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International contest brings fun, excitement and lasting memories

After a ten-year absence from the quartet contest Top Ten, Pioneer District was again represented in the finals by Power Play in Indianapolis. Grand Rapids chorus, attending International for their second year in a row, took 14th place in the chorus competition.

A complete rundown of scores can be found on page 13.

With the International contest so close to home, many Pioneer barbershoppers were able to make their way to Indiana for the Society's yearly gathering. For some, the trip to International is an annual event, but for others, this represented their first exposure to the International stage.

Here are some of the stories of Indy '97, as told by those who made the trek south for the Fourth of July.

An Irish Blessing, er, Lullaby

Al Fisk, Director
 Rochestor Chorus
 Altonfisk@aol.com

I signed up to Sing With The Champs on Friday afternoon. Since my quartet (Chordmeisters) is singing Irish Lullaby with our Uncalled 4 quartet in our fall show (October 25 featuring the new champs - Yesteryear), I picked Acoustix. I've never seen one of these and figured I'd be in a corner somewhere woodshedding the song. Wrong! When I arrived and saw the crowd and the major production, I knew I was in trouble.



photo: courtesy/PAC/DJE

Power Play performs at the International quartet contest. When it was over, the foursome landed in tenth place, the first Pioneer quartet to do so in ten years.

They announce your name, give you a photo and a video, and donate your \$25 to Heartspring. I have never been that afraid to go on stage in my life. To make things worse, the quartet started singing Irish Blessing, not Irish Lullaby. I guess I didn't hear the announced song as I was shaking hands with Acoustix before the bloodletting began. I had to stop them (Acoustix!!!) from singing and announce to the whole world that I wanted to do the other Irish song!! Major embarrassment! Well, the guys were very supportive and made me feel pretty special throughout the song. Rick even pushed me closer to the mike just before my low F. When I hit it, he smiled and gave the ok sign to the mob. All in all, once we got going, I had a blast! Although I was shaking like a leaf, I shall never regret the decision to do it. In fact, I may try it again in Atlanta. You don't have to be a great singer (which I certainly am not) to participate. I saw some dudes struggle,

yet the quartets were very supportive (even switching notes to accommodate the chord you have chosen. Amazing! Funny, too.)

Psychic Friend

Jerry Koning
 Bari of Rivertown Revue
 gkoning@REMC7.K12.ML.US

I was privileged to hear the Great Lakes Chorus at a Thursday morning rehearsal.

They were being coached by David Wright. They were sounding great. At the end of the rehearsal, Power Play sang their Quarter Final Set. As soon as I heard the first line of the first song, I knew these guys would make the top twenty. They were smooooth!

Wait Problem

Kurt Amundson
 Lead, Kalamazoo Mall City Chorus
 BayJazz30@aol.com

This was my first International Convention, and I had a BLAST!!! I loved hearing all those fantastic choruses and quartets.... and got to see the Masters of Harmony and The Louisville Times rehearse.... a lot of fun! It was also good to see all the younger members having fun and singing tags, they are the future of the society!! (I'm 32, so I guess I still qualify as a 'younger' member, but I'm talking about the teens, they sure get fired see INDY, page 13



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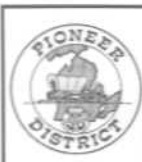
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President's Position

Larry Parker, President

With Power Play and GR, Pioneer shows its prowess



What a convention! What great performances by our two superb competitors! I am extremely proud of Grand Rapids and Power Play.

It was music to my ears to listen to comments from Mr. & Mrs. Joe Barber-shopper as they conferred accolades on the performance of the Great Lakes Chorus. I am sure Ann and the rest of the chorus are pleased with their achievement. I know I am delighted with what I heard and saw. Congratulations, gang!

Power Play! Top Ten! It has a pleasant ring to it, don't you agree? It was

frosting on the "International Convention Cake" to have a Pioneer District quartet compete in the Saturday night finals. You can be sure, the entire Slamka clan, and the several hundred loyal Pioneer fans in Market Square Arena, were all on pins and needles as the finals began. Several years have passed since we garnered a top ten finisher. All I can say is, "Jack, Mike, Mark and Don, our congratulations! It was pure enjoyment to see and hear your three magnificent presentations of Barbershop harmony. Watch out, Atlanta. Here we come!"

From an administrative aspect of the convention, I became aware of several see **PARKER**, page 14

Number One with a Bulletin

Chad Sanders
Troubadour editor

Random thoughts... If I were in a quartet, it would be called No Harmony, No Foul. Makes no sense, but sounds intimidating... It really is fun to say "Barbershop Shop"... Al Fisk does "Sing-cerely," Larry Parker does "Hummmmbly yours." I need a cool signature line. How about "Tags & Kisses"? I'll keep working on it... Baritones seem to be quicker with witty comebacks to insults than other parts. Probably a defense mechanism, built up from years of abuse... A Stanley Cup for the Red Wings, who dominated on power plays. A top ten spot for Pioneer's championship quartet, Power Play. Coincidence? Well, OK, probably, but I did just manage to get the Red Wings into my article... Just got a new watch, one with the cool green light-up face thing, and I can't stop playing with it. I seek out dark areas to visit, just so I can push the button to see what time it is... Speaking of the Bush League ad on page seven, did you know that "By Jove!" is a derivation of the Old English exclamation "By Jehovah!" and dates back to before Shakespeare? I don't know why I know that... And now Russ Seely is the first person ever to hold a Society and AHSOW board position concurrently. Now that's ambition. I'm lucky if I can watch TV and eat Doritos® concurrently... I think it's cool that in a barbershop conversation anywhere in Michigan and Ontario, you can just say "Ann" and everyone knows who you're talking about... Hate to end this, but I'm not sure what time it's getting to be, and I need to run in the closet and check...

-Chad



Society Synopsis

Russell Seely, SBM

Top choruses must make sacrifices



After a ten-year absence from the Top Ten, Pioneer's Power Play sang their way to a coveted tenth position in Indy last month. Not since The Ritz

of 1987 has a Pioneer rep made the finals. Kudos to family Slamka and in the words of the poet, "who knows what the morrow may bring?" Personally, I think a medal would set off those spiffy tails that Power Play sports.

Great Lakes Chorus rendered a fine performance of their well-conceived set in a contest that also produced a 14th place finish for prior gold-medalist chorus the Thoroughbreds, from Louisville.

With that shocking fact as a gauge, 18th is NOT a position for our GR reps to hang their heads over. Editorially speaking, I see no way that a "chapter" chorus could aspire to the top ten in the chorus contest - forget the medals! The repetition of prior medalist choruses with their high-powered machine whose personnel has been auditioned, voice and performance tested as well as continual monitoring of their skills makes succession simply a dream. As much as I am opposed to it, I have to admit that the only way we can begin to compete for the single digit ranking is by enlisting an all-star cast of competitors from our various chapters. That, coupled with a concentrated recruitment of singers,

see **SEELY**, page 16

Here's to You

David Cole, Executive & Member Services VP

Quick-paced presentations keep them wanting more



Read a Quick Paced Presentations.

Read a good book In any presentation, quartet, chorus, or whatever, timing is everything. When was the last time you read a good book? When was the last time you sat through a barbershop show, for two hours and wondered "where did the time go"? On the other hand, Did it take how many times have you sat very long to finish that book? Did you keep reading it until the wee hours of the morning because you simply couldn't put it down?

That is the type of anticipation, and excitement which a "Quick paced" show, contest, presentation can generate. Which brings me to our third segment of my "4-Q's" —

In any presentation, quartet, chorus, or whatever, timing is everything. How many times have you sat through a barbershop show, for two hours and wondered "where did the time go"? On the other hand, how many times have you sat through the same two-hour show, wondering when this was going to end — not because it was poorly performed, but because it simply dragged on — forever.

This year's International convention was an excellent example. The quartet contest on Thursday was flying, right until those four ballads in a row towards the end. The singing

see **COLE**, page 9



Mailbag.

Endeavor members

Last issue's story on Endeavor, the 1996 Novice Quartet winners, didn't mention their names. They are:

Al Haller
Jeff Dix
Dave Pearcy
Jim Troeger

Rochester leads the way in giving

The Rochester Chapter is very proud of their Gold Level standing of contributing over \$50.00 per man to various charities such as Sing America/Sing Canada and Heartspring. Through proceeds from another most successful Singing Valentines program, we recently donated \$300.00 in scholarships to both Rochester High School and Adams High School to be used by an undergraduate vocal music student toward the tuition of Interlochen Arts Academy or Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp.

We also continued our tradition of helping our local Rochester Leader Dog School for the Blind by contributing \$1000.00. Last year's donation was covered by the Rochester Clarion resulting in a wonderful picture of our president, the president of the school, and a leader dog who had the check in his mouth!

Sing-cerely,

Al Fisk - Director

Chapter Coaching

Doran McTaggart, DVP-CSLT



What titles have you given to your chapter officers? As I look through our Pioneer District Directory, every chapter has a President, but

after that each chapter show its uniqueness. Most have a secretary and a treasurer, but combining the two offices into one, a secretary-treasurer, is also a possibility.

The biggest change in the chapter officers is at the Vice-President positions. Last year, COTS classes were offered for VP of Chapter Development and VP of Music and Performance. These were new titles recommended for chapters to adopt in the Society reorganization. Many chapters have maintained the officer of Membership VP, Program VP, and Music VP. Some even have other combinations. The size of your chapter and your specific needs will probably dictate the number of officers and titles you adopt.

see **MCTAGGART**, page 14

Public Relating

Doug Pearson, Marketing & Public Relations VP

Show, then tell the community about your exciting hobby



So how's your public relations these days? Are you proud of your chapter, your chorus, your quartet (if you're in one)? Are you *telling* your commu-

nity about all the good things you're doing? Are you *showing* your community our unique form of art by performing publicly when possible?

When you get down to it, our hobby is a classic case of show and tell. We *show* 'em the wonders of our four-part achievement through our performances in the area, and we *tell* 'em about it through every public relations tool at our disposal.

As a *Patch Chords* quartet member for some 23 years, I've found it's a lot easier to show than to tell. Ever try explaining the dynamics of barbershop harmony to some guy on the street? It's not easy. But then ply your craft with the riveting tones of well-rounded chords to the same guy. Now *that's* a definition far better than any article ever written on the subject. Gentlemen, *that's* showtime and *that's* what can turn an audience and a community on to the excitement and the pulsating sounds of barbershopping.

I sincerely hope that you're spreading the good word of barbershopping by taking the glitter of *your* showtime into your community. However, before you can do this with any degree of success, it's important that your chapter truly knows every aspect of your community.

Our district member and friend Hank Hedges came up with a list of Questions to Ask Yourself Regarding Public Relations, which I shared recently with all Pioneer District chapter presidents.

One segment of Hank's list was devoted to "Does Your Chapter Know Its Customer (the community)?" Who are they? What are your area's major industries? Who and what are the vocal organizations in your area? Who and what are the key organizations in your area? What are the sports teams in your community, and what is their fan support? What theater groups compete for audiences and talent? Does your chorus perform at Church services? Is there an Arts Council in your area? Can you utilize it? Do you know the management of your senior centers, hospitals and senior homes?

Once you get the answers to these questions, and then implement a schedule of area singing, you're on the musical path to a successful community relations program.

In the last *Troubadour*, Saginaw Bay's Ralph Brown offered some interesting comments on this subject. To refresh your memory, he wrote: "It is fairly obvious that our organization, SPEB-SQSA, is undergoing a renaissance, and many changes are taking place. Of these changes, perhaps two of the most important are quality performing in public and changing the public's perception that barbershop singing should be reserved or pigeonholed, to be brought out only for special events such as 'Frontier Days' or occasions promoting the 'good old days.' You know: the straw hat, red and white-striped shirts with armbands
see **PEARSON**, page 15

Senior quartet contest revamped

Bill Wickstrom,

Senior quartet contest chairman

The Pioneer District Executive Board at its December, 1996 COTS meeting voted to, on a trial basis this year, make a number of changes to bring the district's senior quartet contest more in line with those of other districts.

First of all, the seniors contest will no longer be held in the headquarters hotel ballroom as a separate quartet contest following the Saturday afternoon chorus contest. Instead, it will be incorporated into the mix of the Friday night regular district quartet semifinals competition. Senior quartets will be specifically identified in the convention program, and will not be allowed to also compete for the regular district championship.

In addition, there will now be two competitions within the senior quartet contest; one to choose the district senior champion, and one to select the International senior quartet representative. This method also allows past district senior quartet champions to compete each year.

The senior quartet winners will be announced following the Friday evening contest and will not continue on to the perform at the Saturday night competition.

As in the past, in order to encourage all district senior quartets to enter this competition, Society quartet registration is not required and late entries are permitted.

Non-registered senior quartets planning to enter the district contest may obtain registration forms from:

Contest & Judging VP
Joel Mills
6617 Vintage Drive
Hudsonville, MI 49426
phone (616) 662-1770.

Take Note

Fred Kienitz, CDD VP

I just arrived back from "Indy" and began thinking how lucky and proud I am to be from the Pioneer District. Those of you who didn't make it down, missed Michigan-Ontarios' finest efforts in many years.

The Grand Rapids performance made me thankful that I'm not a judge. They were AWESOME. I truly believe (but what do I know) that a different draw could have placed them higher in the final tally. And, they weren't singing over their heads because they looked and sounded about 7 feet 3 inches tall.

Ya done good! Our quartet representatives (the one with the old guy in it) were outstanding.

One had to be there to see how great these quartets have become. Every four-some in the top twenty sang at a professional level.

Both ensembles deserve a rousing "two thumbs up" and from where I sat, I think we left two quartets at home who will be there kicking and screaming next year in Atlanta. And, not at the bottom either.

Now, back to the business at hand. I want you to know that the first of several Chorus Director Workshop Intensive or (CDWI) is about to become a reality for Pioneer. While this is still tentative until International sanctions it, I plan to have it in central lower Michigan, probably Lansing or maybe Gratiot County. Again, keep in mind that it must be sanctioned first and the location set (no chapter had at this point been asked to host it) before final plans can be made.

Further, the site doesn't mean Lansing or Gratiot County will be asked to host. You need to know about the rules, also. Only 5 directors may participate. It will be a Friday p.m. and all day Saturday event. The most important letter in this acronym CDWI stands for INTENSIVE and believe me, it will be just that.

The host will provide a chorus of around 20 men in well-balanced sections and versed in three or four pole cat num-

bers. Both ballads and up-tunes should be part of this list so the director may chose his or her song to direct.

These sessions will be private in that each director will discuss what they want to accomplish and they will each receive private interviews, private coaching, and a taped session to see how much growth and directing skills were accomplished during the day.

This is the most important part of this experience in that you decide what your weakest points may be, or what you want to accomplish. You share this with only one person, your coach. You work on it and go into "whisper" sessions on the spot, charge forward again and then go home with a cassette to watch and listen to the results.

Keep in mind that no one knows your capabilities as well as you and conversely, nobody else knows your shortcomings as well as you either.

Thus, within a 48 hour period you can return to the privacy of your own home and after viewing your video, be able to measure your personal growth.

I would also encourage established choruses and directors to encourage assistants to attend as well as themselves. Encourage your chapter to endorse and provide the funds for these workshops. Because, lets face it, it isn't the director who will be affected down the road so much as the singers back home. I should have plans finalized by September which will leave about eight weeks for you to respond and prepare to come to your first and most exciting CDWI ever.

However, don't despair if you are not one of the chosen five.

(Only five out of a potential 50 seems quite small.) If needed, I'll have ten or more workshops until every one has been trained.

Respectfully,

Fred Kienitz

Pioneer web site offers many exciting 'firsts'

Jim Styer

Pioneer Computer Communications

The Pioneer District's site on the World Wide Web is up and running, and a leader in Web sites among the 16 districts. Check it out at <http://time.pop.upenn.edu/districts/pio/pio.htm>

This home page links to several other Web pages with basic district information and to one page with a district map. Just click on a chapter on the map and it goes to contact information for that chapter. That also will link to each chapter's home page as they develop. Pioneer is one of only two districts (the other is Seneca Land) with such a map of chapters.

And, in a first for any district, through the wonders of computer communications and a link to a map site elsewhere on the Web, the Pioneer site allows you to see a local map of each chapter meeting site. Anyone anywhere in the world now can find your chapter meeting and get directions on how to drive there from their location, wherever it may be. Also, if someone contacts you, you can refer them to your Pioneer chapter page for directions.

The Pioneer District Web home page also links to Pioneer pages with:

- Chorus and quartet scores for the past three Pioneer contests, along with stories on these competitions.

- Our Unified Service Projects. Heartspring further links to the main Heartspring site in Wichita, Kan.. SingAmerica links to the Society's SingAmerica page and to two unique pages on our site: a full report on the original (pioneer) SingAmerica

see **STYER**, page 15



BY JOVE! BUSH LEAGUE IS HERE !!!

**OCTOBER 10-11TH IS RIGHT AROUND THE BEND
AND GAYLORD IS A SHORT TREK UP THE PATH!**

TO BAG YOUR CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHY, WE NEED YOUR:
REGISTRATION FORMS SENT UP STREAM STRAIGHT AWAY WITH
HOUSING AND MEAL CHITS PROMPTLY, PLUS A \$ 12.00 FUN FEE.

*THESE DOCUMENTS ARE NOW AT YOUR LOCAL DIGS, BUT
DUPLICATES ARE ON THEIR WAY FOR YOU. SINGLE SINGERS USE
THESE FORMS FOR PICK UP QUARTETS. WE'LL "BUDDY" YOU UP.*

BRIEFLY, A. 2 NITES-3 MEALS \$100.00! B. 1 NITE 2 MEALS \$62.00!
PRE/AFTER GLOW \$8.00. SHOW \$10.00(NON PERFORMERS).
GOLF- W/CART\$17-36.00. COLOR TOUR-SHOPPING AND MORE!

**PLEASE SEND REGISTRATION FORMS I&II AND FEE PAYABLE TO
HARMONIE MEISTERS: % LEON WALDMAN, 5408 SUNRIDGE DR.
ELMIRA MI. 49730. EMAIL hhedges@freeway.net /fax 517-731-1169**

We are very hopeful that you former Bush League CHAMPS will come
and appear to show us all that---

**BUSH LEAGUE IS THE BIRTHPLACE OF PAST,
PRESENT AND FUTURE CHAMPIONS**



HEARTSPRING

In July 1964, the Society officially adopted the Institute of Logopedics (now Heartspring) as its "unified service project" and the barbershoppers' slogan became: "We sing...that they shall speak." Periodically, this space will contain information on this worthy charity's efforts to help children with disabilities.

Barbershoppers help collect 1.2 million Campbell's labels

Thanks to our barbershop friends, Heartspring mailed 1, 288,322 labels to Campbell's earlier this year. Barbershoppers collected a total of 856,000 of the 1.2 million labels.

Labels came to Heartspring from 44 states and eight provinces in Canada. The Victoria Village Squires barbershop chapter in Vancouver, British Columbia collected a total of 116,165 label, putting them in first place once again for saving the most labels.

Call label coordinator Nancy Dark at 800-835-1043, ext. 278 to receive a brochure outlining the program or for more information.

Help others by donating hearing aids to Heartspring

The Donor Hearing Aid Program (DHAP) provides hearing aids for people who can't afford them by reconditioning donated hearing aids for new users.

Financial support comes from several sources, but the strongest need is for donations of used hearing aids.

Hearing aid donations can also be tax deductible. Send used hearing aids to the Heartspring Hearing Center, 2400 Jardine Drive, Wichita, Kansas, 67219-4669.

AHSOW welcomes new members from Pioneer

The Ancient Harmonious Society of Woodshedders, Inc. heartily welcomes two new members of the Pioneer District who qualified for AHSOW membership during the week of the International Convention in Indianapolis.

Roy Gurney, of Macomb and the Macomb County chapter, as well as Randy Meldrum of Bay City, from the Saginaw Bay chapter, are AHSOW's newest members from the Pioneer district.

Meldrum qualified on all three harmony parts and can sing woodshed melody when called upon. It should be noted that some men who qualify on fewer than all four parts simply lack a bass or tenor range in their voices. These men may be outstanding woodshedders on the voice parts that lie within their vocal ranges.

It is a distinct pleasure to announce that Mr. Russ Seely, current Pioneer District representative to the Society Board, has been elected to a three-year at-large Directorship on the Board of AHSOW, Inc. This is the first time in history that a current member of the Society Board has simultaneously served on AHSOW's Board.

For more information about woodshedding opportunities and activities in Pioneer, contact:

John Smith
AHSOW District Chief Certifier
2380 Fairport
Waterford, MI 48329-3934.
(810) 674-1539 H

AHSOW, Inc.
Toban Dvoretzky, President
14531 Ella Blvd., #3806
Houston, TX 77014-2558 USA
TBone@jetson.uh.edu
(281) 876-0888

fermata

(that barbershop quartet)

1996 PIONEER DISTRICT QUARTET CHAMPIONS!

Jay Smits, Tenor

Peter Westers, Baritone

Wayne Kindle, Lead

Tom Wheeler, Bass

contact: Peter Westers
4146 Colby SW
Wyoming, MI
49509

Home: (616) 531-0734
Office: (616) 281-4333

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Gary

Ed

Fall convention to offer new Friday event: Quartet Champion Association show

Four past district champion quartets will team with current champ Fermata and the Association's "Chorus of Champions" to present the first annual QCA Show at the Pioneer District Fall convention in Lansing. These popular four-somes, who will be appearing together on the same show stage for the first time, are FIREPOWER!, 4Fits, Onyx and Power Play.

The one and a half hour show is scheduled for Friday evening, October 17 at the Lansing District Fall convention in the Lansing Sheraton hotel ball-

room immediately following the district quartet semifinals contest. The district convention committee is moving the Friday quartet contest start up to 7:30 p.m. to make time for this new annual fall convention show. The per-person cost for early registrants of \$4.00 is included on the fall convention registration form. Late registration and door admission is \$5.00. Ken Gibson (Vagabonds '69) is the show chairman, assisted by Denny Gore (Vagabonds '69, Center Stage '80, and Stay Tuned '91).

Cole, cont.: quick-paced shows key to audience enthusiasm

COLE, from page 4 was fantastic, and there is no way to control (in a contest environment) who sings what, and when, but it still seemed to stop dead in its tracks.

Whether you are performing a massive show, or a simple singout, this is an excellent opportunity to use this lesson to our advantage for these upcoming shows. Please do your audience a favor, and keep it quick-paced. They'll always come back for more, especially if you incorporate all of the "4Q's".

On another note, goodbye John. I've known John Bauer all of my barbershop life, and he will be missed by many people, including myself. He always wanted to sing something. My fondest memory was during a convention, we got four guys together in a doorway, blocking all traffic from entering or leaving the presidents hospitality room (not on purpose of course), and

really milking, and busting some chords of "Sweet and Lovely" — goose bump city! John contributed a great deal of time and effort to Pioneer, and always remained "Joe Barbershopper", he'll be missed.

On an up note: How about a big hand to our Pioneer representatives at the International convention! Power Play — Wow, I think my arm has recovered now, from my wife squeezing it so hard during your THREE sets. Great Lakes Chorus — Well done, nice set, you should be VERY pleased with your performance. Singing Judge Joel Mills — It's been many years since Pioneer has had someone judging international; nice seats, eh?!

Next time you run into any of these guys, give him (her, if it's Ann) a pat on the back, they deserve it!!!

David A. Cole
EVP/VPMD - Pioneer

Bulletin contest entries fare well at International

Pioneer's bulletin contest winners did well again in Indy. Windsor's Dan Bezaire and Wayne's Ed Wojtan and Gary Simon had their publications reviewed at Indianapolis. The entries, which were judged on such categories as Layout and Grammar, were close in the scoring, putting them not far out of Top Ten spots in the contest.

Our two bulletin entries scored well, and better than either of these guys have before in the contest, from what Jim Styer recalls, who has organized the contest for Pioneer.

Here's part of the International report:

The Association of Public Relations Officers and Bulletin Editors (PROBE) announces the results of the 1996 International Bulletin Contest (IBC).

The chair of the contest, Dick Girvin (e-mail: dickgirvin@juno.com), has submitted the following results. The order of the data are: editor, chapter, district, bulletin name and total score (maximum is 2,000).

14. Dan Bezaire, Windsor, Windsor *Chordster* (1524)

16. Ed Wojtan/Gary Simon, Wayne, *The Chordinator* (1512)

A few more points would have moved either of these fellows up a notch or two, the scoring was so close. And a score of just 1610 would have made 10th place.

Top score was: 1. Warren Donaldson, Louisville #1, CAR, *The Starting Gate* (1881)

Chapters in Action

Detroit-Oakland

by Tom Uicker
Bulletin Editor

Thanks to all the chapters for supporting the Traveling Jugs. The Detroit-area jug got off to a shaky start with a long delay at one chapter. But through heroic efforts in May and June, it successfully visited all the chapters on its route before the deadline. The "out-state" jug moved fairly steadily, but a couple of chapters were skipped on the suggested route and were never visited. Another chapter was added to the route near the end of the journey, so each jug visited ten different chapters before returning to Detroit-Oakland. Thanks to extra generosity on the part of some chapters, a total of \$1200 was collected between the two jugs as they traveled about the district. Since we had only one representative quartet qualify for the international stage, all the money went to Power Play.

The "Return of the Jug" party was looking kind of shaky as one quartet after another had to bow out due to conflicts. Fortunately, Genuine Blend came all the way from grand Rapids and FIRE-POWER! came from Lansing to join Power Play in the night's festivities. Each of these top-notch quartets sang two sets at the party and made it a fun night for all. Thanks, guys, and may you all earn the right to go to Atlanta next summer.

Speaking of next year, the calendar has given us an opportunity to try something different. Various quartets have expressed an interest in having a good audience for which to perform, but lately Detroit-Oakland's party has been struggling for audience against Windsor's Caboto Club party the following week. Next year, "Return of the Jug" party will be held on May 29, 1998, instead of the traditional first Friday in June. This gives an extra week between Jug Night and

Windsor's "International Send-Off" Show. We are also going to open it up to have the ladies come and watch the quartet along with their menfolks. So I hope to see you all there.

Meanwhile, the jugs have gone back into hiding. But very soon, they will start traveling again; not only to raise money for the quartets, but especially to promote inter-chapter visits in our district. Keep the jugs moving!

Currently the Gentlemen Songsters are busy learning new songs for our annual show next February. However, there is always time for one more song. So, if you're footloose and looking for something special some Monday night (or on a Thursday afternoon), pop over to Starr Presbyterian Church at 13 Mile and Crooks Road in Royal Oak and let us sing one with you.

Grand Rapids

by Dick Williams

Before I get started I'd like to thank Roy Gurney, Larry Parker and FIRE-POWER! for their wonderful comments in the last *Troub*. They were appreciated by Ann, the chapter and the chorus. Thank you.

We'd also like to thank Doran McTaggart and the Windsor chapter for a terrific sendoff party and Mr. Roger Lewis for all of his help and encouragement. I might add that Roger was right there backstage shaking our hands when we finished our performance. Thanks, Rog.

Our compliments to our own Joel Mills and the splendid job of judging he did.

How about Power Play! They were simply awesome. What a job they did. It has been a long time since Pioneer had a quartet finish in the top ten. Congratulations, you guys.

We had an idea how things might go after they sang for us after we had our practice Thursday morning. They did their opening set. Awesome, baby, awesome. We appreciated your coming over

to our hotel. Thanks.

We shared a hotel and the risers with the Thoroughbreds. What a super bunch of guys. They gave us a lot of support, especially Saturday morning after our final practice.

During our rehearsals Thursday and Friday David Wright and Greg Lyne were on hand to work with us, along with Jim Casey who surprised us with an unexpected visit and shared some of his expertise with us. Most of that weekend they were busy with the perennial pow-ers, so we're grateful to them.

In fact, as we were getting ready on stage to open the contest, Greg Lyne appeared, talked to Ann and then gave us a little pep talk and left. That was exciting for all of us. Pretty neat, huh?

When we finished our performance and left the stage, we were extremely happy and confident knowing we did a great job and that feeling was reinforced by all of the fine comments that greeted us afterwards and later that day.

Oops, then came the reality check when you find out what the judges thought, etc. Normally after that your dobber's down and you sink into the abyss, but not this time, because we knew we had done the job and are on the right track to sing with the big boys.

To quote that super quartet, FIRE-POWER!, "we all look forward to a riveting fall contest."

So, we are good to go and ready to launch, and look forward with anticipation and excitement to the fall with a quiet confidence and a strong resolve.

Our thanks to Paul Kamyszek and the lovely Lois for the great chapter dinner they arranged for us at Dick Clark's Good Time Restaurant and Bar. It was a fun place and a good time was had by all. John and Deb Bloomquist attended and it was great seeing them. John, an ex-Great Lakes member, sings with the Phoenicians. So much for taste, hey John.

On August 26, John and Herm Baker

see **GRAND RAPIDS**, page 11

Chapters in Action

GRAND RAPIDS, from page 10

will host the annual chorus Corn Roast. To celebrate the event's 25th anniversary, the hot dogs are going to be replaced with a pig roast. For a good time with plenty of fresh corn on the cob, succulent pork, beverages and all the fixins, and of course plenty of tag singing, and a quartet contest, plan on motoring over to the Baker's Spread in Jenison. Things get started around 7:00 and last until ???

For more information, call Paul at (616) 363-7993 or John at (616) 669-9053.

Grosse Pointe

by Nick Piccione

Our recent show, "Gross Pointe Goes a Bit Irish," was met with highest reviews so many "thumbs up" that we have been asked to perform it again as part of the Greatness' Show in Clinton Township on September 20.

The Irish melodies were a delight... the comedy boisterous... and the part of Rosie "Hot Lips" McRee was played extremely well by guest star Joan Piccione.

A new outing event has been introduced this year, the Grosse Pointe Ladies are sponsoring a Riverboat Cruise. On Sunday, July 29, the good ship "Clinton Township" will embark on a four-hour cruise down the Clinton River. With dinner, dancing, entertainment, singing, moonlight, and 80 Grosse Pointe barbershoppers and guests aboard, it should be a winner.

Always a special day is our annual "Poker Run," hosted again by Don Adams. On Sunday, August 3, a flo-

tilla of private cruisers will parade on Lake St. Clair and the Detroit River with stops at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club, the Detroit Yacht Club, Sinbad's and Jack's for performances and refreshments.

Other upcoming events include our annual return to Harmony Woods on August 22-24 for camping and song with Sarnia, London and Windsor and other friends. This has quickly become a tradition for family fun.

It was a grand sight indeed to see Harvey Burr back after more than a year away with hip and knee surgery and extensive therapy at convention in October and will be part of "Harvey's Dinner," the Saturday night dinner party started and hosted by him for many years.

On a sadder note, the chapter was deeply saddened by the sudden death of our fine tenor, Perry Ballard. About 60 chapter members came to the Resurrection Funeral Home to sing and bid farewell to a longtime loyal and loved member. Perry will be missed.

A good number of the Grosse Pointe Chapter members journeyed to Indianapolis for the International convention. For me, it was a great experience to hear and see some of the world's best quartets and choruses. The Vocal Majority was spectacular, but the great performance of our Grand Rapids chorus and Power Play made us all proud to be part of the Pioneer District.

On the way home, I could not help but ponder:

Barbershoppers are strange
folks it's said,
On harmony alone are they
fed,
In Men's Room and Lobby
They practice their hobby,
I thought they would never go
to bed.

Lansing

Doug Pearson
VP, Marketing & Public Relations

In what's becoming a star-studded event of zany proportions, Lansing's Krazy Kwartet Contest once again reach new highs in blazing a musical path that combined music, mirth and comedy.

Masterminded by impresario Reggie Von Barrett (Dave Barrett), the annual competition proved be a down-to-the-wire event with the Wacko quartet, comprised of Rich Harlow, Don Horton, Art Cardy and Doug Pearson, edging out an impressive list of performance specialists to win the overall championship.

Second place honors went to Confucious Sings (Stan Williams, Mike Hanson, Kim Yeoman and Horton); third place was garnered by Jamie's Drinking Buddies (Paul Marks, Dave Wells, Mark Johnson and Mark Kettner); and best sound was captured by Patchery (Harlow, Cardy, Pearson and an alleged impostor by the name of Larry Parker).

Entertainers in their own right, the judging panel consisted of Barrett; the sinister Marv "Machine Gun" Rhynard; from the frigid copper county Yrho Make (Frank Richards), and the dirt-under-his-fingernails tiller of soil Jethro Sample (Bob Fox).

Other participants in this wild night of hot competition included 4 in Pain, Press on Regardless, Lamplighters, Generation Gap, Foulorn, Not What You'd Expect, 3 and a Ghost, and Why Not..

Back to more serious matters, chapter members have recently stepped forward to assume important duties within the leadership structure, "and I believe we are stronger than ever," says President Brian Dunckel about the district's largest chapter. Dennis Wortz has filled the vacancy in the secretary's position, Bruce Smith has taken over the office of vice president for chapter development and Marv Rhynard has rejoined the board as past president.

see LANSING, page 12

Chapters in Action

LANSING, from page 11

Looking ahead, two major activities in downtown Lansing will be enhanced by the sounds of the Capital City Chordsmen. On August 15, before a predicted sellout crowd at Oldsmobile Park, the Chordsmen will sing the National Anthem at a Lansing Lugnuts game. Then, to help celebrate the 100th Birthday of Oldsmobile, the Chordsmen will put on a show on the steps of the Capitol Building.

In the spirit of good community relations, the Sunday Singers have once again been extremely active this year. Their jaunts have taken them around Mid-Michigan with the schedule including performances in Dimondale, Haslett, Gunnisonville and Fowlerville.

Meanwhile, not content to rest on his laurels as our chorus director, Joltin' Jamie Carey served as a team captain for the First Annual Lansing Chapter SPEBSQSA Golf Scramble on the scenic Mason Hills Golf Course. Joining Jamie as captains were Paul Howe and Dan Sutberry. Since the activity was held on a Sunday, the official Scramble Song was "Oh Lord, It's Hard To Be Humble." The Scramble was followed by a Chapter picnic.

In a year marked by a flurry of activities for our chapter, other recent events included a major performance at Owosso's annual civic festival and a fun-time bus journey to God's Country in Windsor where we took part in the always-impressive Windsor Send-Off Show.

Macomb County

Roy Gurney
Music/Performance VP

Well, I guess we all know that that was one fine International Convention,

and even though not everyone placed as highly as they would have liked, there were no losers. The Great Lakes Chorus did a fine job and we're all very proud of their effort.

And in 10th place, Power Play! What an outstanding performance. We should all sell a song so well. Obviously, this chapter is popping its buttons with pride at having such a fine quartet in our midst. (Of course, my son-in-law singing bass in Uptown Sound was right behind them!)

Last Sunday found us sharing the stage with the Sarnia, Ontario chapter at the grand opening of the new Blue Water Bridge between Port Huron and Sarnia. It was beautiful weather (though a little warm for tuxes), and between us we put on over an hour of barber-shop harmony. The expected crowd of 20,000 was far exceeded and the people walking over the bridge had to be controlled.

Now we're ready to start learning Christmas songs (believe it or not) for our show on December 13. We are going to do the Christmas Story along with some other lighter holiday music. Should be a lot of fun and anyone interested in attending can contact any chapter member for tickets.

August 2 will see us all at Waldenwoods Resort for combined campout and coaching session and performance for the few hundred campers there. Wayne Kinde has agreed to work with us that day and we look forward to a great time and good results.

And just to show you where our optimism lies, we are already planning our March 1999 show! It will be a full stage presentation with prime guest quartets.

But in the meantime, you will find us on August 19 honoring our new members with a New Member Induction ceremony with the honors presented by the honorable Russ Seely. We are very proud of our new members as they are truly dedicated singers.

That's all for now. See you all at the convention in October. Have a great summer!

Rochester

Eric (Ric) Matus
Communications VP/Treasurer

"SUMMER TIME AND THE LIVIN' IS EASY"(?)

Not if you're a member of Rochester's Heart of the Hills Chorus!

We've been singin' and a singin' -- St. Mary's Orchard Lake Founder's Day annual gathering provided us with a showcase for our many melodies plus a festive evening and fine dining. After singing for about an hour, we all headed for the food line where we did a superb job of sampling everything so we could qualify for the Ice cream tent and build our own monstrous sundaes.

We entertained the seniors at the American House during their Summer Picnic. Next we sang at Walton Woods at their summer picnic. This time we headed for hot dogs, hamburgers and about everything that goes with this kind of affair. Needless to say, we're being well fed!! And, add to that our weekly Thursday night practices at 7:30 at the University Presbyterian Church.

We're also working on a program designed to encourage both high school and college students to at least investigate Barbershopping.

Our four quartets: The Chordmeisters, The Rochester Irregulars, The Endeavors and the Harmony Knights are all busy sharpening their chords, vocal and otherwise, to be ready for whatever requests, and demands, they may receive in the future.

Al Fisk, our director, did bike his 62 miles and raised \$700 for diabetes research. A big congratulations to Al.

So - - - yeah, in our spare time we play, hope you do too! Have a good summer.... what's left of it!

Eric (Ric) Matus
Heart of the Hills Chorus
Rochester Hills, MI

INTERNATIONAL CHORUS CONTEST

FINALS	SONGS	MUS	PRE	SNG	SCOR	MEN
1 Dallas Metro, TX	You'll Never Know/My Buddy	466	485	488	2881	152
	The Vocal Majority	473	485	484		
2 Northbrook, IL	They Called It Ireland	468	472	474	2815	116
	New Tradition	464	475	462		
3 St. Charles, MO	Mississippi Mud	448	477	452	2748	132
	Ambassadors of Harmony	450	466	455		
4 W. Hills-Cincinnati, OH	Hard Times Come Again No More	443	450	445	2683	143
	Southern Gateway Chor.	444	461	440		
	Marietta, GA	442	459	435	2674	103
	Big Chicken Chorus	442	467	429		
6 Louisville Metro, KY	A Barbershop Contest	433	461	441	2668	32
	Louisville Times	436	458	439		
7 Hilltop, MN	Everybody Step/Alex. Ragtime	432	453	438	2643	88
	Great Northern Union	430	457	433		
8 Phoenix-Saguaro, AZ	YouKeepComingBackLikeASong	437	452	430	2642	125
	Phoenicians Chorus	409	426	428	2559	80
9 Tampa, FL	MissYouTonight/WhenLostYou	420	453	423		
	Heralds of Harmony	420	453	423		
10 Wasatch Front, UT	Polka Medley	424	425	429	2544	69
	Saltaires	422	422	422		
11 Stockholm, Sweden	JustLikeButterflyThatsCaught	419	424	427	2535	39
	Stockholm ChordMasters	418	428	419		
12 Kansas City, MO	There'll Be Some ChangesMade	411	427	422	2526	90
	HeartOfAmerica Chorus	416	429	421		
13 Buckeye-Columbus, OH	Pal Of My Cradle Days	418	430	415	2524	108
	Singing Buckeyes	417	429	415		
14 Louisville, KY	Bright Was The Night	401	418	410	2462	83
	Thoroughbreds	402	421	410		
15 Scarborough, ONT	Darkness On The Delta	401	413	410	2448	82
	Dukes of Harmony	400	421	403		
16 Bryn Mawr, PA	Alexander's Band Medley	412	407	412	2442	85
	The Mainliners	406	402	403		
17 New Westminster, BC	What A Wonderful Pal YouAre	395	414	413	2439	61
	Gentlemen of Fortune	394	420	403		
18 Grand Rapids, MI	I Didn't Want To Fall	393	384	403	2368	58
	Great Lakes Chorus	394	396	398		
19 Hunterdon County, NJ	You Keep ComingBackLikeASong	402	388	385	2310	70
	Hunterdon Harmonizers	392	375	368		
20 Rochester, NY	ThisIsMyLuckyDay/LuckyInLove	374	380	369	2218	68
	Chorus of the Genesee	360	371	364		

INTERNATIONAL QUARTET CONTEST

FINALS	SONGS	MUS	PRE	SNG	SUB	PREV TOTAL	TOTAL SCORE	PTS.
1	Yesteryear							
	Let The Rest Of The World Go By	457	475	469	2775	5499	8274	
	Shine On Harvest Moon	447	462	465				
2	FRED							
	Top Ten Parody	448	477	430	2694	5309	8003	
	Who'll Take My Place Parody		437	473	429			
3	Standing Room Only							
	Banjo Medley	443	460	460	2702	5251	7953	
	From The First Hello	438	456	445				
4	Bank Street							
	Paper Doll	429	442	444	2631	5288	7919	
	I Miss Mother Most Of All	424	449	443				
5	BSQ							
	Danny Boy	436	443	431	2628	5254	7882	
	Mississippi Mud	441	447	430				
6	Backbeat							
	Garland Of Old Fashioned Roses	433	443	438	2622	5185	7807	
	Pass The Apples Medley	428	442	438				
7	Excalibur							
	Wild Wild Women	421	433	417	2505	5172	7677	
	Nice Work If You Can Get It	405	22	407				
8	Michigan Jake							
	Louise	412	421	406	2509	5096	7605	
	I Can't Give You Anything But Love	423	429	418				
9	Revival							
	Waiting For The Robert E. Lee	421	434	429	2558	5025	7583	
	You Keep Coming Back Like A Song	416	430	428				
10	Power Play							
	Dream Medley	412	425	419	2521	5026	7547	
	The Little Boy	421	420	424				

Indy '97 makes for lasting memories



INDY, from page 1

up about the barbershop sound!) It's great! We did have one bad experience, though, Saturday afternoon, after the Chorus competition, we figured we would have time to eat, so we went to Rock Bottom Brewery, where they told us it would be a 45 min wait. Well.... two

hours later, we decided that we should be going, and get to the contest. They stopped us on our way out and told us our table was ready. To say the least, we were not too happy, so we left, and got pizza at the arena. I hope to get to the next International, in Atlanta.... or maybe I'll make it every year now!! I'm hooked!

Coaching, cont.

McTAGGART, from page 4

The classes that will be offered at COTS this December are President, Secretary, Treasurer, VP Chapter Development, VP Music and Performance, and Public Relations.

What resources have you got in your chapter to enable your officers to do their jobs properly? During the last two years each chapter has received at least five copies of a document entitled "SPEBSQSA Chapter Resources 1996... a working draft." This is a reference manual that is a mini-COTS in itself. It includes everything you ever wanted to know about chapter organization and operations and then some. This is your "Barbershop Bible."

Other resources that you have accumulated in great abundance are the individual Chapter Officer Manuals.

Genuine Blend blends with Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra

Jim Styer

Pioneer Computer Communications

Genuine Blend, 1994 Pioneer quartet champion, presented barbershop to a wider audience this summer, singing with the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra during six concerts in the park. The evening outdoor concerts were squeezed into two weeks at various locations: Kalamazoo, Parchment, Three Rivers, Plainwell, Portage and Vicksburg.

The quartet, accompanied by the orchestra, performed "Peg 'O My Heart," "Faschnatin' Rhythm," "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy" and "Friends." The selections were orchestrated by symphony principal clarinetist Harrison Orr. Then the quartet did an a cappella rendition of

Through the years chapters must have received enough of these office specific manuals to fill several shelves. If our Society has chopped down forests to make sufficient paper to print these manuals, surely we can dust them off and reread them.

Although some of the names may have been changed, nevertheless all of the jobs still have to be done in order to have your chapter function smoothly. These manuals are filled with priceless information and ideas.

There are so many jobs to be done at the chapter level that everyone can become involved and make a contribution. Why not become a human resource and offer your talents to your chapter board and become part of the leadership team? You'll be glad that you did. Both you and your chapter will be richer because of your involvement and participation.

President, cont.

PARKER, from page 3

chapters who are in jeopardy of having their charters revoked. Four chapters have not submitted their Form 990's to the Society, or a letter stating they didn't have to file one with the IRS. Also, fourteen chapters have failed to send copies of their chapter's Annual Financial Review (Audit) to the Society. Both items were due **May 15, 1997**. You all know who you are, as I sent letters to each chapter's treasurer and president. To save much embarrassment to all involved, please take care of this important chore very soon!

Nominations! What, so soon! This is only July! Well, by the time you read this article it could be August, qualified to help lead your chapter toward the year 2000 and beyond.

Hummmm'bly yours,
Larry

"Whatever Happened to Those Old Songs?"

Genuine Blend was introduced as "one of the best barbershop quartets in Michigan" and was very well received by the audiences.

The Holland-based quartetters are lead Mark Garlock, tenor Frank Lievense, baritone Kirk Wood and bass Dan Doctor. Kirk is former director of the Cereal City Chorus in Battle Creek.

Kirk said he now is working with a new quartet, called Northern Lights, which plans to compete this fall in the Illinois District. For this purpose, Kirk is reactivating his original membership in the Champaign-Urbana, Ill., chapter. He still lives in Paw Paw (near Kalamazoo) and is traveling a lot.

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.



Styer, cont.: District online ventures connecting members

STYER, from page 6

project in Battle Creek, and a report with PR ideas for a SingAmerica project of your own.

- A calendar of district events. I'd like someone to volunteer to help coordinate keeping track of chapter shows and other division/chapter events and keeping this calendar up to date.
- History of the district and a list of Pioneer firsts.
- A list of registered quartets.
- A directory of district officers and committees, judges and, eventually, COTS info.
- An honor roll of past district presidents and international board members, Hall of Fame members and quartet and chorus champs.
- Information on PioNet and a form to sign up.

I would hope we can eventually add more info to the events calendar, pages for convention and other district

events, Troubadour archives, etc... all in time.

The real credit goes to an unsung hero — now to be a SUNG hero — Steve Sutherland, director of the Detroit-Oakland chapter. He was teaching a class about the Web to junior high students and said he would like to help create the Pioneer site to brush up on his skills.

Almost overnight, he had the basic pages created and typed in a lot of the district info all by himself. He put in some graphics — even animated ones — some neat frame pages and lots of other fun stuff. The Pioneer District logo highlights each major page, and even the wheels on the covered wagon are animated. I think it's a really classy Web site!

Since it's ultimately YOUR Web site, we would appreciate any input from you... first, any corrections ... and any additional info or ideas you may have to make it the best district site in the Society. Please e-mail your ideas

to me: jimstyer@voyager.net

PIONET

Meanwhile, the district's PioNet e-mail service continues to grow. Nearly 100 persons are signed on.

PioNet is an automated service which sends your e-mail to everyone on the list. There is no cost to join. It can be used to share chapter, division and district announcements, information and ideas with other barbershoppers and chapters in Pioneer. You can ask questions, get answers, bring up your concerns and praises, and generally get involved in e-mail chats about anything that affects your Pioneer barbershop life.

Every chapter now has someone signed on except Cadillac, Flint, Jackson, Monroe North, Sault Ste. Marie and Swan Valley.

If you'd like to join, e-mail me or check the PioNet page on our new Web site.

Public Relating, cont.

PEARSON, from page 5

and the handlebar mustached quartet singing "Sweet Adeline."

Ralph goes on to say that their chapter has undergone a major change in this vein by changing its name from Timberland Chordsmen to Harbor Sounds. The old name no longer depicted the area. It's an important move that gives their community relations program a more up-to-date image.

Actually, community relations possibilities are endless if you put your mind to it. Witness the Holland chapter. In

June, the chapter rented the Holland Civic Center and held a giant garage sale. When people bought goods, the chapter sang them a song. Good public relations? You bet!

So how's *your* chapter doing? Right now it's *showtime* and the curtain is about to open on another great performance. As your adrenaline flows, you can smell the grease paint and hear the roar of the crowd. Your community is ready for you.

Are you ready for your community?

Art Cardy - Tenor
David Hundt - Lead

Larry Wise - Bass
Larry Parker - Baritone

GALLERY

An Entertaining Barbershop Quartet

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Lansing, MI 48906
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or David at
(517) 669-1188

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an a cappella ensemble

Mary Moran (313) 459-4218

Bob Wisdom (810) 879-7083

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

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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

preferably younger than the average district age which now stands at 58 years. Yes, Virginia, age DOES matter when you're leaping over chairs, tap dancing, performing simulated weapons drills and on and on that we see so frequently in the "big leagues." The brutal part of the process is that a great number of us would be weeded out and off the risers for Pioneer to become a valuable competitor. I'm convinced that our good brothers from Grand Rapids worked as hard as any chorus that competed at Indy – man for man. And certainly their director is a capable leader who enlisted top-o-the-list coaches and personnel, a marvelous performance by our reps who were awarded 18th place.

My final thought on this competition issue. Don't change a thing! That's right, do your very best - they did - and go forward with pride. The problem that keeps rearing its ugly head is that when we take ourselves so seriously we forget to encourage and preserve, and that has nothing to do with the "winning is the only thing" school of thought.

Oh yeah, you probably already know that the machine from Dallas, the Vocal Majority and the big guys from Ohio, Yesteryear, won.

Hats off (big time) to Hall of Famer Roger Lewis – our favorite Hound and the Society's Events Chairman. In a very professionally conducted site search and

presentation of the contesting cities for out International conventions, Roger's team was rewarded by the Society Board's acceptance of four (count 'em, four) summer conventions and two mid-winter soirees in one fell swoop. Included in our post-millennium selections were: Nashville and Montreal for the first time and prior sites of Louisville and Portland, Oregon. Add Tucson and Jacksonville and you have the early years of the 21st century covered. Thank you, Mr. Lewis. Roger (with Sue's help, among others) also sprung a classy surprise retirement party for Ken Buckner, who has been our staff employee handling conventions. Ken's many golf-oriented gifts included almost everything but a tee-off time on Mars. Performances by the Gas House Gang (Ken's kid Kip, the Tabasco Cats (Ken's kid Todd) and the Citations (with Kennie, his own self) generated a tear or two at the party.

The 1998 Society slate was presented to the Board with no exception to that slate. The following officers were elected for 1998:

- President** Ed Woesche
- Exec VP** Chuck Watson
- Treasurer** Ken Fletcher
- Bd. Member at Large** Earl Hagn
- Imm. Past President** Tim Hanrahan
- Harmony Foundation**
- (4 yr. term)** Jim Warner