Treasurer. Bob Winters is Director and Len Johnson is Co-Director. Congratulations to all of them. With such a nucleus, this chapter will be noticed throughout the Pioneer District in 1997.

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An Evening of Barbershop Entertainment

Featuring

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Harmony Society's 1996 International Competition!

and

Onyx

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	_____ @\$10.00 AFTERGLOW	
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Chad R. Sanders
1616 W. Rundle Avenue
Lansing, MI 48910
Ph (517) 485-3641
Fax (517) 482-7466
E-Mail csanders@lsd.k12.mi.us
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1997

- Feb 14 - 15 Detroit-Oakland Show
- Mar 1 Lansing Show
- Mar 7 - 8 Wayne County Show
- Mar 8 Huron Valley Show
- Mar 8 Monroe North Show
- Mar 15 Flint Show
- Mar 15 Kalamazoo Show
- Mar 22 - 23 Hillsdale Show
- Apr 5 Muskegon Show
- Apr 5 Sault Ste. Marie Show
- Apr 12 Battle Creek Show
- Apr 25 - 27 District Convention
- May 9 - 10 Motor City Metro Show
- May 9 - 10 Grosse Pte. Show
- May 10 Boyne City Show
- May 16 Holland Show
- May 16 - 18 Harmony Round-Up
- Jun 6 - 7 Traverse City Show
- Jun 13 Windsor Send-Off
- Jun 29 - Jul 6 Int. Convention
- Sep 13 Alpena Show
- Oct 17 - 19 District Convention
- Oct 25 Rochester Show
- Nov 1 Grand Rapids Show

Bruce Craig Mike Brian



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THE FIREPOWER!

A BARBERSHOP EXPLOSION

Mark Wilson James Caroy
Jeff Maris James Hawkins
Contact: Jeff Maris (517) 663-8158
333 N. Winery Road, Easton Rapids, MI 48827

1998

- Feb 20 - 21 Detroit-Oakland Show
- Mar 6 - 7 Wayne County Show
- Mar 7 Lansing Show
- Mar 14 Kalamazoo Show
- Mar 28 Monroe North Show
- Apr 24 - 26 District Convention

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

PLEASE NOTIFY:

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



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CONTACT: ROGER LEWIS
Bus. (516) 979-4343 - Res. (616) 965-5714

All the Exciting information about Harmony Round-Up 1997 is in the 4 page goldenrod, center insert, in this issue.