

Pioneer Troubador

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



IN THIS ISSUE:

President's Position	3
Society Synopsis	3
Here's to You	4
Take Note	4
Public Relating	5
Convention Info	6
PioNet online	7
Chapters in Action	8

Silver Domes place sixth at International

Russ Seely
Society Board Member

Pioneer's Senior Quartet Champs, the Silver Domes, with John Wearing on Tenor, Russ Seely singing Lead, John Seemann and John Wade on Bari and Bass respectively, finished a very respectable six out of 23 International competitors in the International Seniors Quartet Championship.

The competition, held in conjunction with the Society's midwinter convention, took place in Sacramento, California in late January.

The "domes" managed to outscore several prior Gold Medalists, including last year's Silver Medalist Quartet, in a competition that seems to get more in-



DOME SWEET DOME: The Silver Domes are (L to R): Russ Seely (Lead), John Wade (Bass), John Seemann (Bari), and seated, John Wearing (Tenor).

tense each year.

Although Pioneer's approach to our District Seniors' contest has been in a lighter vein (last-minute registrations encouraged, for example), we do "get

serious" at International, and thus far every quartet that we've sent has finished quite well. This fall, the Senior contest will run concurrently with the regular Friday night prelims as an experiment (note: our C&J Chair will address this at a later date).

Following the District Championship last fall, the Silver Domes changed their name (a last-minute frivolous one with questionable taste) and decided to get serious and work on a regular basis with coach Jim Stephens. It showed!!

The newly-crowned International Champs are Saturday's Heroes from the Sunshine District, featuring Joe Mazzone, Gold Medalist from the Regents. It was their fifth attempt.

VP Schneider to represent Society at District Convention

Larry Parker
President

John Schneider, a current Society vice president, will be the Society's official representative at the Pioneer District's Spring Convention, April 25-27, 1997 in Lansing.

Schneider, a Houston, TX attorney, and former Southwestern District President,

was recently appointed to the position of Society Convention and Events Manager, replacing Ken Buckner. Ken will retire after the Indianapolis convention.

John and his wife Lucy will shortly relocate to Kenosha, WI and John will begin his new duties in June.

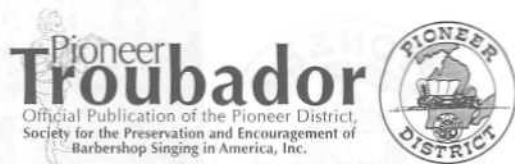
Please join in and help welcome John to Pioneer!



Still need
to preregister for
the Pioneer
District Spring
Convention?

**It's not
too late!**

Fill out and send in the
registration form on
page six!



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Editor: Chad Sanders, 1616 W. Rundle Avenue, Lansing, MI 48910
Phone (517) 485-3641 • Fax (517) 482-7466

PRESIDENT

Larry Parker
 1416 New York Avenue
 Lansing, MI 48906
 R (517) 372-8389

SOCIETY BOARD MEMBER

Russell Seely
 7626 Barnsbury
 West Bloomfield, MI 48324
 R (810) 363-8977 B (313) 896-5650

CONTEST & JUDGING VP

Joel Mills
 6617 Vintage Drive
 Hudsonville, MI 49426
 R (616) 662-1770 B (616) 532-7744

EXECUTIVE & MEMBER SERVICES VP

David A. Cole
 604 W. John Beers, Box 63
 Stevensville, MI 49127
 R (616) 429-6559

EVENTS VP

Roger Lewis
 20125 12 Mile Road
 Battle Creek, MI 49017
 R (616) 965-5714 B (616) 979-4343

CHORUS DIRECTOR DEVELOPMENT VP

Fred Kienitz
 2292 Golden Pond
 Fenton, MI 48430
 R (810) 750-8259

CHAPTER SUPPORT, LEADERSHIP VP

Doran McTaggart
 890 Buckingham
 Windsor, ON N8S 2C8
 Canada

MARKETING/PUBLIC RELATIONS VP

Doug Pearson
 169 Lexington
 East Lansing, MI 48823
 R (517) 351-9587 B (517) 886-1699

MUSIC AND PERFORMANCE VP

Eugene Hanover
 PO Box 259 964 Pine Street
 Bridgeman, MI 49106
 R (616) 465-6223 B (616) 426-4444

SECRETARY

Jack F. Schneider
 1311 Northlawn Street NE
 Grand Rapids, MI 49505
 R (616) 361-6820

TREASURER

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

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1. submit articles and artwork via e-mail attachment.
2. Mail files on floppy disk.
3. Fax typed copy.
4. Mail typed article or camera-ready artwork.

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

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



President's Position

Larry Parker, President

The Midwinter Convention . . . a bit wet, but wonderful!

Sacramento, CA, in late January, was unseasonably cold and wet. However, that didn't dampen the spirits of eleven hundred or so ever-faithful Barbershoppers, who made their annual trek to the Midwinter Convention.

Thursday through Saturday, the convention was full of great Barbershop entertainment. It began with performances by the top five 1996 International quartets from the Salt Lake City convention. It continued with the Association of Senior Quartet Champions Chorus, and it culminated with the Senior's Quartet competition Saturday evening.

Twenty-three quartets competed for the coveted title of **Senior's Quartet Champions**. The winner, from the Sun-

shine District, was "**Saturday's Heros**," with the **Regents'** great lead, Joe Mazzone.

In sixth place, and only a few points out of fourth, from the Grosse Pointe Chapter, "**Silver Domes**." **John Wearing**, tenor, **Russ Seely**, lead, **John Seemann**, baritone and **John Wade**, bass, gave an outstanding performance of "**Back In The Old Routine**" and "**If We Can't Be The Same Old Sweethearts**." Not too bad for four old guys from the eastern side of the District!

The Society Board members examined, at great length, the Contest and Judging Committee's (C&J) proposal. Their proposal was to raise the quartet qualifying score from the current **1824** see **PARKER**, page 5

Number One with a Bulletin

Chad Sanders
Troubadour editor

Don't you dare groan. I was going to title this "Hello... I'm Mr. Ed(itor)," so count your blessings.

If you're reading this on or before April Fool's Day, one of my main goals as *Troubadour* editor has been accomplished: the District bulletin is being turned around in two weeks or less.

As for my other goals, I threw those out the window when my conversion utility crashed my layout application three times in a row. Just getting something to *print* became a lofty ambition.

The goals for my tenure as editor seem simple when I don't think too hard about them... it's when I make myself get realistic that the vision of my office transformed into a bustling Washington Post-style newsroom circa *All the President's Men* (I'm Redford, natch) kind of falls apart.

Lofty Goal No. 1

What I see for the *Troub's* future: **Keep it Fresh.**

I'd like to see the *Troub* turn around in ten days or less. In other words, members would have it in their boxes before the end of the month. Obviously, this depends on a few things:

- **You.** Submitting articles on time is key. Also, wherever possible submit electronically, either on a disk or via e-mail. This speeds the process up incredibly (see Lofty Goal #3).

- **Me.** Since I know me pretty well, I know that, barring unforeseen glitches, I can have this baby to the printer by the 18th.

- **The printer/mailer.** This is the first issue with a new mailer. Hopefully, they can give us the service we need. Five days should be enough time to print, fold, sticker, and mail.

see **NUMBERONEWITHABULLET**, page 16



Society Synopsis

Russell Seely, SBM

The transition passed its first test as the new, leaner Society Board met in Sacramento during our midwinter convention.

As if the new "leaner" look wasn't already quite noticeable with the one-elected-for-every-two District representation, that body was divided into two groups prior to the actual Board meeting, one being the planning and program development group and the operations group. The planning group, headed by Ed Waesche, presented the revised Society vision statement, which was adopted by the Board. It reads as follows:

"The Society is to be an ever-growing fraternity of barbershop-style singers, leading in the cause of encouraging vocal music in our schools and commu-

nities."

That statement should tell us that all types of vocal music should be encouraged. For years, we probably suffered from tunnel-vision by not acknowledging the fact that other forms of harmony existed and by not encouraging those forms, we kind of shot ourselves in the foot. In fact, several of my personal "men of note" awards came as a result of attending concerts and festivals that were not dyed-in-the-wool barbershop. Check 'em out, guys. Some of it is not only good music, but it opens doors to possible new prospects as well as giving us new ideas about material-both old and new.

We're happy to announce that your support of our barbershop marketing

see **SEELY**, page 14

Here's to You

David Cole, Executive & Member Services VP

Quartetting with quality -or- Advertising with Competence

Constantly in the business world you are looking for the "biggest bang for your buck" when advertising. How can we get our message to the public more efficiently, and cost effective than ever before?

In our "hobby" of barbershopping there is no better source of efficient and effective advertising than a QUALITY Quartet. Remember the last time you mentioned to someone that you were involved in barbershopping?

Their response was probably, "oh you sing in a quartet" - right? Whether or not you actually sing in a quartet (see next article) is besides the point. The public automatically assumes that if you are involved in barbershopping, that you sing in a quartet.

In any type of advertising campaign, we must decide what we are promoting. Obviously the first answer is a capella music, in the barbershop style. Within that phrase however needs to be the word Quality. If we are to encourage others to join, we must be promoting ourselves with a quality performance—nobody wants to join a mediocre outfit.

Quartets are absolutely the most efficient and effective source of advertising for our society so long as they are performing at a reasonable level of quality. Do they need to be as good as the "Gas House Gang" or "Keep-sake"? Of course not, but they do need to be at a level which is pleasant to the audience's ears. My question to see **COLE**, page 14

Take Note

Fred Kienitz, CDD VP

I have had a hectic and very interesting first two months on my new job. In November, when I agreed to accept this position, I couldn't even spell DVPCDD and two short months later, I "are" one.

I alluded to the fact, in my last report, that this is a brand new idea from the stalwart mind of Eric Jackson and is devoted to the development of better chorus directors. Then I was invited to participate in a training session in Philadelphia on Feb. 21-23.

These people are in the process of training and putting together a group of two-man training teams to help their "customers," i.e. chorus directors, become better tacticians. Now here is why

I am so enthused about this program.

This clinic will be comprised of two trainers, five chorus directors, a chorus provided by the host chapter and video to tape the progress of each director.

There will be an interview session in which every director will define some major problems standing in the way of growth within his chapter chorus. Then, the director will be asked to choose the two biggest problems as he sees them and what he feels could be done by him to help eliminate these problems.

There will also be a general session so each director understands what is happening and who will be responsible see **KIENITZ**, page 13



Passport retires

After two years of barbershop fun and performance, Passport has decided to call it quits. Thank you to all our fans for your support during and after contests and choruses like Detroit Oakland and Windsor, who we have had great fun with. Thanks also to Joel Mills, ONYX, and especially to Brian Kaufman for the tireless hours he put into making the Passport sound.

Everyone should try quartetting !!!
Warmest Regards,
Jim Ryan, Baritone - Passport

Directory Updates

The new Secretary of the Motor City Metro Chapter is:

Steve Ray
6665 Parkland
Dearborn Heights, MI 48127
Home (313) 278-1078
Work (313) 248-6476

Convention Committee:

Don Kill's home address is now
328 East Ash

E-Mail changes:

Ed Fritzen, Chapter Coach (p 8)
ELFritze@net.link.net

Bill Mc Andrew (p 26)
Bill McAndrew@Donnelly.com

Phone Changes:

Thomas Matusezewski,
Saginaw Bay Chapter
(517) 684-7667

Public Relating

Doug Pearson, Marketing & Public Relations VP

Marketing within chapters, District can be improved



As the new man on the District Barbershop Pole, I feel fortunate to have inherited an enthusiastic committee consisting of Jack Clarke (Detroit-Oakland Chap-

ter); Bob Fox (Lansing Chapter); Henry Hedges (Gaylord Chapter); Arthur Lane (Holland Chapter) and Kenneth Rice (Flint Chapter).

Several weeks ago, I sent our committee a letter of introduction, spelling out some of my thoughts regarding the importance of marketing and public relations within our district. Basically, I believe my comments in that letter apply to *all* district members, so let me share some of those thoughts with you:

"To succeed (in the marketing/public relations area) we need a complete team effort, and I'd like to be able to count on each of you as positive contributor... I feel that marketing/public relations integrated with the performing arts

(barbershopping) can be both an *exciting* and *challenging* experience.

"Within our hobby, there are promotion/publicity/PR/marketing opportunities that can be improved on, and many opportunities that haven't been explored. Personally, I feel that too many times in the past, the fine accomplishments within our district have been buried in a bushel basket. Through the work of our committee, we can help change that situation."

The words "our committee" in the last paragraph can be easily changed to "every district member." My goal as your vice president is — with input from all of you — to enhance the image of our District and to increase the public awareness of the District's many good deeds and accomplishments.

Lest you think this is just a lot of empty rhetoric, let me ask you a few questions: What kind of media exposure did you get locally on your last show? Did you contact your local media on your chapter officers for the year? Are you getting local media coverage on your chapter
see **PEARSON**, page 14

More notes from convention

PARKER, from page 3

to 1878, and to reduce the number of competing quartets at the International contest. The Board voted **NOT** to accept the C & J's proposal. This means, one quartet will represent each District (with a minimum score of 1560). All other quartets throughout the Society, who achieve the score of 1824 points or more, will receive an invitation to the "big dance" in Indianapolis.

We are three months into our transition year. So far, I haven't heard of any serious problems. If something arises, please contact me or one of your District Officers. We want you to keep us informed and invite us to help you. We have the tools, the people and the resources to help you iron out the situation.

See you in Lansing at the Spring Convention?

Board Briefs

PIONEER DISTRICT,
SPEBSQSA, INC.
SUMMARY OF MINUTES
DECEMBER 6, 1996

Moved, seconded and carried that the District Senior Quartet Contest be held in conjunction with the fall District Quartet Contest on a one-time trial basis. The competitors will not have to be a registered quartet. They will be able to have an evaluation and may compete in both phases of the contest if they desire. The contestants must register in advance if they desire to have their names included in the draw and have their names added to the program marked with an asterisk. They may enter late and be inserted first or last in the contest, depending on the desires of the contest administrator.

Moved, seconded and carried that Jim Styer proceed with the establishment of the PioNet at a cost of no more than \$10 per month, plus an additional allocation of up to \$120 for the initial establishment of the network.

Moved, seconded and carried that the Pioneer District provide up to \$150 to purchase an external modem for the Vice President - Marketing and Public Relations to enable him to receive E-mail.

Moved, seconded and carried that we waive the registration for any college quartets entered for the spring contest.

Moved, seconded and carried that we allocate up to \$250 to initiate the establishment of credit card capabilities for the District.

Moved, seconded and carried that all events tickets be \$16 in advance, \$20 late registration and \$4 in advance for the ADC show tickets, commencing with the fall convention.

see **MINUTES**, page 7

Convention preregistration still a possibility, but act quickly!

If you or someone you know has yet to register for Spring Convention, simply use the form below. Duplicate the form as needed.

Registrations must be received by April 12, 1997.

1997 PIONEER DISTRICT SPRING CONVENTION
APRIL 25-27, 1997
LANSING, MICHIGAN

CONVENTION REGISTRATION

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

REGISTRANT NAME _____

SPOUSE/GUEST NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____

COMPETING CHORUS? YES ___ NO ___ CHORUS NAME _____

COMPETING QUARTET? YES ___ NO ___ QUARTET NAME _____

CHAPTER NAME _____

VOICE PART: TENOR ___ LEAD ___ BARITONE ___ BASS ___

EARLY REGISTRATION: \$15.00 PER PERSON

LATE REGISTRATION: \$20.00 PER PERSON

EARLY REGISTRATION MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN APRIL 12, 1997.

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

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: PIONEER DISTRICT S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., INC.

MAIL CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM AND FEE TO:

Stan Williams
421 Franklin Street
Leslie, MI 49251

NOTE: ALL EVENT PASSES WILL BE AT THE CONVENTION REGISTRATION DESK, LOCATED IN THE SHERATON LANSING HOTEL (HEADQUARTERS). SINGLE-EVENT TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED AT THE CONVENTION REGISTRATION DESK OR WAVERLY HIGH SCHOOL: FRIDAY \$10.00; SATURDAY NOON \$10.00; SATURDAY EVENING \$10.00. CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER FREE.

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

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

District convention facilities are handicap accessible. Please indicate any special requirements you need to fully participate.

All quartets invited to participate in Chorditorium

All quartets who are in attendance Saturday evening of the Spring Convention will be invited to sing at the Chorditorium. The room will no longer be in the lobby of the Sheraton, so it should be more conducive to hearing them perform.

Furthermore, if any present or former quartet men have any suggestions how to make the room better, I would appreciate hearing from them.

I can be reached the following ways:

e-mail: M0donn5307@aol.com

snail mail: 2510 4 Mile Rd NE,

Grand Rapids, MI, 49505

(w) 616-451-2857

(h) 616-363-1368.

Yours in Harmony,

Mike O'Donnell

Hospitality and Chorditorium Chair

FIREPOWER!

A BARBERSHOP EXPLOSION

Mark Wilson
Jeff Marks

Jamie Carey
James Hawkins

Contact: Jeff Marks (517) 663-8158
333 N. Waverly Road, Eaton Rapids, MI 48827

Unlawful ASSEMBLY



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Gene

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Gene Hanover

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616 - 465 - 6223

Gary

Ed

HOT OPPORTUNITY

**Are you
enthusiastic?**

**Looking for a chance to
show everyone your stuff?**

**Well then,
READ ON!!**

**The men of the
Motor City Metro Chapter
are actively seeking an
experienced, talented,
dynamic, team-oriented
and dedicated individual
to fill a position as our
beloved Director!!**

One of your objectives will be to help create/to help rebuild/to become a part of a chorus that's planning to win the upcoming Pioneer District's Fall 1997 competition!! We practice every Wednesday @ 7:30 p.m in Dearborn, Michigan!!

For More Information:
Contact Joe Queen
(V.P. of Music & Performance):
Work (313) 248-8501
Home (810) 398-5313
E-mail: USFMCSLJ@ibmmail.com

PioNet offers members online forum, information source

Jim Styer
PioNet operator

More than 50 barbershoppers have signed on to PioNet, the district's electronic message service, since it began operation Feb. 1.

These include members of 21 of the 29 Pioneer District chapters, along with a member of the new Delta/Esanaba chapter in the Upper Peninsula (Land 'O Lakes District), six other barbershoppers from other districts and a member of the Acafellas, a vocal group at Michigan State University.

Still not represented are eight chapters: Cadillac, Flint, Grosse Pointe, Jackson, Monroe North, Sault Ste. Marie, Swan Valley and Wayne.

PioNet is what they call an automated listserv, like the Society's Harmonet.

Any e-mail messages sent to PioNet are automatically sent to all subscribers.

If you sign up, though, don't worry about your e-mail box being filled with lots of stuff. PioNet traffic has been low

to start with, only one or two messages a day. Its growth can't be predicted, other than to say that it depends whether you sign on and how much you participate.

PioNet is used to share chapter, division and district announcements, information and ideas with other barbershoppers and chapters in Pioneer.

You also can ask questions, get answers, bring up your concerns and praises, and generally get involved in e-mail chats about anything that affects your Pioneer barbershop life.

If things work out right, for example, I hope to post the quartet and chorus draw for spring competition as soon as I get the info by e-mail. I will be posting scores from the contest on PioNet, and hope to work with the Troubadour and district officers in developing more ways to get info quickly to chapters via PioNet. It's your link to speedy news to and from other chapters and the district.

If you want to sign on, send e-mail to jimstyer@voyager.net. And ... it's free!

Board Briefs, cont.

MINUTES, from page 5

Moved, seconded and carried that the laptop computer, previously used for the C & J scoring program, be donated to an appropriate charitable organization and its disposition be reported back at the spring Board meeting.

Moved, seconded and carried that Articles X, District Committees, XVI, Duties of Standing Committees, and XVII, Contest, from the previous by-laws, be carried over to the new by-laws.

Moved, seconded and carried that Article 12.2 of the new District By-laws be deleted and replaced with Article XI, Dissolution, from the previous By-laws.

Moved, Seconded and carried that the fall preliminary quartet contest on Fri-

day evening start at 7:30 p.m.

The motion that the spring preliminary quartet contest start at 7:30 was defeated.

Moved, seconded and carried that the Grand Rapids chapter be designated as the Host Chapter for the 1998 spring convention.

Moved, seconded and carried that the supply of District coffee mugs in our inventory be used as judges and faculty gifts until the supply is exhausted.

Moved, seconded and carried that the 1997 budget be accepted as modified and presented to the House of Delegates for approval.

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Schneider,
District Secretary

Chapters in Action

Rochester

by Al Fisk
Director/Bulletin Editor

Greetings from the Rochester Chapter. Well, the Heart of the Hills Chorus just completed another very successful round of Singing Valentines. We spent two days delivering almost 100 messages of love with our proceeds going to the Rochester Leader Dog for the Blind School as well as Heartspring (One quartet performed two songs on the channel seven noon news at their Southfield studio!).

Under the inspirational guidance of Lyle Howard and Garry Glomstead, the Rochester Chapter hosted its first annual Old-fashioned Barbershop Night on February 27.

Over 60 men from six chapters (Rochester, Macomb County, Pontiac, Detroit/Oakland, Grosse Pointe, and Flint) enjoyed an evening of gang singing, tags, woodshedding, quarteting, food, and fellowship. (We even performed Irish Blessing for the church handbell choir, who, in turn, did a rendition of Coney Island Baby on the bells for us! It was cool!)

Lyle would like to see other chapters follow our lead and revive this old chapter night concept of quarteting, woodshedding, and fun.

About 1/3 of our guys are now on the Internet, thus making communication easier and quicker. By the way, kudos to Jim Styer for all of his efforts in setting up the PioNet. On a personal note, I would recommend all of your netters to sign up for both the PioNet and the Harmonet. (Contact Jim or myself - Altonfisk@aol.com - for more info.)

Our Barbershopper of the Year Award went to Mr. Don Lewis for his tremendous efforts in organizing and running

(along with Frank Mirasola) our Singing Valentines program. Don has also served as our secretary, church liaison, and all around neat dude! Attaboy, Don!

The Rochester Chapter Officers are:

PRESIDENT
Dan Bajorek
PAST PRESIDENT
Bob McCaffrey
SECRETARY
Tom Tailford
TREASURER
Scott Young
VP COMMUNICATIONS
Eric Matus
VP MEMBERSHIP
Dave Pearcy
VP MUSIC
Wes Tomlinson
BOARD AT LARGE
George Schmidt

See ya in Lansing where we hope to maintain or improve last year's Third Place finish!!

Peace.

Saginaw Bay

by Ralph Brown
Bulletin Editor

Hello again from Bay City where the Sun always shines! Before I get started with updates on our recent activities, our Chapter members want to thank Bill Tobias for the excellent job he did on short notice with the last issue of the *Troubadour*. It is comforting to know that our District has such depth of talent so ready and willing to step in during a time of need. We are confident that Gordon Gunn would sing your praises if he were here today.

We would also like to welcome Chad Sanders to the helm and I personally am already appreciative for his talents and

computer competence.

Now to matters at hand. As was mentioned in the last issue, our Chapter expects to reach the number fifty in membership by June and we are pleased to announce the signing of four new members; Wayne Davis, Dennis Datte, Patrick Morand, Robert Lamkin and we're looking for more.

As we all know as singers, the more the merrier, and that reminds me of a happening in a recent sing-out our Chapter had in Midland. When the arrangements were made with the host, the conversation was centered around having barbershoppers perform with a variety of songs to satisfy a mixed crowd of all ages and musical persuasion.


When we were entering the room for the performance, we filed in and we were about twenty in number, and a remark was heard from someone in the audience: "how many do they have in that quartet?!" Apparently they didn't realize there is such a thing as a chorus in barbershop.

Thanks to the efforts of member Dave Donnelly, we traveled to Ann Arbor on the 8th of March to see and of course hear "The Phantom of The Chorus" by Huron Valley Chapter's Harmonizer Chorus. The program featured the ACOUSTIX.

We rented a bus and had a group of over forty 'rolling down the avenue' singing and joking and generally having a grand old time. As usually happens on an adventure like that, we had some fun things happen which is what memories are made of. The family "Von Meldrum," Randy and children Dan, Steve, and daughter Allison, treated us with song. They have a special sound! I think if one listened real close he would hear Randy's mom humming along, but, then what do I know?

See everyone in Lansing if not before.

Bruce Craig Mike Brian



ONYX
Barbershop Quartet

(810) 474-1488



Fanfare
an a cappella ensemble

Marv Moran (313) 459-4218
Bob Wisdom (810) 879-7083

Chapters in Action

Motor City Metro

by Richard Shattuck
VP, Chapter Development

Many of you may be surprised to see The City Lights under the heading "Pioneer Chapters in Action." As the old saying goes, and I know most of you are old enough to remember it, "The rumor if our death has been greatly exaggerated." Yes, it has been some time since we last appeared in the *Troubadour*, so I will try to bring you up to date.

About this time last year, we moved our rehearsals out of the Detroit Edison complex, where we had enjoyed the free use of their facilities for almost five years. We thank Detroit Edison for their accommodations. City Lights still rehearses every Wednesday evening at 7:30, but now we are located in the Mackenzie Fine Arts Building on the campus of Henry Ford Community College. The campus is located on the west side of Evergreen Road, south of Ford Road in Dearborn. Personally, I'm not sure what to make of singing barbershop in a Fine Arts building. I guess we have risen to new heights.

During the fall, at a small but very special event, we performed for the Fiftieth Reunion of the First Special Forces. They sure enjoyed our closer: "Battle Hymn of the Republic."

Our fall show, "Mary Lou," was held in November. It included a fine script written around our repertoire by Denny Gore and narrated by that marvelous orator, Lee Hanson. City Lights was joined on the show by a couple of groups that can really entertain a crowd: "Power Play" and "The Spirit of Detroit" Sweet Adeline's Chorus. What else do you sing when you get onstage with a bunch of ladies besides Lida Rose? City Lights is moving its annual show to the Spring

this year, so here comes "The Melody Lingers On," a salute to the life and music of Irving Berlin, in May. Included in the show will be "Chicago Natural Gas" and "Prime Time."

After more than two years of fine directions, Matt Coombs and City Lights have chosen to go their separate ways. We thank Matt for all of his hard work and patience. Many of us learned an awful lot from him about the intricacies of barbershop music and we thank him for that. Now, the Board is in the process of looking for that right director that will reignite the City Lights so that we can continue our short but proud history in the competitive arena. Faced with the immediate need for an Interim Director, we were surprised to find the talent already on board in the name of Andy Brenz. Andy sang with "The Mile High Chorus" in Denver before coming to us. While with them, he acted as an Assistant Director.

Following in the footsteps of Bob Whitley, Mike Slamka and Matt Coombs may not be easy, but Andy is showing us yet another refreshing facet of chorus direction and we are enjoying it.

This year, Joe Queen is our Chapter Vice President for Music and Performance. In his new role, Joe has really latched onto the old bull by the horns and redesigned our rehearsal agenda. It now includes more time for such things as quarteting, "learning the barbershop craft," gang singing, tag singing, etc. We are having a lot of fun and, at the same time, Andy has us working hard to learn nine new Irving Berlin numbers for our May show.

In February, Larry King was kind enough to perform the honors at our annual Chapter Officer Installation Night - COIN. This year's officers are Roger Davidson as President, Joe Queen as Vice President of Music and Performance, Richard Shattuck as Vice President of Chapter Development, Steve Ray as Secretary, Paul Lammers as Treasurer, Chuck Hatch and John Szewc as Board Members at large and Ed Conn as past President. Also that evening,

Harold Pashby (bass and sometime tenor) was announced as our Barbershopper of the Year by popular vote of the chorus.

In closing, if you find yourself in Dearborn some Wednesday evening, stop by Henry Ford Community College and ring a few chords with us.

Huron Valley

by John Paglione
Newsletter Editor

The Huron Valley Harmonizers have had a very busy month. This extra activity culminated in the presentation of our annual show on March 8, 1997 when the chapter presented "The Phantom of the Chorus" at the University of Michigan Power Center for the Performing Arts in Ann Arbor. The hard work by the chorus during the previous months to prepare for the big night sure paid off.

Everything about the evening was flawless. The chorus' singing was great (if I say so myself), the set and scenery prepared and assembled by Darrell Richmond was colorful, and the acting by the Phantom, AKA Ed Pendleton, was a great hit with the audience.

The chorus performed a total of seven numbers under the direction of Jim Stephens, Chorus Director and, it should be noted, 1997 Huron Valley Barbershopper of the Year. Assisting Jim with directing duties during the evening was J. Kelly Brummett.

The audience was also entertained by the singing of two fine quartets during the evening, Camaraderie and Mutual Accord. Camaraderie is made up Matt Coombs, Kelly Brummett, Jim Stephens, and Bob Wisdom, while the Mutual Accord personnel are Lyle Hanson, John Peterson, Dick Ender, and Dick Bauman.

Also featured during the show was an octet made up of chorus members singing "Goodnight Sweetheart".

The featured quartet for the show this year was "Acoustix," the 1990 Interna-
see **HURON**, page 10

Chapters in Action

HURON, from page 9

tional Quartet Champions, hailing from Dallas, Texas and made up of Todd Wilson, Rick Middaugh, Jason January, and Joel Rutherford.

Joel, originally from Kitchener, Ontario, has only been with the group for a few weeks. But that didn't affect the singing or entertainment of the group in the least. Acoustix was the second act of the show and left the audience cheering for more, especially after their inspiring rendition of "God Bless America."

Following the show, the chorus members and their guests adjourned to the Michigan League Ballroom for the afterglow. Relaxed and happy after a successful evening, those in attendance had another opportunity to enjoy Camaraderie, Mutual Accord, and Acoustix.

In other news, the chorus installed their 1997 officers during a dinner ceremony on February 25, 1997. This year's officers include Tom Skylis, President; John Jones, Development Vice President; Jim Stephens, Chorus Director; J. Kelly Brummett, Assistant Chorus Director and Music/Performance Vice President; Dick Bauman, Treasurer; Darrell Richmond, Secretary; John Hancock, Public Relations Officer; and John Paglione and Dick Reinholt, Members at Large.

Officers, chorus members and their guests were entertained by Mutual Accord and participated in singing some of our show tunes. Officers were officially installed by Dave Anderson, Macomb County Chapter. Dave stressed the need for teamwork to advance the goals of the Chapter and SPEBSQSA.

We hope to see many of you at the Chapter Convention in April.

"It's great to be a Barbershopper."

Grosse Pointe

by Nick Piccione

Great things are happening in Grosse Pointe.... cases in "pointe":

1. How proud we were when our own "Silver Domes" won the Seniors Quartet Contest at the District Convention. As our legendary Director Russ Seely (lead), our esteemed Program VP John Wade (bass), and those two quartet competitors extraordinaire John Wearing (tenor) and John Seeman (baritone) set out for Sacramento, we had great expectations. We were not disappointed... sixth place... WOW!!

2. It didn't take long for our new president Grand Irishman Mike Sullivan, to exercise his influence. The Grosse Pointe annual show (set for May 9 and 10) is titled "Grosse Pointe Goes a Bit Irish."

Start with songs like: "Great Day for the Irish," "Mother Machree," "Shanty in Old Shanty Town," to name just a few... add script and humor from the prolific mind of Russ Seely... music assistance from Mike Proffitt and Director Steve Pauling... stage it in a couple of Irish pubs... and you know the chorus is already having a good time with it.

Mike professes he had nothing to do with picking the Irish theme of the show... yeah, sure!

3. On March 22, the Celebrity Cruise Ship "Century" embarks from Fort Lauderdale with about 60 Grosse Pointe barbershoppers, wives, etc. aboard for a week in the Caribbean. Ports of call include Ocho Rios (Jamaica), Grand Cayman, Cazumel and Key West. Bring your tuxes, guys, we may have to show them some Pioneer District harmony.

4. Ray Starrette's Annual Chapter Golf Trip takes place on May 14, 15 and 16. Because of the tight schedule this year, the annual West Virginia location has been changed to Howell, Michigan. Always a great three days of sport and song!

5. Throw in the pot luck dinner and Auction in February, Ladies' night in March, Convention in April, weekly prac-

tices and assorted singouts and you can understand why my wife, Joan, wonders:

"What is this sort of madness and such,
That these guys hang together so much.
It just seems to me,
Even singing off key,
Does not keep them from staying in touch."

Grand Rapids

by Dick Williams

Oops, it seems I made a booboo when I listed our 1997 officers in the last *Troub*. Some guys just can't take a joke. Well, excuse me Dan, Paul. You see, I had "Big" Dan Casamatta as VP of Special Events instead of VP of Chapter Development, whereas that tall, handsome sonofagun Paul Kamysek is the VP of Special Events, not Dan... happy now, guys?!!

Our Singing Valentine program was a huge success, with over 160 sold. Not too shabby. If this wasn't a family publication, I could tell you some really outrageous stories of some of those valentine experiences. WOW!

After chorus practice on Feb. 25, we held our annual inter-chapter quartet contest, always a riot. After the smoke cleared and all the threats and bribes were given, the winners were "Toomata," featuring the smooth vocals of those rascals of sweet harmony, Tom Frens, Peter Westers, Wayne Kinde, and Paul Slack. Everyone a ringer, but they did a nice job anyway.

Coming up on Tuesday, March 18 is a performance at Porter Hill Presbyterian Village for the seasoned citizens with practice to follow our performance. Then, three days later, we have our Spring Show, which will be held at the St. Celcilla Music Society Building. We are looking forward to both as we prepare for the coming Spring Contest and these couple of performances will help us in this preparation.

Speaking of contests, we will be hosting the 1998 Spring Contest, which is always a lot of fun.

We are looking forward to seeing all of you this Spring and renewing old friendships and making new ones.

See you in Lansing.

Chapters in Action

Detroit-Oakland

by Tom Uicker
Bulletin Editor

By all accounts, we have pulled off another great show this year. Our guest quartets – Marquis, 1995 International Champs, and Cornerstone, 1995 Buckeye Invitational Champs – were masters onstage.

We can also take pride in the Gentlemen Songsters Chorus with our own chapter quartets – Crosstown Exchange, Four Note Trump, and Harmony Delegation. If you missed the show, then make a note. Next year's show is Feb. 20&21, 1998.

Late February and the month of March are traditionally show months for our chapter. After the show is over, some of our hardworking chorus members go searching for warmer climates and a well-deserved rest.

This year, however, the pace hasn't slowed down. The Gentlemen Songsters have held two more performances since our show, at local churches, and our Daytime Singers have also held two performances this month.

We usually hold a special "Guest Night" shortly after the show. This year we had eleven prospective members attend the first meeting. More than half came back the next week, and several are anxious to sign up. So, our show was a success in another way.

Neither has our chapter meeting night slowed down. With two performances under our belt and two more coming in May, we have to keep our repertoire polished.

We are also polishing our contest package for the spring convention. And we already started on new material for next year's show.

Other articles have probably stated

that Detroit-Oakland is hosting the coming spring convention. Several people are already working on making it another rousing success.

We look forward to seeing you in Lansing on the last weekend in April. If you miss us there, stop by some Monday night at Starr Presbyterian church in Royal Oak.

Lansing

Doug Pearson
VP, Marketing & Public Relations

With an enthusiastic membership of more than 100 hard-singing ambassadors of song, the Lansing Chapter and its Capitol City Chordsmen have ushered in the quarter of 1997 with resounding impact.

A highlight of the jam-packed agenda of activities was our annual show at the impressive Wharton Center on the campus of Michigan State University. Performing before a packed audience of some 2,300, our chapter once again outdid itself with a fast-paced show of mirth and melody.

With a radio theme of "Less Talk, More Music," the show featured our own District Champions Capitol City Chordsmen, plus the comedy antics of 1996 international Fourth Place Medalist FRED, District Champion FIREPOWER!, plus our chapter quartets Patch Chords and Gallery.

The successful show was only the beginning of what we know will be a productive year under President Brian Dunckel and Music Director Jamie Carey.

In addition to Brian, other officers for the year are Don Ryal, Chapter Development VP; Monte Bates, Music & Performance VP; Mike Taylor, Programming VP; Blaine Simon, Secretary; Larry Parker, Treasurer; Al Blankenship, Three-Year Board Member; Eric Golke, Two-Year board Member; and Dave Toman, One-Year Board Member. Rounding out our leadership

cadre is a top-gun crew of associate music directors, section leaders and committee chairmen.

Putting some added bounce into the recently national-televised cage game between MSU and Indiana, the Chordsmen entertained a capacity crowd at half-time with stirring renditions of "McNamara's Band" and "Darkness on the Delta."

It was a real kick singing in front of 15,000 appreciative fans plus thousands more in TV land, and knowing that our enthusiasm spurred the Spartans on to a hard-fought victory over the nationally-ranked Hoosiers.

Capitalizing on a good PR opportunity, a couple of our hardworking quartets spent Valentine's Day serenading individuals and groups throughout the area.

And before we move on to a few of our future plans, I'd like to pay tribute to my friend and former quartet compatriot Don Horton, who received the well-deserved honor of Lansing Chapter Barbershopper of the Year for 1996. Congratulations, Mister Bari!

Our future endeavors are shaping up to be as productive as our recent past efforts. They include "farewell" performances at April's District Convention as 1996 District Chorus Champions; a performance at a Lansing Lugnuts minor league baseball game, and a special coaching session with International's Jim DeBussman.

The future also holds a performance at a statewide education conference; Sunday Singers performances at various local churches; a Ladies Night dinner; a weekend chorus retreat south of Cadillac, plus a number of area engagements by our own various chapter quartets.

Needless to say (but gee whiz, I'll say it anyway), I can't think of a single Lansing chapter member whose arteries are not clogged with four-part harmony and who's not looking forward with exuberance to our jam-packed calendar of exciting upcoming musical events.

Chapters in Action

Holland

Art Lane
Bulletin Editor

Sixteen members of the Holland Chapter rushed around the city delivering more than 117 Singing Valentines on a chilly February 14. They found the hearts of many of the recipients warmed by the expressions of love they conveyed on behalf of spouses or friends. And the singers found that they, too, were moved by delivering many messages of love.

Some of the performers called Singing Valentines the best barbershop experience they ever had.

After 12 hours on the streets in tuxedos, the four quartets met for a buffet and afterglow at the Holland Elks. The singers included Tom Whitney, Steve Foster, Perry Mellifont, Bob Eastman, Dick Plaisted, Al Plantenga, Les Swieringa, Art Lane, Darrell VandeHoef, Dave Cole, Dale Bekker, Don Gutheil, Karl Klomparens, Jack Oonk, Mike Oonk and John Ozinga.

Steve Foster chaired Holland's first Singing valentines effort. We thank him for making the project more successful than anybody expected.

Proceeds will go toward the chapter's planned singing trip to the Netherlands in the fall of 1998.

The next fundraiser is a show in Allegan, with participation of young people from the singing program at Allegan High School.

Looking further ahead, the Holland Chapter is planning a weekend barbershop campout at its Chester P. Oonk Memorial Tag Contest. The weekend of barbershopping will be July 18, 19 and 20 at Saugatuck Campground, near Holland. It will include an outdoor show, tag teaching, tag singing, tag contest, swimming, golf and a barbershop Sunday service. Families of the Pioneer Dis-

trict are invited. For information, call (616) 335-2218.

Holland Chapter President Dick Plaisted has been installed for his second term and named the chapter's Barbershopper of the Year. He was honored for his quiet but effective leadership, focusing on goals of membership, singing quality, quartet activity and well-planned chapter meetings.

Dick also designed a survey of member views and published the results. He lined up talent for shows. He started work toward a planned trip to the Netherlands.

Previously, Dick was treasurer and co-chair of the chapter's 50th anniversary celebration in 1995.

Since starting a career in barbershopping in 1957, Dick has hung his straw hat in Minneapolis, Bloomington, Minnesota, Arcadia, California and Memphis, Tennessee. The Minneapolis chapter named this well-organized leader Barbershopper of the Year in the 1970s.

Our friend and Harmony Hound Roger Lewis graciously came to town and installed Holland officers for 1997; President Dick Plaisted, Secretary Dale Bekker, treasurer Jim Essenburg, VP of Chapter Development Dave Cole, VP of Music and Performance Mike Oonk, Chorus Director Myke Lucad, Bulletin Editor Art Lane and Board Members at Large Bill McAndrew and Steve Foster.

Officers of the Holland Chapter attended Chapter Operations Training Seminar and came home fired up about barbershopping in 1997. The chapter met in January to discuss what members want from their hobby, and President Dick Plaisted drafted a mission statement which the board accepted and sent to the chapter for approval.

Barbershopper of the Month for November was Mike Oonk, assistant director. Mike directed the 1996 Christmas concert. He sings in a barbershop quartet, a mixed quartet, with a band, and for any occasion.

Darrell VandeHoef was named barbershopper of the Month for Decem-

ber. He is an assistant director and directs the chapter's Sunday Singers, which performs at area church services.

Bill McAndrew was volunteered to create a web page for the Holland Chapter which would be linked to Pioneer and Society pages, offering the wandering barbershopper a virtual path to our door.

Macomb County

Roy Gurney
Music/Performance VP

As you read this, we have already had our well-attended Spring Dinner Show at the Mt. Clemens Elks Club. The price went up a couple bucks, but we hosted Grand Prix, Sweet Adelines extraordinaire, and our great District Champs, FIREPOWER! These shows are a lot of fun and we do well financially with them. The Elks Club membership says they can sell the whole house from their own membership. How about that?

Plans are being developed for our Summer Retreat. It will be held at a campground about 50 miles west of our meeting place and will be billed as a family affair, with lots of things for the family to do while we indulge ourselves in barbershop coaching most of the day on Saturday, August 2. Then, to show what we have learned, we will entertain the campers Saturday evening. This is expected to be a memorable activity.

Also in the works are plans to have a Pig Roast in June as well as various performances around the area. The "Quarter Quartet Quontest" has been resurrected and the next one will be held at our meeting place on Tuesday, May 13, starting at 8:00 p.m. You are all invited to come and enjoy. Bring a quartet or put one together when you get here. Either way, I guarantee you will have a good time.

With international so close to us, I'm sure we will have a large contingent at the convention. I will be looking forward to the performance by the Great Lakes Chorus, And, of course, my old chapter, Buckeye Ohio, who will be sharing the contest with Western Hills. And, best of

all, my son-in-law singing bass with Uptown Sound, who placed 19th last year. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Last month, we surprised the Grosse Pointe Chapter with the JUG and had a great time (how can anybody go to a Grosse Pointe Chapter meeting and not have a great time?). And some of us went to the fun night at Rochester, another great time.

Harmony Roundup is another musical stop that is a great benefit to all barbershoppers. The benefits and good times can't be beat. If we all support it and attend, our HEP schools will be the best around. The Macomb County Chapter will pay half of the cost for any members who will attend this District school.

Pontiac

Richard Johnson
Treasurer

On Friday April 4th we will host our 41st annual Woodshed Contest at the Waterford CAI building at 5640 Williams Lake Road in Waterford, Michigan. It always is a fun evening of pickup quartets challenging each other from a posted song list of old favorites.

We provide words but no arrangements (the competitors must woodshed). It is a blast. The winners (judged by a local prominent quartet) each get the coveted winning badge representing their part. The chapter with the most singing participants takes home the also coveted Bennington Trophy to savor for a year with their name added to the bronze plate of winning chapters of past years.

It costs \$2.00 at the door... participants should be there by 8:00 p.m. to start signing up. To level out the playing field and guard against RINGERS a set of rules have been developed allowing only two members from one chapter to sing in a quartet. There are some others but I'm sure you get the picture. If you want more information call Dick Johnson at 810-363-5173 or use PioNet.

Come one come all and meet the challenge!

Take Note, cont.

KIENITZ, from page 4

for solving these problems. Please allow me to allude to the first article in which I stated that whatever happens within the chorus, good or bad is the fault of the director. Thus, nagging problems are the director's fault, steady growth is the director's fault, or winning International contest is the director's fault.

In the second half of this workshop, the director will work with the guest chorus and the trainer will serve as his coach. This session will be one-on-one and information will pass from trainer to director in a quick huddle conference and then right back to work. No one else will hear the discussion within these huddle sessions because this information is only for the director who is working at the time.

At the end of this workshop, the director and trainer will review and critique the tape, talk about progress and additional ideas the director might use with his own chorus. Then he may go back to his home chapter, taking his video tape for future reference and a much better outlook on his position as chapter chorus director. At this point, I will insert my phone number 1-810 - 750-8259 in case any of you wish to discuss this further.

You may be asking yourself, "why all the emphasis on chorus and chorus directors, since this is a quartet society?" That is a good point and should be addressed.

Our society was formed so that four guys could get together and sing and it did just that! Unfortunately, we began attracting guys with little or no experience in singing harmony and thus the

chapter chorus became the training center for these men.

One seldom hears of a group put together outside a chapter and then joining the society. Most quartets surface from within a chapter or a culmination of two or even three chapters. But the fact remains that most quartet personnel come from within an organized barbershop chorus.

This chorus, then, is the lifeblood or the heart of this chapter. It is the single most important provider of experience and excitement for the "new" guy off the street. And, like it or not the guiding force as to the success or failure of any given chapter is its director.

Look around you and every chapter that is struggling is doing so because it lacks a strong music team to direct onward and upward. International is aware of this we should be cognizant of this fact.

Do not say that this is not a problem: Fifty years ago you probably planned to grow up and ultimately die in the same county in which you were born. Today, we are a more transient society, and people are constantly on the move. We need to prepare ourselves for this possibility.

Take the responsibility to get your directors and assistants to directors school and our Mini Hep Round-ups for education. Remember, they are learning so they can help you be better singers. Consider the costs involved and stand ready to handle or share the costs of these training sessions.

Any way you look at it, you come out the winner.

Art Cardy - Tenor
Dave Hundt - Lead

Larry Wise - Bass
Larry Parker - Baritone

GALLERY

An Entertaining Barbershop Quartet

For information, contact
Larry Parker
1416 New York Avenue
Lansing, MI 48906
(517) 372-8380
or David at
(517) 669-1158

THE HARMONY HOUNDS

Pedigree: Barbershoppers

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

Society Synopsis, cont.

SEELY, from page 3

resulted in a record high in merchandise sales for 1996. That, coupled with a successful convention in Salt Lake City, gave us a better-than-expected surplus for the year. Thanks for your support.

You're probably aware that the qualifying score for quartets will remain at 1824 for a double panel and 2736 for a triple panel. Incidentally, the registrations for Indy, by the end of December, were a very healthy 8,000+. We appreciate the response of these "early" registrants, but we probably have top admit that the discounted price helped. The current price for a full registration at our annual convention now escalated to

\$90.00. If you wait 'til convention week, it'll cost you another \$10.00.

And while we're on the subject of conventions, you lucky guys from Hilltop and Grand Rapids MUST have a full registration to be legal on the contest stage.

Finally (and unfortunately), a \$25.00 administrative fee will be assessed quarterly to chapters who have fallen below 12 members.

I'm personally looking forward to the Pioneer convention in Lansing, Michigan, as well as my first visit to St. Cloud, Minnesota for the Land O' Lakes convention. This Board member loves to sing, so please invite me to at least try a tag with you.

Here's to You, cont.

COLE, from page 4

the chapters' music teams, is simply — Who is approving your chapter quartets for singouts? We need to maintain a level of quality singing, both in quartets, and in choruses when we are singing to the public. The chapter's music team can help. Other help is available from your district, via chapter coaches, music and performance specialists, and our Mini-HEP school. Take advantage of these programs, and you will be able to reach

new levels of quality singing.

We have some very powerful assets within our own chapters. All we need to do, is take advantage of them. All of the positive comments via the PioNet re: Singing Valentines proves how powerful quartets can be. The quartet is absolutely our best asset. So let's do some quality advertising with quality quartets, and continue our membership growth by attracting quality singers.

Public Relating, cont.

PEARSON, from page 5

and quartet performances during the year? Are you working closely with your local schools to promote barbershopping? If you have negative answers to these questions, then it's probably time to get moving on a solid public relations program.

Gentlemen, we have an exciting, vibrant hobby. Because of our performing skills, it's a hobby that puts us constantly in the public eye and therefore lends itself beautifully to positive community exposure. I believe we should view every one of our many activities as a golden PR opportunity.

Need some help? Have some suggestions? Success stories? Feel like just shooting the musical bull? Then drop me a line at 4710 W. Saginaw, Suite 2-B, Lansing, MI 48917, or call me at (517) 886-1699. I'd love to hear from you!

In the meantime, we intend to communicate with your chapter presidents on a regular basis, find out what problem areas might exist in the area of public relations, and establish and implement a solid marketing/public relations strategy consistent with the International's goals and objectives. In advance, thanks for your support and may all your chords be good ones.

You've just finished the **best show** you can remember.

You're **excited.**

The **WHOLE CHORUS** is excited.

Now that it's over, you can relax, reminisce, and...

Not yet you can't.

Before the moment's gone, put it down in words.

Then **send it** to the *Troubadour*.

e-mail it.

snail mail it.

fax it.

FedEx it.

Western Union it.

However you get it there,

You Must Submit!

Because, **face it...**

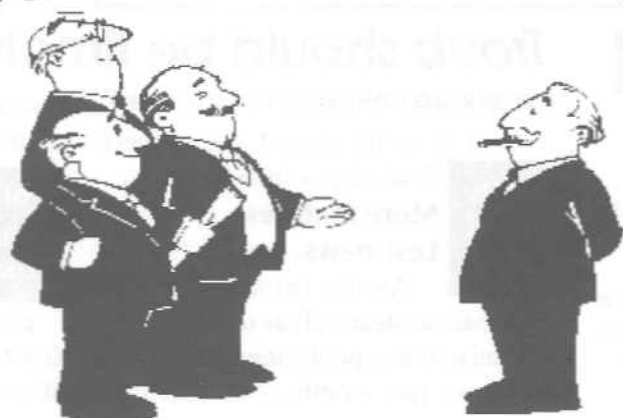
if you want your horn tooted, you better **be the one blowin'.**

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



Be sure to mark your calendar for the
Motor City Metro Chapter's Spring Show because...

IRVING'S BACK!!!!



Saturday, May 10, 1997 @ 8:00 p.m.
Mercy H.S. Auditorium, Farmington Hills
All Seats \$12.00 - General Admission

Featuring . . .

& *Chicago Natural Gas* - a comedy quartet

Prime Time - Land O' Lakes District Champs

For tickets or more information call:

Pete Morris
(810) 624-8454

or

Joe Queen
(313) 248-8501

e-mail: USFMCSLJ@ibmmail.com

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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

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| April 5 | Muskegon Show |
| April 5 | Sault Ste. Marie Show |
| April 12 | Battle Creek Show |
| April 25-27 | District Contest |
| May 10 | Motor City Metro Show |
| May 9-10 | Grosse Pointe Show |
| May 10 | Boyne City Show |
| May 16 | Holland Show |
| May 16-18 | Harmony Round-up |
| June 6-7 | Traverse City Show |
| September 13 | Alpena 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 07 | Lansing Show |
| March 14 | Kalamazoo Show |
| March 28 | Muskegon Show |
| March 28 | Monroe North Show |
| April 24-26 | District Contest |
| October 16-18 | District Contest |
| October 24 | Rochester Show |
| November 6-7 | 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
B (616) 771-5225

Troub should be timely and poignant

NUMBERONEWITHABULLET, from page 3

Goal #1 is the easiest one to meet.

Lofty Goal No. 2

Goal #2 is a little tougher...

More features, Less news.

As the Information Age continues to steamroll us over, we need to realize that a publication that comes out every two months – in which the best-case scenario is for news that’s two weeks old (worst-case two and a half months) – is not the medium people are using for current news. We need a new angle.

When the *Troub* reports who won at contest, there aren’t many who haven’t heard the news. It’s not the facts that make the story interesting, it’s the *angle*. Instead of rehashing the performance sets of the winners, we should be explaining what kind of effort the winners had to make to grab the top spot. How did it feel to sing Saturday night? Even better, let’s cover what it’s like to work your butt off and snag fourth. Disappointing, or no big deal? Do others feel the same way?

Chapters are doing so many cool things out there, and some are mentioned under “Chapters in Action.” But why not write a feature about it? Send photos, quotes from chorus members, get a front page! How about a photostory? Call me, let’s figure something out.

We can’t get rid of the important news

that needs to get to every member. But there’s a lot of space taken up by material that everyone’s already heard.

Lofty Goal No. 3

Get Digital.

Even though I sit listening to *Abba Gold* on my computer as I type this, I realize that the future is now. This issue was created entirely on computer and taken to the printer on a disk. If the photos look dark or strange, think of them as a work in progress. We’re learning how to make things as clean and fast as possible.

Which brings me back to submissions. Articles sent as e-mail attachments were a godsend this ish. The ad on page 15 was e-mailed to me, which alone saved at least 15 minutes’ work. If you’re not online and your article is done a few days before the deadline, mail me the disk. Of course, I’ll still retype faxes and mailed letters, but every little bit helps.

You hold in your hands a powerful tool... a means of communicating with *every single* member of the Pioneer District. As your new *Troubadour* editor, I hope to change the way members view their bulletin, making it an even more vital, timely and entertaining publication than it already is.

By the way, I just met Lofty Goal #4: Listen to *Abba Gold* five times through and suppress any desire for pastel polyester and ruffled shirts.