

# Pioneer Troubadour

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



## OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

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## Convention brings mix of the familiar and the new

Autumn means many things: color tours, football, shorter days and cooler nights. For barbershoppers in the Pioneer District, it means something more: Fall Convention.

This year, the convention will bring many familiar faces, as well as some new features.

Familiar to most will be the International Representative for the weekend, Pioneer's own Society Board Member, Russell Seely. The emcee for Saturday night's quartet finals is once again the esteemed Doran McTaggart.

### PIONEER DISTRICT FALL CONVENTION October 17-10, 1997

The quartet contest will see some changes this year. The contest will begin a half-hour earlier, at 7:30 p.m., to allow for the revamped senior quartet contest and the new Quartet Champion Association show.

The senior quartets will compete onstage Friday night, in rotation with the district quartet preliminary contestants. A district senior champion and International senior representative will be an-

nounced Friday night.

After Friday's new and improved quartet contest, the performances do not end. Thirty minutes following the close of the quartet preliminaries, the Quartet Champion Association show will take place at the Sheraton hotel ballroom. Many have already purchased advance tickets for the show, but admission at the door is only \$5.00.

The QCA show, which looks to be an annual event, will include four former quartet champs, including FIREPOWER!, 4Fits, Onyx and Power Play.

## FALL CONVENTION SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### FRIDAY - October 17

9:00 a.m.	District Board Meeting Sheraton Royale Ballroom
11:00 a.m. -8:00 p.m.	Registration Sheraton Lobby
12:00 a.m.-on	Barbershopper's Shop Cord Room
2:00 p.m.	House of Delegates Mtg. Sheraton Royale Ballroom
3:30-7:00 p.m.	Ladies Hospitality Room Executive Suite - Fifth Floor
7:00 p.m.	Quartet Question/Answer Session and Evaluation/ Coaching Sign-up Room 62 Waverly HS
7:30 p.m.	Quartet Contest Waverly HS Auditorium
10:00	Past Champion Show Sheraton Ballroom

10:00 p.m.	Evaluation Sessions - Eliminated Quartets (To be announced)
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### SATURDAY - October 18

9:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m.	Registration Sheraton Lobby
9:00 a.m.-on	Barbershopper's Shop Cord Room
9:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m.	Ladies Hospitality Room Executive Suite - Fifth Floor
11:30 a.m.	Chorus Evaluation/ Coaching Sign up Room 62 Waverly HS
12:00 noon	Chorus Contest Waverly HS Auditorium
After Contest	Chorus Evaluation/ Coaching Sessions Room 62 Waverly HS

3:00 - 5:00	Ladies Hospitality Room Executive Suite - Fifth Floor
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4:00 p.m.	Mass Sing Sheraton Royale Ballroom
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8:00 p.m.	Quartet Finals Waverly HS Auditorium
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11:00 p.m.	Chorditorium Sheraton Poolside
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### SUNDAY - October 19

9:00 -11:00 a.m.	Quartet Evaluation/ Coaching Sessions Location TBA
9:00 - 9:45	Worship Service Sheraton Royale Ballroom
10:00 -11:30 a.m.	Post Convention Wrap-up Meeting Sheraton Royale Ballroom



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There are four methods of submitting information for the *Troubadour*, listed in order of preference:

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**  
**Copy Size • Rates**

Rates quoted are for *camera ready* copy or properly formatted electronic files. Please send check with copy, payable to Pioneer District, SPEBSQSA.

Troubadour pages are standard 8-1/2 x 11, with 1/2" margins. Full page copy is 7-1/2 x 10 inches.

Ad Sizes available are:

Full page (75 sq. inches) ..... \$100  
2/3 page (50 sq. inches) ..... \$75  
1/2 page (37-1/2 sq. inches) .. \$65  
1/3 page (25 sq. inches) ..... \$50  
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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

### Barbershop Harmony... Our Preferred Hobby!



What should I write about? I'm sitting at the computer thinking about what type of article I should write. Do I write about District

policies or administrative items? Should I give a pep talk on the importance of attending the October convention in Lansing? What about an article on membership? You know. We all should recruit more members. These, and other topics, are all very important to the District and our Society. Still, Barbershop Harmony is primarily yours and my hobby. That's all that

really matters!

Think about it! Barbershop harmony doesn't need presidents or board members to make it work. All it needs is four men, standing together, ringing chords and having fun singing four part harmony! This is what our Society was founded upon in 1938.

The Society has undergone many changes since O. C. Cash and Rupert Hall gave us our start. I will agree, that those changes have benefited all of us and gave us a strong and viable organization. However, in our drive for excellence, we sometimes forget the basics of our founders.

We have a place for every person  
see **PARKER**, page 11



## Society Synopsis Russell Seely, SBM

### A change for the better?



Recent membership drives have inspired me to examine myself as a prospective member, circa 1997, and the question is; would

I join this barbershop society today? First, it would be almost impossible to keep an "open mind" approach, with the past having had such an influence on what my perception of what barbershoping "was" in the fifties compared to what it "is" today.

For you vets out there, you probably remember the twice-a-month concept of our hobby, meaning that your chapter would probably meet on alternating Fri-

days, usually at a Vet's club or union hall or the like, where the handshakes were warm and the beer was cold. You'd be welcomed by some cigar or pipe smoking old-timer (probably an ancient 50) who'd ask, "hey kid, what part do you sing?"

In my case I said tenor, like my older brother, I think. Then I was immediately thrust into a quartet with three "vets" who encouraged me every time I was lucky enough to sing a correct note in a song I had never even heard before, leave alone sing!! The evening was filled with this type of activity; one foursome following another kind of woodshedding song after song, with plenty of errors and laughs and cold beer and encouragement  
see **SEELY**, page 12

## Number One with a Bulletin

Chad Sanders  
*Troubadour editor*

This is a slim issue indeed. Perhaps the change in seasons has led folks to hibernate, eschewing their word processors for hot cocoa and the fireplace. Whatever the reason, this issue of the *Troubadour* boasts only four chapters reporting in for "Chapters in Action."

Perhaps my forgetting to change the copy deadline date in the last ish was a culprit. I certainly hope not.

I realize there are some editors out there who beat the metaphorical pavement, drumming up stories from folks for their newsletter. O, that I were that driven.

Unfortunately, carving out the five or so hours in takes me to put this baby together is work enough, especially with a new baby (who you should really see, at <http://lsd.k12.mi.us/~csanders/harrison.html>).

Therefore, I need you, loyal reader, to help with submissions. When it comes to what makes it into the *Troub*, I have yet to turn anyone away... I do my darndest to get your article in. Try me, I'm easy. (Hm. That didn't come out like I meant it to).

I also need photos. This newsletter is so much more attractive with interesting photos to look at. If you don't want to write a story, just send me a snapshot of your chorus in action. I'll put it in, along with a caption telling everyone how cool you are.

I hate to beg. Really I do.

But pleasepleasepleaseplease won't you consider submitting an article for the next *Troub*?

-Chad

# Here's to You

**David Cole, Executive & Member Services VP**

## Are You In Touch With Your Chapter?



Perceived truths become reality over time, without contradiction. In other words, if you believe something to be true, regardless of its factual integrity, it will in fact become true over time, unless someone speaks up and corrects your thought process.

This theory has proven itself over time in many different situations of life. The important question to ask ourselves as barbershoppers — especially as Chapter Board Members, is

“do we know what our chapter wants, or are we just guessing”? If we are only guessing, then we might be barking up the wrong tree.

This brings me to the fourth “Q” in my series of articles. If we are now singing with “Quality”, and continuing to promote “Quartetting”, and structuring our performances in a “Quick Paced” manner, we must now “Query” our chapter members, to make sure that your chapter or quartet is fulfilling most everyone’s needs — you can’t please everyone.

Personally, I hate questionnaires — does anyone really read these things after I fill them out? Yes they do! Especially if they are truly concerned about your wants and needs.

see **COLE**, page 9



**Mailbag.**

## fermata invites all to hospitality room

Everyone is invited to the “fermata/Grand Rapids Chapter Hospitality Room” which will be located in the Headquarters Hotel (sheraton). We encourage all quartets to come by and have a drink/snack and entertain our guests. Signs will be posted in the hotel lobby and elevators as to exact room numbers.

Hope to see you there!!

Peter J Westers  
fermata

### Letters

Send correspondence to:

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The *Troubadour* encourages correspondence. Wherever possible, letters are printed completely. Some letters may be edited for length.

# Chapter Coaching

**Doran McTaggart, DVP-CSLT**



When the H.J. Heinz Company added 57 to its advertising, it already had many more products than that. They had a wide variety of products -

from baby food to ketchup; from beans to spaghetti; from soup to pickles. The many tastes and flavors offered by the company today is a far cry from when Mr. Heinz sold his horseradish door to

door.

Each September the major television networks put together a **variety** of shows in their programming that their viewers will find entertaining, informative and interesting.

Our barbershop chapters must also offer their members a **variety** of interesting activities. From January through December, programming can be planned to provide a myriad of enjoyable musical experiences that will enable each member to get actively involved.

Many things that we plan are yearly events, like our annual show, attend-  
see **MCTAGGART**, page 11

# Public Relating

**Doug Pearson**, Marketing & Public Relations VP

## Opportunity Hill: Which side are you on?



From a public relations standpoint, and as a member of the Pioneer District, you're sitting on top of Opportunity Hill. One side of the hill is

known as Opportunities Captured. The other side is Opportunities Missed.

Usually, these PR opportunities are in direct proportion to the extent of your chapter's activities. And because of the performing-arts nature of our hobby, these activities generally flow forth in abundant quantities. The trick is for us to see them, and to take advantage of them, before they slip through our fingers.

Take a look at the "Chapter" segment of our last *Troubadour* and you'll easily spot a host of these opportunities. Chapter events included Traveling jugs; Windsor Sendoff Party; Power Play finish at the International; Great Lakes Chorus competition at International; Chapter Dinners; Annual Pig/Corn Roast; Annual Chapter Show; Riverboat Cruise; Annual Poker Run; Harmony Woods Get-Together; Crazy Kwartet Contest; Oldsmobile 100th Anniversary; Lansing Lugnuts Game; Sunday Singers; Christmas Story show; New Member Induction Ceremony; Grand Opening of Blue Water Bridge, and Orchard Lake Founder's Day.

These items — and the many that weren't reported in the *Troub* — offer a

host of public relations opportunities. Some are more obvious than others, but they *do* exist, and the challenge is for you and your chapter to uncover and use them.

In a number of cases, the usual external PR tools of newspapers, radio and television many not be suitable for these events. But don't overlook your *internal* communications, which should be a vital part of your overall chapter PR program. Bulletins, e-mail, separate letters to your members, your own chapter publication, extensive word of mouth: These are some of the time-tested forms of internal communications that can create a positive awareness in helping to tell and sell your chapter events. As an old mentor of mine once said, "Don't hide what you're doing under a bushel basket!"

Some of the best ways of promoting our hobby are actually the easiest, but unfortunately often end up in the Opportunities Missed category. For instance, how many of you carry chapter business cards that you can pass out to potential members or other segments of your community? A card with a simple message such as "Let's Get Together and Sing Barber Shop... every Tuesday, 7:45 p.m., at the Ajax Community Center," with a spot for your name and phone number, is a simple, inexpensive and effective way of getting the message across to our public.

How about specifically-tailored chapter bumper stickers, posters for businesses, barbershop table tents for restaurants, barbershop message on a postage meter? They're all easy to come up with see **PEARSON**, page 11

## Director of Development opening announced

Gary M. Stamm, CAE

Harmony Foundation Executive Director-Elect

The Harmony Foundation will soon begin a search for a full time, professional Director of Development. We hope that you will help us with our search. Perhaps you know of someone who you feel would make a good candidate.

Applicants for the position should have a professional background in fund raising, have a thorough knowledge of planned giving and a minimum of five years experience in the field. The Director of Development will oversee the Foundation's Endowment Program as well as assist in the annual campaign, grant writing and sponsorship solicitation. A bachelors degree is required. In addition, the successful applicant must be willing to relocate to Kenosha, Wisconsin. The position offers a competitive salary and benefits package.

If you know of someone who you think is qualified and might be interested, please have him or her send a cover letter, previous salary history, resume and references to Gary M. Stamm, CAE, Harmony Foundation Executive Director-elect at 6315 Third Avenue, Kenosha, WI 53143-5199.

We hope to have the new Director of Development on board by December. He/She will be a key member of the Harmony Foundation fund raising team. Just as instrumental to the success of the new Harmony Foundation, however, will be the efforts of volunteers like you. We look forward to your support in the years to come. Please contact us with any ideas you have on how we can reach our full potential.

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'.**



## Take Note

### Fred Kienitz, CDD VP



workshop is now a reality.

The very first CDWI will be held in the southern corner of our district on the weekend of November 22. There are twelve chapters involved and I have sent in ten directors' names in random order to the International Office. Five will be chosen.

A special thanks to the Rochester Hills Chapter for agreeing to host this event. I will explain what is involved because I plan to hold four of these workshops as a minimum.

The areas will be southeastern area, southwestern area, including Swan Valley and Saginaw Bay, and the area north of M55.

It is obvious that these zones with

By now you should be sick of reading my reports on Chorus Director Workshop Intensive. Well gentlemen (and lest I forget, lady), the 12, 11 and six chapters respectively will be unable to take advantage of the training if only five "arm wavers" are allowed to participate. Thus, I plan to develop additional training sessions for all those people who didn't have the opportunity to attend the initial session in their area (i.e., we may combine all lower Pioneer Chapters and recruit the fourth workshop for those who weren't selected but are still interested).

I also plan to solicit a brief communiqué from all workshop attendees and get their permission to publish their reactions in a future Troubadour. This may help to sway some of our skeptics (whoops, I was thinking of another district... sorry) to go for a spot in the fourth workshop, or the fifth if necessary.

Just a reminder to all of you that my five member crew of Director and Chorus Development is alive and kicking. Use them. (See your Pioneer Directory under Chorus Director Development, page eight.) They are only a phone call away.

# Society Board targets Boy Scouts as focus of Youth Outreach program

What do a bank robber and the Society Board of Directors have in common?

Following one of his arrests, notorious bank robber Willy Sutton was asked why he continues to rob banks. Sutton is reported to have explained, "That's where the money is!"

Applying Sutton's logic to the SingAmerica program, the Society Board decided their youth outreach effort should be aimed "where the youth is"—the more than four million members of the Boy Scouts of America.

"Singing is fun, and learning to sing

and lead songs is an important part of your patrol and troop program" is the policy in the Boy Scout songbook. Also, "Songs are a natural for troop meetings, hikes, camping trips, or when you and your buddies are simply working together."

The Boy Scout pamphlet "Music and Bugling" is for the musical education of the scout. The Chapter titled "Music In America" describes many musical forms—jazz, big band, swing, bebop, classical music, pop, country, folk, rock and musical theater. There is no men-

tion of barbershop harmony as an American Musical art form.

The suggestion that the Boy Scouts program offered an opportunity for youth outreach came to the Society Board from Dee Paris of Silver Spring, Maryland. The Board assigned the study to their Operations Group, seven member of the Board of Directors.

District Members wishing to support a youth outreach program with the Boy Scouts of America are encouraged to write their Operations Group Representative.

## AIC collects stories for book on barbershop history

Dear Friend of Barbershop Quartet History:

Our loss of barbershop society greats, LYLE PILCHER, LOU LAUREL and RANDY CHISHOLM, along with so many others in the recent past, has prompted an immediate beginning of research for the preparation of a book to celebrate the contributions of the marvelously talented, dedicated people who have brought us to the respected position we now enjoy as a musical organization. Some of these people are, of course, the "old timers" who recognized that the barbershop style was worthy of

preservation. Others will be more current stars of our special galaxy. YOU, in fact, may be the person whose story needs telling. In the big picture, all of these stories are important.

Along with Dennis Gore, lead of international medalists the VAGABONDS and CENTER STAGE, I would like to begin the formidable task of collecting and processing such information. We would ask that you share with us your recollections of special moments, special people and significant events which might contribute to that effort. Yours may be a memory of something espe-

cially humorous, emotionally touching or historically important. You may know details of a musical turning point. The result of this effort is likely to be a very broad, perhaps somewhat historical piece, though pure, dry history will not be our intention. It certainly will be approached with the love and care it deserves.

Your preference might be to tape record your thoughts, to type them or to write them out in long hand. All input will be most welcome. Do not assume that any event or person important to you

see **AIC**, page 10



presents...



### *The Ritz*

1991 Quartet Champs

with

**Fanfare**

17 voice mixed  
a capella ensemble

**November 1, 1997**

**Trenton Theater, Trenton, MI**

**Two Shows - 5:00 & 8:00 pm**

**Tickets - \$14 , \$12 (senior)**

**For info: Call Toby at (313) 282-5910**

## Cole, cont.: questionnaires one way to stay in touch

COLE, from page 4

Here are some topics for discussion which you might want to ask your fellow barbershopper — especially if you're on the board.

1. What's the most important aspect of your barbershopping experience?
2. What's the least important aspect of your barbershopping experience?
3. What's your number one personal goal in barbershopping?
4. What's your number one goal for the chapter?
5. How do you feel about singing in a quartet — pickup or otherwise?
6. How do you like our current method of learning music?
7. How would you rate your current chapter board?
8. How would you rate your director's ability?
9. Do we currently allow time for your favorite barbershop activity?
10. Are you currently enjoying your barbershopping experience?

You could use these as your basis, or design your own. Please note however, that these are all open-ended questions, designed to make the responses more meaningful, rather than ranking them from best to worst.

It is important to realize that this

will take a lot of work to decipher the information. Don't let this process drag on, or it will be meaningless. Give it a try, I think you'll be pretty amazed at the results.

### Encore, Encore – just the shot in the arm we needed

Pioneer has taken a tumble recently in membership — there's no sugar coating the facts. We are down 52 members in the last 12 months, which is 4% of our total membership.

While the above questionnaire could greatly enhance your ability to better understand your chapter, and retain members, we need to get back on track with our recruiting efforts.

We are well into the "Encore" membership program which will continue through the end of the year. Has your chapter taken advantage of the materials available from our Society? If you recall, Pioneer won the "Operation Harold Hill" campaign. "Encore" is basically the same program — it was successful before, there should be no reason for it not to be successful again. Let's get on the "Encore" bandwagon and be winners again — it was a lot of fun — remember?

## Pioneer District leads Society in first month of 'Encore'

David Cole  
Executive VP

Congratulations to the Pioneer District which has set a new record for the month of August, in recruiting 17 new members, compared to the previous high of 16.

Good work everyone, let's prove to the Society that Pioneer can follow in the footsteps of "Operation Harold Hill" and play an "Encore". Below are the numbers which we have to beat for the remainder of the contest (through December). The first column will earn us one point. The second column, two points and if we break our all time record for that month (the third column) we earn 5 points.

While it looks like we have two difficult months ahead of us, we definitely have an opportunity to win this contest. The prizes, and glory are similar to "Operation Harold Hill", so let's have some fun, and sing an "Encore"

## Encore Score Sheet

Numbers represent  
number of recruits needed  
to earn points for that column

Month	Min.	Medium	Record
August	9	11	16
October	16	20	44
November	11	14	19
December	5	6	9

**fermata**  
(that barbershop quartet)

1996 PIONEER DISTRICT QUARTET CHAMPIONS!

Jay Smits, Tenor      Peter Westers, Baritone

Wayne Kindle, Lead      Tom Wheeler, Bass

contact: Peter Westers  
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Wyoming, MI  
49509

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Gary      Ed



# Chapters in Action

## Grand Rapids

by Dick Williams

Our annual corn roast was again another success with over 100 in attendance. Everyone had a great time with plenty of food, refreshments and tag singing. We had people from Grand Rapids, Muskegon, Holland and Lansing. Speaking of our friends from Lansing, we had an outstanding quartet, their name escapes me, but it featured Don Horton, Art Cardy, Doug Pearson and Rich Harlow. They were super, but Horton needs work.

Later in the month, we had a surprise birthday party for Tom Wheeler, our bass leader, in Lowell, MI. Tom thought this was a singing performance and was all serious and business like until the shoe dropped and he suddenly realized the performance was for him. Da. It was Tom's 50th, wow, what an ole something-or-other.

As for the chorus, we are busy learning lots of new music for the November show, "Opening Night of Broadway", so we haven't had much time to work on our contest stuff. We've got about 5 practices before the contest, not much time when others have been working for a whole year, you know, retreats, special coaching, etc. So you might consider us a distinct underdog and you are right, but that's okay. No one gave Michigan a chance either... so let those chips fall where they may and let's GET READY TO RUMBLE.

Loyalty matters.

See y'all in October.

## Grosse Pointe

by Nick Piccione

We are presently rehearsing to again put on our Spring Show, "Grosse Pointe goes a bit Irish." It was so well received in the spring that the Great Lakes Chapter of the Sweet Adelines has asked us to perform it in their show. It takes place on September 20 at Dakota High School in Macomb Township.

The show was great fun in the spring and should be even greater this time since we will sing several songs on stage together with the beautiful voices of the Sweet Adelines. They are a most impressive chorus indeed. Also on the same bill are out 1995 District Champs "FIRE-POWER!" and 1997 Regional Sweet Adelines Champs "Prestige."

Our Membership Vice President, Frank Lozzi, held an open house for prospective new members on July 22. The evening was a great success... great entertainment... terrific food and refreshments... and good fellowship. Thirteen guests attended, of whom three became new members.

Frank Zaremba passed away this week. A lead, Frank loved to sing and was a loyal regular at weekly meetings until he became ill last year. When he wasn't singing barbershop, you could find him at the microphone at his favorite karaoke haunts.

In all, it's been a good summer for the Grosse Pointe Chapter. The Riverboat Cruise, the flotilla of private cruisers on our annual "Poker Run," the trips to Harmony Woods and Harrisville are just a few of the activities that kept our members active and out of trouble.

Earlier this month the Detroit-Oakland Chapter surprised us by dropping in to return the Jug. A good bunch with good voices, they sounded great... come back any time!

With contest time approaching, returning to Lansing leaves us with this thought:

Well, it's back to the risers again  
Where Grosse Pointe sends about

sixty men.

With a new song to learn

We may just crash and burn,

But we'll still have some fun now  
and then.

## Rochester

Eric (Ric) Matus

Communications VP

As usual, The Heart of The Hills Chorus here in Rochester has been active. Some of us feel we live in our red shirts, black slacks and white sweaters... but we love it!!

We sang again this year for the Rochester "Arts and Apples" event. The weather pulled through, we even removed our sweaters, we had sun... and many people.

Another outing and sing at the University Presbyterian Church. We sing for them every now and then to "pay our rent." They're kind enough to let us use a room weekly in order that we might practice. It was fun, and filling. Our singing was followed by chicken, hot dogs, salads, pop, coffee and desert. We love that kinda singing.

We also had a guest night about a month ago. It was a great night too!

In the midst of all the summer's activities and gigs, The Heart of The Hills Chorus hosted an extremely successful "Guest Night."

To the surprise of the 30 members of the Rochester Chapter in attendance, 45 guests arrived to join in some good old barbershopping, tag quartetting, gang singing plus some excellent renditions from several quartets including the '96 Pioneer District Champs: fermata. The tag quartet portion was more special... the lead was tagged by Director Al Fisk's mother who ably held her own with the male members. A loud round of applause followed her performance.

Other quartets singing to the delight of all were the Resolutions representing the Macomb County Chapter, B-Naturals blending the voices of men from both Rochester and Flint chapters,  
see **ROCHESTER**, page 10

## Chapters in Action

ROCHESTER, from page 9

Sunnyside from Pontiac and the Heart of The Hills represented by the Uncalled Four.

The evening was capped off with more singing following a pizza and pop break. This event presented a fantastic opportunity for barbershoppers and friends to intermingle, interact and enjoy the talent and efforts of one and all. We highly recommend it! While no definite date has been set, another guest night is most assuredly on our agenda.

We, the chorus, meet in the University Presbyterian Church, on Adams Road, on Thursday night. The Bell Choir of that church also meets on the same night to practice their music. During one rehearsal evening this presented a unique opportunity to join together and share each other's talents. We all came away with a fuller appreciation of the offerings of the others.

Our October 25 show will soon be upon us and we are practicing hard to make it the best yet. Join us on that day at either 4:00 or 8:00 PM at the Rochester High School. Hope to see you then.

## Lansing

Doug Pearson  
VP, Marketing & Public Relations

Take 70 macho men away from the stressful rigors of city life, put them in a stately wilderness retreat, expose them to the fresh air and scenic beauties of marvelous Michigan, entice them with tempting morsels of culinary delights, throw in the benefits of coaching expertise from the likes of Joel Mills and Wayne Kinde, and then turn them loose on the joys of four-part harmony.

The end result of this successful recipe for the Lansing Chapter was a delightful, productive September weekend of singing and camaraderie at the

renowned Kettunen Center south of Cadillac.

In addition to honing their vocal chords, members enjoyed some extra bonuses at the retreat. Among them was a soundsational appearance by former District Champs *fermata*; a wild and woolly, highly improvisational Crazy Quartet Contest featuring 13 vocal combinations and produced by Don Horton; a night tour of metropolitan Tustin for those who wanted additional excitement, and the Sunday climax of fairway frolics on the beautiful and still untamed Rose Golf Course in Tustin. Unfortunately, rain dampened the petals on the Rose course, but not the spirits of the Sunday Swingers.

Meanwhile, in the ongoing chase for musical blue ribbons within the Pioneer District, the Lansing Chapter has solid representation. In addition to the Capitol City Chordsmen vying for honors in the International Preliminaries, we are represented on the quartet stage by our highly-respected *Gallery* foursome of Dave Hundt, Larry Wise, Art Cardy and Larry Parker.

Also, as of this writing, we have at least two quartets competing in the Seniors Contest. And the Bush League Contest in Gaylord will also have quartet representation from the Lansing Chapter as members seek possession of the coveted Gabboon. For those uninitiated barbershoppers, the Gabboon is a cross between the Holy Grail, the Stanley Cup and a half-filled Spittoon.

A definite highlight of recent Lansing chapter activities was the on-stage, half-hour performance of our Chordsmen in front of the Capitol as part of Oldsmobile's 100th Anniversary Celebration. Our performance was tied into a giant birthday party for Olds featuring some 2,500 vintage Oldsmobiles from around the country. Attendance at the four-day centennial observance was more than 150,000, and received national media attention. As we sang "In My Merry Oldsmobile," we knew that barbershopping had become an important part of a very special milestone.

## AIC looking for some good stories

AIC, from page 7

is insignificant. In fact, you may be the person best qualified to tell your own story. Please send material, including pictures, if appropriate, to me at Van Tassell & Associates, 3215 Rose Street, Sarasota, FL 34239 or to Dennis Gore, 43597 Columbia, Clinton Township, MI 48038. Please also copy and share this letter with others who may not have been reached with this mailing.

In harmony,

Glenn E. Van Tassell  
Gentlemen's Agreement  
Auto Towners  
Center Stage

## Chisholm memorial fund established

from *The Update*

Randy Chisholm, lead of 1995 international quartet champion Marquis, passed away on August 3 from complications following a staph infection incurred in mid-July. He was 46. Barbershoppers everywhere are saddened by this sudden and untimely loss.

Memorial gifts may be made to Harmony Foundation—specify the "Keep A Melody Ringing" fund, in the name of Randy Chisholm—or to a fund to assist with his daughters' college tuition:

Randy Chisholm Memorial Fund  
c/o Star Bank  
P.O. Box 150  
Eaton, OH 45320

## Coaching, cont.

McTAGGART, from page 4

ing our District and International Conventions and enjoying chapter retreats. What a way to turn on the troops!

Throughout the year, there are many opportunities to plan special nights such as Past President's Night, an Old Timer's Reunion, Installation of Officers Night, Chapter Anniversary, Service Club Night, Membership Nights, Chapter Quartet Contests, etc.

Many social events can be very rewarding. We enjoy barbecues, potluck suppers, picnics, camp-outs, golf outings, fish fries, corn/wiener/pig roasts and pizza parties.

There is a lot of singing and fellowship at Inter-Chapter functions like the Windsor Send-Off Show, the Boyne City Bush League, Holland's Chet Oonk Memorial Night, Detroit-Oakland's Return of the Jug Night, the

Harrisville Labor Day camp-out, Mystery trips and Inter-Chapter quartet contests.

It's great to put all of our rehearsing to the test by performing in our community at hospitals, nursing homes, churches, schools and malls. We can sing our national anthems at athletic events, perform at charity fund raisers and go caroling at Christmas time.

Our choruses, quartets and individual members can all benefit by participating in many educational opportunities such as COTS, Harmony Round-up, Harmony College, Director's School, International Staff visitations and the Chorus Director's Workshop Intensive.

Offer lots of **variety** in our programming and we will have happy members, eager to renew and participate. Let's find out what our members want and then give it to them. The more we keep singing, the easier it is to Keep the Whole World Singing.

## Public Relating, cont.

PEARSON, from page 5

and effective in creating a favorable barbershop image.

Are you wearing your SPEBSQSA pin when possible? Do you have tee shirts, sports shirts, sweaters or jackets with your chapter's name on it. At a recent all-day chapter retreat, I noticed fellow member Art Cardy wearing a sweatshirt with a message that drew the attention of our members. The message read "Voice: The Only Musical Instrument Made By God." What a beautiful sentiment, and what a great way of getting across a positive barbershop message!

No column of mine would be complete without mentioning our District's

## President, cont.

PARKER, from page 3

who wants to be a member of our Society. We all can't be champion singers like members of the **Boston Common** or **Rural Route Four** quartets, but we can be champions within our own areas of proficiency. Every member possesses his own special attributes. We appreciate the gift of your talents you give. I applaud your desire to be a Barbershopper and help contribute to the success of four part harmony in your own way! People like you will keep our Society alive for many years to come! Let's all "Keep the Whole World Singing."

Hummm'bly yours

Larry L. Parker

Art Cardy - Tenor  
David Hundt - Lead

Larry Wise - Bass  
Larry Parker - Baritone

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## NOTICE:

Please send all copy, photos, advertisements and correspondence to the editor:

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**Phone:** (517) 485-3641

**Fax:** (517) 482-7466

Chad Sanders  
1616 West Rundle Avenue  
Lansing, MI 48910

## Upcoming Events

### 1997

September 13	Alpena Show
September 13	Swan Valley Show
September 20	Grosse Pointe Show
September 27	Gratiot County Show
October 10	Pontiac Show
October 10	Gaylord Bush League
October 17-19	District Contest
October 25	Rochester Show
November 1	Grand Rapids Show
December 13-14	Macomb County Show

### 1998

February 20-21	Detroit-Oakland Show
March 6-7	Wayne County Show
March 7	Lansing Show
March 14	Kalamazoo Show
March 21	Grand Rapids Show
March 28	Muskegon Show
March 28	Monroe North Show
April 24-26	District Contest
May 15	Holland Show
May 16	Boyne City Show
June 12	Windsor Send-off
September 26	Muskegon Show
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

## Society Synopsis, cont.

SEELY, from page 3

and participation by everyone who came through that open door preserving those wonderful old songs. And all without the benefit of sheet music or arrangements. The ultimate treat would invariably occur when - unannounced- four guys in like outfits would "drop in" to lay their repertoire on us. A real live barbershop quartet. Could be the Clef Dwellers (a silver medalist) or the Progressive Four (my big brother's quartet) or an excellent group from our chapter, the Bel Airs - wow, would you believe that "Among My Souvenirs" could sound so sweet?

Friday after Friday we'd be "out with the boys". When my chapter didn't meet, we'd go to the Redford or Dearborn or East Detroit Chapter (ironically, all gofie) or Oakland County and they'd all have basically the same program. ALMOST ALL QUARTET SINGING. With a gang song thrown in every now and then or possibly a tag... nobody owned risers. Why would they? We certainly were much more social. Constant visitations proved that. Sure, there was some bad singing, but there was always someone willing to "work" with your to improve. There was also some singing too and you had to use your best tools - your ears!! And how you hated to see the evening end.

Quartets were encouraged and loved and in demand. It was the perfect place

for me. Forty-five years later, these "simple" get-togethers have evolved into some pretty sophisticated (and sometimes boring) chorus rehearsals on the risers, where we strive to perfect some very challenging piece of music from a plethora of prolific arrangers who have rearranged hundreds of songs to guarantee greater scores in our contests, which are now the largest attraction at our conventions. Quartets are allotted little, if any, time to perform at these rehearsals/meetings, which they probably don't mind since they spend their extra time with their coach or coaches polishing their next contest set.

Chorus Directors are in heavy demand and, unfortunately, can make or break a Chapter and ironically, it's that same individual who will have a large influence on that prospect. Yes, we've changed dramatically since our tongue-in-check origins in the late thirties. We have, in fact, become a very competent singing organization, no longer a singing social fraternity. In short, we've become purty damn serious about our music and our associations during this ever-changing evolution. Okay, so would I join today? A one word answer just simply escapes me and I'm not sure it's a "yeah-but or a no-but response. What a hedger. What do you think?