

Pioneer Troubadour

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



FEBRUARY/MARCH

IN THIS ISSUE:

2000/2000 Impossible ..	4
Letters	4
DSC at the Palace	10
Chapters in Action	12

Chapters use Singing Valentines as source of income, unique Public Relations tool

Chocolates or roses, they eternal question for many a lover. For many years, though, SPEBSQSA has been offering another option to would-be Romeos: Singing Valentines.

This year, as in the past, district chapters got into the business of delivering song on and around Valentine's Day.

One of the traps for choruses entering trying to sell the musical greetings is the orchestration of the event. For many, organizing who goes where, and when is an awesome task.

The effort seems to pay off, though. In this month's column, Pioneer District President Dave Cole suggests Singing Valentines as a recruitment tool. Marketing and Public Relations VP Doug Pearson calls Singing Valentines "one of the district's biggest PR activities of the year."

Many chapters participate in the event, with prices ranging from 25 dollars and up. The Rochester chorus, in its third year delivering the musical Valentines, charged \$35 for two songs, a long-stem rose, a Valentine card and a photo with the quartet.

Pearson also makes sure to capture the

moment on film and, being the PR man that he is, doesn't just give the photo to the lucky Valentine.

"I'm bringing along a camera which I'll throw to a spectator and have them get a shot of the quartet and the honored individual, said Pearson. "Then, I will send copies of photo to the individual and to the *Troub* and *Harmonizer* for PR purposes."

Grand Rapids president Dan Casamatta is a Singing Valentine supporter. He's seen the success his chapter has had, and encourages others to get involved, as well.

"If there are men's chapters not yet on the Singing Valentines bandwagon, jump on," Casamatta encouraged in a posting to the PioNet. "It's a great experience and the customers love it."

When she sang bass with the Great Lakes Chorus Sweet Adelines, Maureen Wickstrom loved to deliver Singing Valentines. It was the look on the recipient's faces that kept her coming back."

When I was active I was always in a quartet which went out and sang them--two days in a row," said Wickstrom. "(It was) such fun to see the delight and sur-

prise on the faces of the recipients! Rain or shine, snow, ice or sleet, we did it and it gave us a lot of satisfaction."

Singing Valentines have become so popular, that last year SPEBSQSA made a move from its toll-free Singing Valentine hotline, to an online list of choruses and quartets offering the service across the country.

Anyone who punched up the Society's website (www.spebsqsa.org) in the months prior to February 14 was able to browse an increasingly complete list, organized by region. The list gives a contact name and number, pricing information, dates and times, and details regarding packages available.

Nine of Michigan's chapters were listed on SPEBSQSA's site this year. Time will tell if the web presence is paying off in sales.

Last year, more than 285 chapters and quartets made use of the Society Valentine's Day referral service, and that number should be much higher this year.

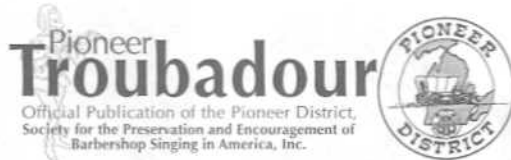
Inside!



COTS and CDWI give Pioneer members a chance for first-rate training.
Photos, PAGE 10



Harmony Roundup is coming soon! Check out your registration info, PAGE SIX



Publication authorized by the Pioneer District, SPEBSQSA, Inc.

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

PRESIDENT

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

SOCIETY BOARD MEMBER

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

CONTEST & JUDGING VP

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

**CHORUS DIRECTOR
 DEVELOPMENT VP**

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

MARKETING/PUBLIC RELATIONS VP

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

SECRETARY

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

EXECUTIVE & MEMBER SERVICES VP

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

EVENTS VP

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

CHAPTER SUPPORT, LEADERSHIP VP

Doran McTaggart
 890 Buckingham
 Windsor, ON N8S 2C8
 Canada

MUSIC AND PERFORMANCE VP

TREASURER

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

TROUBADOUR PUBLISHING INFORMATION

Published bimonthly in February, April, June, August, October, and December. **Copy Deadline:** 15th of the month prior to the month of publication. The *Troubadour* is published by the authority of the Pioneer District Association of the Chapters of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America, Inc. All articles not by-lined are by the editor and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the members of officers of the district. Space will be made available for opposing views relevant to the issue. Nothing will be published that is in violation of the Society's Code of Ethics.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE FOR NON-MEMBERS:
 \$6.00 annually, \$1.50 Single Copy. Remit to editor.

MEMBERS: DO NOT SEND CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO ADDRESS OF EDITOR. Mailing labels are furnished by SPEBSQSA, Inc. 6315 Third Street, Kenosha, WI 53143-5199. please furnish change of address to your chapter secretary and SPEBSQSA with your name, chapter name, chapter and member number, your old and new address. Copies not deliverable at the time of mailing will not be forwarded.

Submission Information

Next Copy Deadline
March 15, 1998

Fax: (517) 482-7466
Phone: (517) 485-3641
e-mail: csanders@lsd.k12.mi.us
 1616 W. Rundle Avenue
 Lansing, MI 48910

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

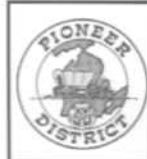
Rates quoted are for *camera ready* copy or properly formatted electronic files. Please send check with copy, payable to Pioneer District, SPEBSQSA.

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
 1/6 page (12-1/2 sq. inches) .. \$40
 Quartet card size (one side) ... \$13
 Quartet card size (annual) \$55

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



President's Position

Dave Cole, President

Planning to Succeed in 1998



My how time flies. It has already been a year since I first participated in "Singing Valentines." Recently as our quartet was warming up, we were talking

about all of the wonderful things which happened to us during our 30-plus performances last year. After all of the warm fuzzies were expressed, we discovered that our chapter's success and our enjoyable time was the grass roots of the barbershop-ping experience.

In addition to all of the things we must do to make the chapter, district and society flourish, our primary task is to allow others to enjoy our hobby of barbershop. We must keep these basics in mind so that each man can enjoy hearing his own voice singing barbershop harmony.

At first blush, Singing Valentines is an excellent fund raising tool for each chapter that participates-and indeed, that is true. But are we missing a golden opportunity? You bet! What would happen if we handed the delighted gal her rose and card, and included the phrase "How would you like to have your significant other sing you these songs next year?" - what an opening line for a mem-

see **COLE**, page 10

A response to Russ Seely's dilemma

Lyle Howard
Rochester

In the Oct/Nov issue, Russ posed this question --- taking his historical experience into consideration, "Would I join the barbershop society today?" He begs the question and doesn't answer it. I know exactly how he feels and from where he is coming.

I am also a product of barbershop-ping in the 50's. I think the major difference between Russ and I is as follows: The evolution from a strictly fun-filled monthly experience to one of weekly all work and sweat has been slow and continuous for Russ, probably resulting in an easier adjustment. Not so for me. In the early 70's I took a long hiatus from our hobby due to work and schedule commitments. I decided to rejoin three years ago. It took a few weeks, but the shock to my system was intense. We had choruses in the 70's, but quartetting was still king. It isn't anymore. I too sit through these weekly meetings working our tails off to perfect a show "Theme" package or polish competition material. Most everybody heads for the door at rehearsal's end. In nearly three years at Rochester, I think I've heard their #1 quartet perhaps four times, and two of those times were on the annual show, as a step out quartet only, singing a song dictated to them by the show committee, the same being true of other chapter quartets. I guess to some, today's method is somehow better, but I long for the old "Parade of Quartets" where local quartets could strut their stuff in their own outfits before their family and friends in front of the big lights along with the big boys. Now, you have to be some kind of a winner to even get on your own afterglow.

see **QUARTETS**, page 18

Take Note

Fred Kienitz, CDD VP

Directors' Workshop kicks off

By now, you should be sick of reading my reports on Chorus Director Workshop Intensive. Well, gentlemen (and lest I forget, lady), the workshop is now a reality.

The very first CDWI will be held in the southern corner of our district. There are 12 chapters involved and I have sent in 10 directors' names in random order to the International office. Five will be chosen.

A special thanks to 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 M-55.

It is obvious that these zones with 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. In other words, we may combine all of the lower Pioneer Chapters and recruit the fourth workshop from those who weren't selected, but were still interested.

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

see **KIENTZ**, page 10

GOAL OF 2000 by 2000 IMPOSSIBLE!

Raleigh Bloch, V.P. Member Services

Our President, Dave Cole, has set us a goal of attaining 2000 members in the Pioneer District by the end of the year 2000. **THAT GOAL IS IMPOSSIBLE!** Impossible, if we continue to do what we have been doing in the past. We have been growing slightly or staying the same in membership, each year. We have to do something different than we have been doing or we will not make it. I don't know one chapter that doesn't want to grow. So how do we grow? Well, we grow by having a product that people want and that's good singing. People want to be associated with something that is good. I think most of you will agree that by and large we have something that is good, but we should strive to make it even better. So how else do we grow? Usually we grow when we have membership drives. Wow! Quite a revelation. Some chapters have one, maybe two guest nights a year. You'll notice I said guest nights, not membership drives. There is a difference. Guest Nights are where just before we sing *Keep The Whole World Singing*, someone shouts "Hey! next week is Guest Night, so bring a Guest." Well, what if we had 4 (that's four) planned membership drives a year? I'm proposing that each chapter have four membership drives per year. Also, we don't coordinate our drives and leverage our clout in our district. If we all had a membership drive during the same period of time, we could create a media blitz all across the Pioneer District. That could benefit us all. For this reason, I'm proposing that we select May as our Membership Blitz Month. Each chapter should start planning it in their schedule now. Obviously, we should be planning the other membership drives as well, but let's give this a try and make May the Membership Blitz Month. Each

Chapter should plan a major membership drive for that month. This should include some heavy PR and advertising along with plans for the members and the guests. Make up flyers to hand out at Singouts. Set up contests within your chapter. Let your membership know the plan well in advance so they will feel confident that the guests will be focused on and feel welcome.

The following is a program that your District Board has agreed to sponsor called:

PIONEER MEMBERSHIP 2000

Purpose is to have each chapter grow 12% and to establish two new extension sites in 1998 as we grow to our goal of 2000 members by the year 2000.

Products:

1. 182 additional members in 1998.
2. Two new extension sites in 1998.

Process:

1. Request each chapter to hold 4 membership drives during 1998, utilizing such vehicles as:
 - Singing Valentines.
 - 2 for 1 Program.
 - Free Singing Lessons, with District help where needed.
 - High School Yearbook search.
2. Establish May as the District-wide membership drive month.
3. Provide recognition for the percentage growth over 1997 year-end figures (Based on Third Quarter figures). Recognition would be at the Fall Contest with trophies to the top three chapters. First place chapter will win the services of the District Champion Quartet, free of talent fees, for their next show.
4. Each chapter will receive plans and material to run at least 4 membership drives.
5. Member Services will investigate
see **BLOCH**, page 19



Invitation for an octet of fishermen

That part of Northern Ontario which is above Lake Superior has a lot of rock, bush and water and has always been a haven for great hunting and fishing. I should know. I was born in a village called Schreiber, nine miles west of Terrace Bay and 60 miles east of Nipigon.

I write this as a preface to putting out the idea of a Barbershoppers Fly-In Fishing trip up there in that country. I've been in touch with some people in Nakina, (a village 80 miles north of Schreiber,) who have fishing camps on a number of Lakes accessible only by air.

My inside information is that Pickerel, Pike and Lake Trout occupy Luella Lake (130 northwest of Nakina) while Rainbow and Brook Trout can be caught in the river. The Outpost on Luella Lake will accommodate 8 (eight) fishermen, an Octet. I'm told by fishing authorities (and I have no reason to doubt them) that fish respond well to music.

If you are interested in looking at the possibility of a four day or week-long fly-in trip give me a call at 519-250-0369 Fax 519-250-7839 or E-Mail Sly@uwindsor.ca

Doug Sly
Quartet, Lead, but sometimes Bari
Windsor Chorus

see **LETTERS**, page 5

Public Relating

Doug Pearson, Marketing & Public Relations VP

New year brings new chances for positive PR



As your first 1998 edition of the *Troub* rolls off the press, let me offer my best public relations wishes for the year to some pretty important people who

help shape our musical adventures into four-part harmony.

To All Chapter Choruses — The best to you throughout the year. You're in a position to make a huge public relations impact on your chapter, your district and certainly your community. Every one of your public performances offers a unique PR opportunity. At your singouts, do you make a point to mingle with your audience when at all possible, to tell them what a fantastic hobby you have, to encourage them to visit your chapter meetings? Do you sing with a happy face? Does it look like you're having fun?

To All District Quartets — I wish all of you a fulfilling year. Like our choruses, you have an excellent opportunity to impact your community through effective public relations. At your performances throughout the year, do you make a point to tell your audiences that you're a member of SPEBSQSA, and you're part of a chapter that promotes four-part harmony? Do you invite prospective members to visit your chapter meetings? Being a quartet member, I know that with so many things to remember during a performance, these PR tools could be forgotten. But they *are* important and should be used.

To Chapter Officers — The best to all of you. Ultimately, you're the glue that holds our public relations efforts together. You provide the leadership and set the pace with your chapter mission, your various chapter programs, your community relations efforts and your membership program. You can have the best chorus in the world with a number of flourishing quartets, but if you hide this light under the proverbial bushel basket, you're simply not doing a good public relations job.

To Bulletin Editors — My word to you for 1998 is this: Keep up the good work! The job of editor may seem thankless to you, but believe me, it's an important communications necessity as far as informing and educating your fellow members. For those chapters without a bulletin, one of your resolutions for this year should be to start one.

To Jim Styer and the PioNet — I'll echo my sentiments to the bulletin editors — keep up the good work. PioNet (E-Mail) is a quick, effective method of communicating on subjects that impact our district, chapters and members, and yet we only have about 10 percent of our members taking advantage of this free service. It's easy to get on board, and you'll become better informed. Just give Jim a call. He'll do the rest.

To The Media — Collectively, you can be a pretty responsive group, but some of you media types out there still don't get it. Our hobby is a unique American art form. We entertain millions of fans every year with our brand of four-part entertainment. I've asked our district chapters to do their part in providing you with everything you need see **PEARSON**, page 17

LETTERS, from page 4

Hall of Fame entries worth effort

I just read through the Dec/Jan issue of the *Troub*. I was very flattered at the article reporting my induction into the Pioneer Hall of Fame. Russ Seely's article, "Consider Chapter Service" struck a responsive chord (pun intended). As I look back over the last 41 years as a barbershopper (I joined in 1956), I was reminded that I have indeed been involved in chapter and district affairs and have found the experience very satisfying. And I'm not through yet.

There is a point to this letter: if my chapter had not taken the time and effort (apparently it took two years to assemble all the required data), I would never have been considered for the Hall of Fame. To those guys in my chapter that spearheaded this effort I owe my heartfelt thanks. Next to winning the quartet gold at International (which won't happen), the Hall of Fame will be my most treasured experience (It could even surpass winning the gold).

If any Pioneer Barbershopper feels that someone in his chapter is deserving of this unique recognition, get on the job and put him up for membership in the Hall of Fame. If you don't do it...no one else will.

Don Bazely

Sault Ste Marie chapter.

Benton Harbor finds director

It's official! Kerry Foley has been accepted by unanimous vote of the board of directors to the position of our new director. Kerry hails from South Bend, In. and is assistant director of the South Bend chapter.

Also, made necessary by the fact that Kerry is preoccupied at South Bend on Monday nights, Benton Harbor-St. Joseph has now officially changed its meeting night to Tuesdays, and the time from 8:00 to 7:30 p.m. All this came to pass way too late to even think about getting the directory changed, so for now all you good Pioneer members pencil these things in.

Steve Lake

Chapter Development VP



1998 Pioneer District Harmony Round-Up

A superb weekend designed to enrich
your barbershop experience

May 15-17, 1998
Michigan State University

2 Nights, 4 Meals – \$89.95* – All inclusive
New facility, this year only (Holmes Dorm)

See if there's something for you!



Barbershop Classes



Chorus Coaching



Quartet Coaching



Woodshedding and Tags



Top Gun (Invitation Only)

*Special rates on reduced programs

Harmony Roundup features a Dynamite faculty, starring the likes of:

Darryl Flinn Society Executive Director
Thom Hine Director of Music Education, Dixie District
 Former Pioneer Great

Free Trade Agreement Top 20 Quartet
 Al Baker, Ron Knickerbocker,
 Jay Butterfield and Chuck Lower

And More!

Special Offer! \$89.95

Italian Bargain from
Russ Seely, MPVP

Student Registration	89.95	(4 meals, lodging, materials, all classes)
Commuter Registration	49.95	(2 meals, materials, all classes)
Quartet Registration (4)	350.00	(4 meals, lodging, materials, all classes)
Quartet Commuter (4)	99.80	(2 meals, materials, all classes)

Late Registration

All prices listed will be honored through May 1, 1998. Registrations postmarked after this date will be subject to an additional **\$10.00** late fee per registrant.

Name _____ Chapter _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Home Phone (_____) _____ Bus. Phone (_____) _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____

Note: Minimum deposit of \$30.00 per attendee required.

No deposit refunds after 5/8/98

Make check payable to Pioneer District and mail to:

Russell Seely
 7626 Barnsbury
 West Bloomfield, MI 48324

Specific classes will appear in a personal mailing sent to all attendees in April
 For more information, call Russ Seely at (248) 262-8977 or Fred Kienitz at (810) 750-8259



COURT APPEARANCE: Detroit Sound Co. performs at the halftime of a Detroit Pistons basketball game at The Palace of Auburn Hills. The group also managed to score a cozy suite for the evening's game, as well.

The Detroit Sound Co. performs at Pistons game

Al Fisk
Rochester

On November 22, at the Palace of Auburn Hills, The Detroit Sound Co. (recently crowned Pioneer District Champs) performed the National Anthem (Clancy/Acoustix version with tag) and two more songs at halftime on the center of the court at the Detroit Pistons/Atlanta Hawks basketball game. I was pleasantly surprised at how quiet it was in the Palace as we did the anthem. Sure, they were making noise on the last note and didn't all hear the five second tag, but many of the Palace people told us how great it was to hear the anthem done so well. Heck, we've all seen disasters done on the anthem by people with good intentions or connections but no talent.

Since our quartet is so new (three months), we only have two upbeat songs in our repertoire. So, at halftime, we did 'em - (Bye, Bye, Blues and Sittin' On Top Of The World). Although the

crowd wasn't as attentive as they were for the anthem, we were heard. Both performances had our faces plastered on the big jumbo-tron (close-ups, too) while we sang. It was lots of fun! Not scary, but exciting.

FWIW, Rick Mahorn (Piston bad boy) was kidding around with us as we walked by the player's bench onto the court. On the way in, with a big smile on his face, he told us to hurry up and sing. On the way off, with the same grin, he wanted to know who had the girly voice. Guess he has no concept of the barbershop tenor (especially the high C in this arrangement).

To top it off, Jack Slamka (Power Play bass) and his brother, Big Mike, let us sit in their company suite. Cool! Didn't order anything, however. Room service wanted about \$10 for a pop and \$50 for a burger. I don't know what kind of people can afford that kind of luxury. Certainly not me. I'm just a teacher.

President, cont. COLE, from page 3

bership campaign. We need to constantly be thinking (and sharing) along these lines in order to grow Pioneer's membership to 2000 by the year 2000.

What other resources do we have at our disposal? The Chapter Support and Leadership Trainer committee is available and willing to help your chapter grow from a functional basis. Your contact is Doran McTaggart. The Music committee has a wealth of talent available for coaching by simply giving Russ Seely a call. And the third powerful tool available to your chapter is the Chapter Director Development committee, headed by Fred Kienitz. Currently, we have two Directors Intensive Workshops planned for each of the next two years. Let Fred know if you have an interest.

Communication is very important for Pioneer to reach our two main goals: 2000 members by the year 2000, and a 50% increase in registered chorus directors. We have one final tool that is more powerful than the chili at the Holland CPO Tag Contest. The Internet and our web page is a huge resource for all barbershoppers, from coast to coast, and worldwide. Log on to the Internet and the Pioneer Website and you will be able to make contacts with all of your district officers, a variety of quartets and choruses, and an unlimited wealth of resources from the society and other sites related to barbershopping.

Finally, talk to me! Drop me a line via e-mail, snail-mail, or call me. I'd love to hear what's working for your chapter so that we can share the wealth of success and help Pioneer reach 2000 in 2000.

Take Note, cont. KEINTIZ, from page 3

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, and they are just lying around collecting those enormous salaries.



The Renaissance Chorus

Wayne Chapter, SPEBSQSA

AN INCORPORATED, NON-PROFIT, FRATERNAL & EDUCATIONAL SINGING SOCIETY



Presents an evening of barbershop harmony

"You Must Remember This"

Featuring the International medalist quartet *Michigan Jake*, the ensemble *Fanfare*, and the Sweet Adeline quartet *Harmonix*



Friday-Saturday, March 6-7, 1998, at 8:00 p.m.
at Mercy High School, 11 Mile (at Middlebelt), Farmington Hills

TICKET ORDER FORM

TT

Fill out coupon and mail, along with check and SASE, to address at the bottom. **PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE.**
General admission tickets: \$12.00. Seniors (age 62 & older) & students: \$10.00.

NAME _____	QTY _____	\$ AMOUNT _____
ADDRESS _____	_____ Fri. March 6 @ \$12.00	_____
CITY _____	_____ Fri. March 6 @ \$10.00	_____
STATE/PROV _____ ZIP _____	_____ Sat. March 7 @ \$12.00	_____
TELEPHONE _____ (H) _____ (B)	_____ Sat. March 7 @ \$10.00	_____

Add to mailing list

Address correction

Make check payable to **WAYNE CHAPTER**

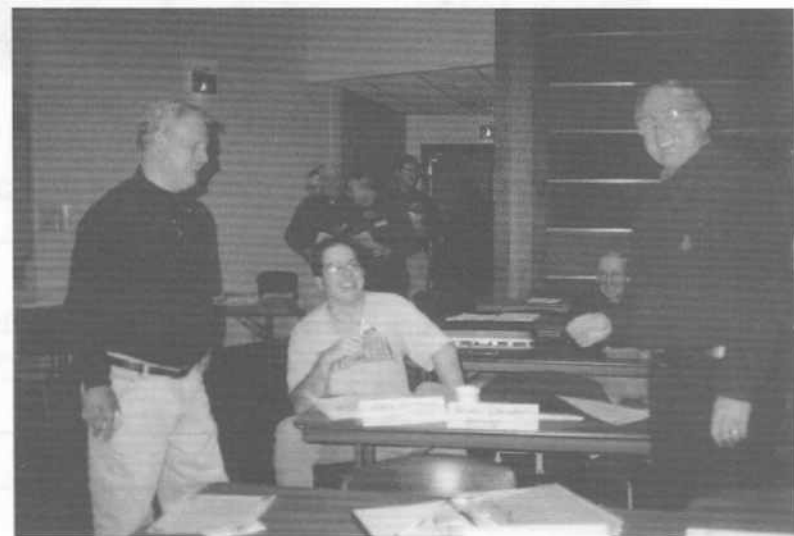
Amount enclosed \$ _____

Mail to **Walter Wolosiewicz, 6904 Lathers, Garden City, MI 48135-2265**

Phone **734-421-6935**

More Photos Than You can Shake A Stick At Dept...

COTS and CDWI: District tea



Clockwise, from to left: Russ Seely shares his experience with a group gathered in the lobby of the conference center at COTS; Land Fulks as an example in front of the chorus at CDWI; Miller spends some time one-on-one with Grand Rapids director Anne Jarchow; Lar editors listens intently as *Troubadour* editor Chad Sanders explains some layout basics; Tom Wheeler of Grand Rapids watches careful opening assembly at COTS; Bulletin editors listen to a representative from an online service provider explain Internet access, and the volunteer chorus.

ches its leaders how to lead

When it comes to preparing its leaders, Pioneer is a district committed. Events like the Chapter Officers' Training (COTS) and the Chorus Directors' Workshop Intensive (CDWI) let the district's leaders learn from the folks who know what they're talking about.

Over 100 attended COTS, held in December at the Kellogg Biological Station near Kalamazoo. Students could take mini-sessions with topics ranging from chapter organization to computers and the Internet.

The latest CDWI, held at the Lansing Sheraton, was a chance for five area directors to spend a day with top-notch coaches, who worked with and critiqued them on their directing skills.



O' Lakes CDWI instructor Doug Miller works with Flint's Mark Leimer; Miller using Swan Valley's Chuck Lansing's Larry Parker goes head to head with Ontario District instructor Paul Tamblyn; A gathering of bulletin board displays as Tamblyn explains; COTS participant take time during a break to shoot the breeze; Students at the future of the World Wide Web; (Middle) Chorus Directors' Workshop Intensive instructors, students, and



TAKING THE CAKE: Hall of Famers Clifford MacLean and Don Bazley show off the cake celebrating their accomplishment. The cake reads: "Legends and Sons of the Pioneers-Cliff and Don."

Chapters in Action

Sault Ste. Marie

by Rob Cameron

The Sault Ste. Marie chapter had a proud moment this past year. We now have not one, but two men inducted into the Barbershop Hall of Fame.

Clifford "Cap" MacLean has been singing barbershop for over fifty years. He has performed in barbershop shows from the Panama Canal Zone to Chapleau, Ontario, Canada. Cap has been an extremely dedicated barbershopper to our chapter. He rarely misses a sing-out or a practice, even though he has to travel 30 miles each way to get here. He has gone through all the requirements and is certified to judge in the society. He has judged in the Johnny Appleseed District and the Toronto area. Cap started the Portsmouth, Virginia chapter back around

the end of the war when he was able to use the base, where he was stationed, as a meeting place. Later he came to the Sault Ste. Marie chapter in 1961 when it was just starting up. Then in 1974, he started the Cedarville chapter, where he lives, and stayed with it until 1981 when he returned to be active with the Sault Ste. Marie chapter. Cap has been a very faithful delegate from our chapter to District conventions for many years. Don Bazley started singing Barbershop in Newfoundland and hasn't stopped since, for almost 40 years. Soon after coming to the Sault chapter in the early 60's, Don took over the directorship of the chorus and has been the chorus music director for most years of our existence. He has gained experience and skills with the newest techniques from virtually all available clinics and schools put on by the society. Don has attended Harmony College several times and every time comes back bubbling with enthusiasm for the Chapter and Society. He has been Area Counselor for our division, has been Dynamo coordinator, Assistant District Music Educator (DME) and Pioneer Division IV Vice President. Don is a wealth of information on Barbershopping and is truly one person who loves to tell anyone who will listen what he knows and loves about our fine Society and worthwhile recreation.

From the Sault chapter, a very large salute and thank you to two fine men who make us enjoy our hobby of Barbershopping. Thanks "Cap" and Don.

Detroit-Oakland

by Tom Uicker, Bulletin Editor

A new year is upon us, and the Gentlemen Songsters are again busy preparing for our annual show coming up February 20 & 21. Our feature quartets are FRED, 1997 Silver Medalists from Georgia, and BSQ, the 1997 5th place Medal holders from Maryland. The show will again be held at Clarenceville High School in Livonia.

On the social scene, we are looking forward to a visit to the southlands this Friday when nearly a score of our adventurous singers travel down to Windsor chapter for Uncle Sam Night. If you don't think that's adventurous, you obviously haven't observed Doran McTaggart in his natural habitat.

Our other big social event of the month of January is our annual Ladies Night/Honors Banquet/Officer Installation. This year, due to scheduling problems, it was delayed to Friday, January 23. Our new executive board looks much like last year's board with Jim Kunz continuing as President, Dave Montera staying as Music & Performance VP, and Will Power retaining the chair as Secretary. Treasurer Jay Peterson asked to be relieved; his duties will be picked up by Immediate Past President Tom Uicker. And I'm pleased to announce, after stumbling through a year without a Chapter Development VP, we now have two—John Northey and John Schell.

The board is rounded out with members-at-large: Jim Dugan, Joe DeSantis and Harry Jessop. I would like to give you the name of our new Barbershopper-of-the-Year, but as I write this, the banquet is ten days in the future and you will just have to wait patiently with the rest of us.

Meanwhile, if you happen to be in the neighborhood of Royal Oak, Michigan, some Monday night about 7:30, stop by Starr Presbyterian Church at 13 Mile and Crooks Road and sing a couple with us. Or, if you are free on Thursday afternoon, our Daytime Singers meet at the same church between 1:00 and 3:30 PM.

Chapters in Action

Pontiac

by Bob Woodward

Pontiac is on the move!

We have been going through a revitalization of the chapter and are beginning to see the results. The Tuesday rehearsals have had the highest attendance in years and all of the guys are enjoying the enhanced sound that more voices produce. As part of the revitalization effort, we are considering a change in the name of the chorus to better define our new image.

Dick Johnson, who has done a super job of directing the chorus for several years, was unable to continue. Chris Miller has stepped up to the task and is continuing to do a great job.

We have been hosting our annual Christmas Chorus where singers are invited to sing with us at our Christmas season performances. This has proven to be a good "soft sell" membership drive and we have added a number of members over the years as a result of it.

On December 13, we followed a suggestion made by Chris Miller to have a "Singing for the Green" day where we solicited local business for singing jobs at an asking price of \$100.00 each. We sang at all sorts of businesses from supermarkets, to a car dealer, and even a dentist's office. Any sort of business is a candidate. As a result of efforts by Mel Parrish, the use of the Pontiac, Michigan "Trolley Bus" was made possible. Getting everyone together in one vehicle helped the camaraderie and the bus itself was unusual enough to attract a lot of attention.

As a result of the new look of the chapter, we are beginning to attract some new members. We have signed two new members and there are at least two more about to sign.

Traverse City

by Maurie Allen, PR Guy

As we go to press, depending upon your receipt of this fine publication, a whole bunch of us will either be busily preparing for the delivery of Singing Valentines, or rejoicing in another successful venture and "Singing all the way to the bank"! This will be our seventh year of Valentine deliveries and it's an enterprise that has invariably served as a sure-fire jump-start to our continuous banner years of "Harmony up North"! With our chapter mission statement as follows: "To maximize our fun and joy by musically being, as a chorus, all we can be, while enriching our community with great harmony and good works." We can nearly fulfill our mission in one day, which allows us 364 unpressurized days to do more good stuff!

Fortunately, that's precisely what happened during the past year. We are exceedingly proud that our charitable giving and community outreach allowed us to achieve a major goal of 1997 and that was to attain a level of giving to \$100.00 per man. It's a great number, but there's a price to pay to get this result. We were forced to go out on a cold February night to sing a benefit for our Senior High Concert Choir's travel fund to San Diego. It was a sold out, enthusiastic crowd of young singers and appreciative parents. We raised \$3100.00, putting the travel fund over the top, and we were handsomely rewarded with a standing ovation! What a drag!

Thanks to a few other time consuming "Ventures in Harmony," and lost opportunities as couch potatoes, we were able to continue our support of our own "Josh and Amy Fund" named after the first two recipients of specialized computer hardware and software which allows unbelievable progress in their daily struggle to communicate through speech. This year, by giving up a few hours of Oprah and Seinfeld reruns, Shazam! \$1700.00 for the kids!

Let's see, it was almost April. Fortu-

nately we'd already addressed that "Sing America/Sing Canada" thing, and touched base with "Josh and Amy," 'cause now, we had to prepare for convention! A whole weekend with a bunch of happy guys and gals from every walk of life, from all over the state, and even a foreign country! What could we possibly have in common? Maybe our Traverse City Hospitality Room at the Hampton would provide some answers! So we partnered in the "International Spirit" and the combination of Windsor's Canadian beer, Traverse City's American cuisine, the universal appeal of Barbershopping, and the appearance of virtually every competing quartet made for "one hopping Hampton"! Amazingly, the fine folks at the Hampton invited us back, so we did it again in October! "Maximize our fun and joy, Be all we can be"? Yes, FUN AND FOURTH PLACE fits our mission nicely, thank you!

The start of the glorious Grand Traverse summer season has for the past 31 years been signaled by our "June Night of Harmony," and this two night extravaganza with the Gas House Gang kept the tradition alive with two huge nights at Interlochen's Center for the Arts. Another featured quartet was a high school group called the Quarter Notes, and after hearing them and experiencing the audience reaction, we decided to "send these boys, and their instructor, to camp!" So, off to Harmony Explosion Camp at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana, and they're still talkin' about it!

Then, just when we thought our year of harmony must have certainly climaxed, the Traverse Symphony Orchestra invited us to be guest artists on their fall season opener featuring work by some obscure composer from Iowa. "Music Man" with full symphony does provide goosebumps, maybe slightly less intense than a groovy tag, but we wouldn't have missed it, and besides, we got paid! More good works!

Sometimes, the holiday season
see **TRAVERSE CITY**, page 14

Chapters in Action

TRAVERSE CITY, from page 13 doesn't provide us with many venues to shine the light of barbershopping, so we took our pitch pipe in hand and visited six elementary schools, sang carols with the kids, rejoiced with the kids and convinced ourselves that "teaching the children to sing" just may be our most vital mission!

It's been a most harmonious year in our beloved Northern Michigan, and if your plans call for a visit to the Grand Traverse area, we hope you'll spend a Tuesday Night with us at the Presbyterian Church. To paraphrase Dave Stevens, "This is Barbershop, who would want to do anything else!"

Wayne

by Gary Simon
GSimon@Juno.com

We're starting to get excited about our upcoming show "You Must Remember This" on Friday & Saturday, March 6 & 7, at Mercy High School in Farmington Hills. On the show will be barbershop quartet Michigan Jake, a finalist in the Society's 1997 international competition; Fanfare, a 17-member ensemble of award-winning singers; and Sweet Adeline quartet Harmonix, first-place winners at the 1997 Buckeye Invitational. Each show performance will begin at 8:00 p.m.

This past December, our Renaissance Chorus had the opportunity to sing Christmas carols on several occasions in the community. We also dropped in at a Huron Valley Chapter rehearsal to 'pass the jug' and bust a few chords.

Our Chapter Development VP, Alex Willox, is starting to plan our next guest night for Tuesday, March 24. Former Pioneer District champion quartet Onyx will help us show our guests tag singing, woodshedding, and, of course, good

ol' barbershop quartet harmony.

We rehearse each Tuesday evening at 7:30 p.m. at Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail (1/2 mile east of Newburgh Rd.), Livonia. Guests are always welcome. "We'll leave the light on for you!"

Flint

by Ken Rice, Publicity Chair

It couldn't have happened to two nicer or more deserving gentlemen. At the Flint Chapter Christmas Party, our most senior member, Fred Kienitz (49 years, wow!) and one of our newest members (and, incidentally, the new director of our chorus), Mark Leimer, were named Co-Barbershoppers of the Year. Fred, of course, is everybody's favorite barbershopper... experienced, dedicated, talented, and willing to share his skills at the drop of a B-flat. Mark, though possessing a shorter resume, has brought a new enthusiasm to the Arrowhead Chorus, along with "faces," "vowel sounds," and "singing softer," the latter a novel idea to our bunch of roustabouts. Both men have worked hard through 1997 to bring our chorus to a new level of sound quality, and just may be succeeding. Thus the Co-BOY designation. Kudos to Fred and Mark.

Sincere thanks go, too, to returning president Don Hall. Don gave us a great year, but has elected to shed the pressures of presiding. The good news is that veteran barbershopper Jack Stephens has volunteered to step into Don's well-worn Hush Puppies and bask in the glory of the top spot in Flint barbershop politics. Good luck, Jack!

Just as retailers reported less than exuberant Christmas business, our chapter experienced somewhat of a drought in holiday sing-outs. We had only one appearance, that at a dinner meeting of the Davison chapter of the American Business Women's Association, where we, resplendent in our nearly-new uniforms, outnumbered the audience. But, what the heck, fun is fun wherever you find it,

and we all agree that singing is fun.

Valentine's Day approaches rapidly, and we expect to field two lovely (or is that lovelorn?) quartets for the purpose of serenading sweethearts all over Genesee county. We've yet to determine which element of our performance is most appreciated by the designated Valentines... the rose, the card, the Polaroid photo, or "I Love You Truly" warbled in my tenuous tenor. Well, they pay their money and they take their choice. It's a great fundraiser for Heartspring.

Show time is not far off either, and we invite you to join us on March 21 as we go for the gold... "Klondike Gold!", that is. Our show this year commemorates the 100th anniversary of the Alaskan Gold Rush of 1898. Robert Service, poet laureate of the Gold Rush, will recite excerpts from his poetry to guide the audience through the anticipation, the trials and tribulations, the heartache, and the occasional ebullience that accompanied the always-optimistic miners through their Yukon experience. On stage also will be Pioneer District quartet favorite Onyx, and the Banjo Bissonnetes, fast-fingered duo from Davison. There will be both matinee and evening performances. Call Bob Longroy at (810) 603-1768 for information and reservations.

A mixed
a cappella
sextet

Kindred Spirits



Contact:
Ken Gibson
(517) 351-8056
Kennysing@aol.com

**Unlawful
ASSEMBLY**



YOU WILL LIKE OUR SINGING

Raleigh Gene

To put out a contract... contact

Gene Hanover
PO Box 259 - Bridgman, MI 49106
616 - 465 - 6223

Gary Ed

Chapters in Action

Muskegon

by Wilbur "Webb" Scrivnor
scrivco@novagate.com

The Holiday Season rather leads more to inactivity than normal. We already reported our performance activities in our last report, and we did get our new officers and Board of Directors elected. The Christmas and New Years dates made meetings difficult, of course, and the weather made the roads very dangerous on another meeting night. So, we are just getting back to a regular schedule. Saturday, January 17, is/was the Muskegon Chapter's Annual Planning Session and Workshop. Last year, we met primarily to rewrite our mission statement.

This year we are concentrating on membership and Chorus performances. One more final bit of information: our great theater, the Frauenthal, is undergoing extensive remodeling that will restore it to its original state. Therefore, our usual Annual Show in April has been moved to September 26, with the Chordiac Arrest as our headliner. Cheers!

Muskegon, Too

by Frank Scott, VPCD

Two articles on Muskegon activity this month! Wow! -ed.

President Webb Scrivnor, invited our chapter coach, Ed Fritzen, to conduct the installation ceremony for our 1998 officers at our annual Christmas banquet. We met at a gourmet restaurant, the Arboreal Inn, in Spring Lake. It was not immediately apparent that his long association with other members of the "Unlawful Assembly" quartet had affected his personality. He introduced his companion as his wife and not as

his gun moll. When it came time to install the officers he read from a very original, creative script where he assigned gang like characteristics to all officers. He further implied that we were involved in a great conspiracy to produce barbershop chords and perpetuate barbershop harmony.

Our number one gang leader, Webb Scrivnor, was the recipient of special instructions to exhort all officers to spread the influence of barbershop harmony throughout the community. Assistant gang leaders; Music VP, Bill Tobias; CDVP, Frank Scott; Secretary, Chuck Kitchka; Publicity, Fred Kendall; Services Chairman, Mike Wittkopp; Quartet Chairman, Mart Bomers; along with Members-at-Large, Dave Jones, John Tyler, and Ken Hampel, were all given explicit and very special instructions for their particular tasks. Steve Aiken, our new loot keeper, was unable to attend and was thus deprived of hearing his special instructions. Fortunately, Ed recently sent me the script so he can be properly indoctrinated which will help liven up our first January meeting.

The installation was unique, humorous, original, and very much enjoyed by the members, wives, and guests. We are indebted to Ed for providing the entertainment highlight of the evening to help get the 98 officers started on the Chapter's 58th year of existence.

We did have a successful 57th anniversary party on October 23rd complete with cake, cider, donuts, cookies, coffee, and a wonderful bunch of tags. Chuck Kitchka and myself invited people who had attended last year's show. Nearly forty showed up to see two guest quartets. From the Holland Chapter "2 Young and 2 Old" with Steve Foster, lead; Alan Platenga, tenor; Perry Mellifont, bari; and Ken Cook, bass entertained along with a quartet from Mona Shores High School, The Uncalled Four. They made a great impression as they showed a lot of talent and sang very well. Their instructor, Shawn Lawton, confided to our Pro-

gram Chairman, Dave Jones, that he really enjoyed attending the Harmony Explosion Camp and was pleased that the quartet benefited from attending. With little additional coaching, the quartet has performed numerous times without their instructor. Shawn has been able to arrange performances for the quartet when the sixteen voice mixed high school chorus "The Alle-gros" was not available. Shawn was very happy the Muskegon Chapter encouraged him to form a quartet to attend the '97 HXC. The Muskegon Chapter plans to sponsor another quartet for the '98 HXC.

John Tyler has agreed to chair the 1998 Singing Valentine promotion and fundraiser. Chapter quartet Act Four sang Christmas carols for residents of Brook Haven Medical Care Facility where bari Jim Duff's mother is a patient. They also serenaded residents of Shorehaven in Grand Haven where former Chapter President Mike Simpson is a resident. The Chapter's Chorus sang Christmas carols three nights at the Frauenthal Center for the Performing Arts for the "Festival of Trees," a community fund raiser for Mercy-General Hospital. The chorus sang carols for a crowd of children and their parents prior to the arrival of Santa Claus at Hackley Park and also visited two high rise apartments for some caroling. The chorus did receive good exposure and our Christmas chorus efforts were successful. We felt we received good audience reaction at our various performances.

On December 14, 1997 for the second consecutive year, twelve members journeyed to the L.V. Eberhard Center in Grand Rapids to spend six hours answering telephones for the WGUV/WGVK public television membership drive. The Muskegon Chapter was prominently identified.

The Chapter Board is planning a 60th anniversary party for an April meeting....stay tuned, there are more great things to come from the Muskegon Chapter.

Chapters in Action

Grand Rapids

by Dick Williams

Hidi ho neighbors.

Hope everyone had a good time through the holidays. I know I did. Hail to the Victors, the Maize and Blue came through like champions. What a great year for the Wolverines. Congratulations.

Well, now that I have that off my chest, to the matter at hand. Introducing our 1998 Board of Directors:

President - Dan Casamatta

VP - Chapter Development - Mark Kettner

VP - Special Events - Dale Mattis

VP - Music & Performance - Tom Wheeler

Treasurer - Jack Schneider

Secretary - Bud Kraft

Board Members - Phil Johnson, Dave Kutter, Bill Mousel, Ralph Mueller, Don Strong and Dick Williams.

Looks like a rowdy group to me. Meetings should be exciting.

As for the chapter and chorus, we now have our new music for Atlanta and face the formidable task of learning it quickly. Ann keeps challenging us with each new piece of music and it's always just a little more difficult and demanding. Although, we always rise up to the level she expects of us. It does take a lot of work at home and on the risers to achieve the desired results though. She cuts us no slack and expects the best we have to give at every rehearsal, but you know what, we sure wouldn't want it any other way.

Mr. David Wright, who arranged both songs, will be here to coach us on February 4 to see how we are progressing with his music. The chorus will be

ready.

Ann also got choreographer supreme Cindy Hansen to fly in from California to do the choreography for the music. Cindy does work for Masters of Harmony, VM, and Phoenicians to name a few along with a number of top ten quartets. Needless to say, the chorus is pumped and will be ready for her. I look forward to seeing Cindy again as she worked with us years ago when Clay Schmard was our director.

Big Jim Casey will be coming soon after David to work with us on vocal technique which is always a lot of fun and work. Nothing like having that big ole bear standing in front of you punching your tummy and pushing the cheeks of you face together. Boy, I can hardly wait...

We are also working on our singing valentine program which is coming up soon along with starting preparations for our Spring Fling show in April which will headline two awesome groups, FIREPOWER! and Kenny Gibson's Kindred Spirits.

We are looking forward to the Spring convention and being your hosts. It'll be work but also a lot of fun for us to serve you and try to give back all that you have given us through the years.

Things are really starting to cook over here and everyone is getting pretty fired up about what lies ahead in 1998. Should be a jim dandy of a year. Eye of the Tiger my friend, Eye of the Tiger!!!!

Grosse Pointe

by Nick Piccione

I'd like to start this edition by highlighting two of our stalwart Officers who are worthy of note:

Our Director of Charities, Gordy Dubrul, had an outstanding year by donating a total of \$3,681. Of this amount, \$1,782 was given to Harmony Foundation, portions of which were distributed to Heartspring and Sing America/Sing Canada.

In addition, our annual Pub Crawl

collected \$1,900 by singing Christmas Carols in the bars and restaurants in and around Grosse Pointe. This figure was donated to the Holly Ear Institute of St. John's Hospital which serves the unique needs of the deaf and hearing impaired...Good work Gordy!

Secondly, since taking over as Membership Vice President, Joe Serwach has brought in 5 new members in his first 6 weeks in that position. They are Paul Calhoun, Al Montag, John Nathan, Ernie Provost and Eddie Serwach...Great start, Joe!

Eddie is Joe's son, who, although only 10 years old, attends rehearsals with great regularity and has already appeared in both our Fall Show and our Christmas Show. Eddie sings lead and has demonstrated his ability to be a born ham and show stealer. (He received two "thumbs up" from Siskel and Ebert for his performances.)

Up-coming events include the Ladies Auxiliary Potluck Dinner and Auction on January 24.

March 20 will find the Chapter again hosting Ladies Night, the Dinner Dance at Blossom Heath in St. Claire Shores. The Leo Tallieu Orchestra will provide their usual romantic and lively arrangements. Handled by Past President Rick Schaefer, this is always an exceptionally popular event.

Rehearsals have begun for our Spring Show. Titled "Grosse Pointe Goes to Jail," it will take place on April 17 and 18 and moves to a new home at Roseville Junior High School.

What great organization doesn't have a Mission Statement today? In lieu of a closing poem, I am presenting the Grosse Pointe Chapter's newly adopted Mission Statement:

a) To promote Barbershop Harmony by teaching basic singing skills that would enable its members to learn and perform, including competitive venues.

b) To continue in its pursuit of good fellowship and fraternal bonding that has, since its inception, been the basis of our reputation as the "Fun Chapter."

Chapters in Action

Rochester

Eric (Ric) Matus
Communications VP

Rochester's Heart of the Hills Chorus, after a short respite to celebrate the holidays, is back rehearsing, searching, planning....

Rehearsing for the Singing Valentines event scheduled for February 13 and 14. Don Lewis, chairman of the event, has received commitments from a number of quartets to participate. Lucky Valentine recipients will be serenaded, given a rose, a card and have their picture taken with the quartet. Last year was a huge success and we are looking forward to an even greater response this year.

Planning for our up and coming "Old Fashioned Night", which is fast approaching. You lovers of quartet singing mark your calendars now! Do it before you forget it!

The date is Thursday, March 26, 1998 starting promptly at 7:30 PM. The place, University Presbyterian Church, 1385 S. Adams Road, Rochester Hills, about a mile or so north of M-59.

If you're looking for a break from the chorus routine and want to participate in, or just listen to some old fashioned quartet singing, make your plans now. We hope to have a guest quartet or two, and to top the evening off...we'll feed you!

Plan to pay your buck at the door just like the old days. Come with made up quartets, or gather the parts together when you arrive. Head for a dark corner, the ladies room, or some other secretive spot, and practice to prepare yourself for a thrill that only comes from performing before an appreciative audience. By the way, your quartet will need a name (keep it clean) to get on the program. There will also be plenty of gang singing. See you there!!

Any questions regarding the Old

Fashioned Night? Call Lyle Howard at 248-634-1577, or e-mail howardlj@tir.com.

Searching for a new director to try to fill the large gap left by Al Fisk who resigned as our director the end of 1997. Several candidates have expressed interest in leading our group. But no formal interviews/auditions have taken place...therefore no final decision has yet been made.

Best of luck to all, and have a great 1998!

Lansing

Larry Parker
Treasurer

Thanks to the efforts of Monte Bates, Larry Best and several other chapter members, the Lansing Chapter will sponsor a High School Quartet Competition Saturday, February 21, 1998 at the Chippewa Middle School Auditorium in Okemos. The contest begins at 12:00 p.m.

Thirteen male and six female quartets, representing nine schools, have registered for the contest. They come from Grand Ledge, Haslett, Mason, Okemos, Williamston, Lansing Waverly, and Walled Lake Western high schools. Also competing are quartets from Hayes Middle School of Grand Ledge.

The contest format will be similar to our Society contest structure, except each competitor will only sing one song. The panel of judges, one female and three males, will score the contestants in singing, music and presentation. The chapter will award Gold, Silver and Bronze medals to the top three quartets. Each first place quartet member will receive a \$500.00 scholarship for college or any other advanced education. The winning quartet's school will receive \$500.00 for its music programs. Besides the medals and scholarships, the chapter will invite the winning quartet to sing on their March 7, 1998 annual show. Lansing will hold its show at the Wharton Center for Performing Arts at Michigan State University.

The competition is open to the pub-

lic and is FREE of charge. Chippewa Middle School Auditorium, which seats 750 persons, is at 4000 Okemos Road. You are cordially welcome to attend!

Kalamazoo

Robert Ramlow, VPPR

This is my second time writing my letter to the *Troubadour*. Wow, what fun. The chorus is busy working on the show in March. The show will be over by the time you read this. Too bad, you missed a good one.

We all look forward to a very busy summer with lots of singing and lots of fun. We would like to thank our Raleigh Bloch, Barbershopper of the Year, for all his hard work. We have put together a list of goals for 1998. Top of the list is to sing better; look out, this might be the year for Kalamazoo.

If you are going to put on the show *Radio Days* we have all the sound effects for sale. Call John Fair at 345-7227. Well, I have to go learn my baritone part.. after all, it's the best.

Relating, cont.

PEARSON, from page 5

regarding our many activities. Now the rest is up to you to give us the treatment we deserve. We're counting on you during this year of our Society's 60th Birthday.

To all prospective members (and I know there are a lot of you out there) — I hope you all have a great year. I'm sure you'd have an even better one by taking that next important step and joining our musical fraternity. Along with many others, my life has been enriched by becoming a barbershopper. I'm sure yours would, too!



an a cappella ensemble

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

B-Natural finds new bass, a former member

Lyle Howard

B-Natural has reorganized with an old/new bass. Bob Fox decided to drop out shortly after the Senior competition in October to pursue other barbershopping interests closer to his Lansing home. Randy Meldrum, our original bass, was free to take on the duties once again, so he was re-recruited into service. The quartet is rather spread out, in more ways than one, but manages to rehearse once weekly for an afternoon. Randy is from Bay City, Ron Gillies from Flint, John Smith, Pontiac and Rochester, and Lyle Howard from Rochester.

John is currently warming his old bones in Florida, so the remaining three members have a solid excuse to travel to Bonita Springs on January 3rd to make themselves at home at John's digs for a couple of weeks. John has a job lined up for the quartet singing at a chapter's installation of officers night near his home. I'm sure we'll find other willing ears to listen to us while we are there.

John will be back March 1st, and we'll be off and running again. The quartet has approximately 120 years experience under their oversized belts and are anxious to entertain for chapter meetings, gigs, etc. Contact man is Lyle Howard: 248-634-1577.

Bruce Craig Mike Brian



ONYX
Barbershop Quartet

(616) 478-1488

An all-quartet chapter would get back to basics of Society

QUARTETS, from page 3

I'm not sure I'm having fun! My mind keeps straying back to those early fun-filled, carefree Friday nights at Pontiac and around the district, a time when you knew everybody because you spent more time at other chapters monthly than you did your own. And the quartets! Quartetting was the name of the game. That's why you were in this society. I don't think I can recall a chapter meeting where one or more quartets didn't drop in to try some new material on the membership. Quartets were always on the go visiting chapters or singing on shows and ladies nights. We even took mystery bus trips to chapters like Jackson, Bay City and Saginaw, etc. I think my one saving grace is that I'm still quartetting, singing lead in B-Natural. Without quartetting I could not feel completely whole. I would hope that I might be ringing a tag with three other B'shoppers when the Lord decides to call me home.

Which brings me to a potential solution to Russ's dilemma --- a quartet-only chapter. There are some successful ones around the society: Orange, Ca. comes to mind. They have been functioning quartet-only for seven years now. My own investigation into this concept has brought me a start-up kit from International and a letter of encouragement and offer of assistance from The Pioneer District Association of Chapters. To me, these are signs to proceed. But, I would like some feedback from you, the membership. Is it a good idea? Is it a bad one? Should I let well enough alone? Would you support such an endeavor? I'll tell you how to respond to me later in the article.

I would hope to locate the chapter convenient to all southeastern Michigan B'shoppers. Of course, the door would be wide open to all B'shoppers from anywhere. Meetings will be held once a month, or at the most two, and preferably on a Friday night. There will be no chorus. There will be no chorus director. Quartetting will be the order of the day,

in its many forms including tagging, fun competitions, guest quartets, octets, etc. Gigs will be filled with octets and/or quartets selected from within and from quartets with one or more affiliations to the chapter. I would hope that this nucleus would result in several organized quartets being formed. The basic membership requirement is that you love quartetting, and that's what you want to do when you attend meetings.

I have heard through the grapevine that a Detroit area chapter might be thinking of going quartet-only and may have by the date of this publication. That's great. The more the better. The more fun. To belong, one would not have to give up current membership in a chapter. In fact, I would strongly encourage and perhaps insist that dual membership be maintained for a specified period of time. No thief am I.

I hope to call for an organizational meeting in the near future. But, I want to hear from you first. E-Mail, Snail Mail, or call me at one of the following with your comments and thoughts on the subject. Don't set this aside and forget about it. Do it now. Russ, what do you think?

Lyle Howard

howardlj@tir.com

6531 Hillcrest Dr. Holly, Mi. 48442

Phone: 248-634-1577



THE HARMONY HOUNDS

Pedigree: Barbershoppers

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

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

Marquis online

Denny Gore

The Marquis website is now updated. (www.harmonize.com/Marquis) --Unfortunately we're not on the main menu as yet but I'm sure that we'll be there soon. There are new pictures, slightly expanded personal bios (more to come there) - a corrected appearance schedule and an announcement about the nomination of "Diamond Cuts" for Barbershop Album of the Year by CARAS (CASA).

In the near future we'll be adding lots more pictures - special favorite links - quartet news - P.R. materials for chapter shows - an opportunity to join the "Marquis Friends" list to receive notices when the website changes or whenever there's new news - we'll also include sound-bites from the albums and maybe even of new songs we're working on - and...many other interesting things (like maybe an occasional crossword or word search puzzle).

Anyway, enjoy what's there and please contact us to let us know what you think of the site and if you have any suggestions.

Goal 2000, cont. BLOCH, from page 4

and setup meetings to establish two extension sites in 1998.

So there it is a plan to do something different to get us to grow and make that goal of 2000 by 2000 possible. So now all we need to do is work the plan. I will be mailing out more information to your chapter, but in the mean time if you need help, give me a call at 616-375-6849 or E-Mail me at Rbloch@compuserve.com

You know what? Together we can do this thing!!!

Chapter Donations

1/1/97 - 1/1/98

Chapter	Heart Spring	SingAmerica/SingCanada	Other	Total	Members	Per Capita	Award
Alpena		133.00		133.00	31	4.29	
Battle Crk		576.50		576.50	31	18.60	Bronze
Benton Hrb	199.50			199.50	20	9.98	
Boyne City	1.00			1.00	30	.03	
Bay City	331.00			331.00			
Det-Oak	2853.71	1,775.52		4629.23	80	57.87	Gold
Flint			300.00	300.00	83	3.61	
Gaylord	550.00			550.00	35	15.71	Bronze
Gd Rapids	745.50	446.66		1192.16	104	11.46	Bronze
Gratiot	540.98	5.00		545.98	46	11.87	Bronze
Grosse Pte	1939.11		1900	3839.11	99	38.78	Silver
Hillsdale	511.00	10.00		521.00	39	13.36	
Holland							
Huron Vlly	620.00			620.00	40	15.50	Bronze
K-zoo	627.40	2.00		529.40	61	8.68	
Lansing	1959.00		250	2209.00	129	17.12	Bronze
Macomb	590.00	332.50		922.50	29	31.81	Silver
Milford	344.00			344.00	21	16.38	Bronze
Monroe N	404.00			404.00	37	10.92	Bronze
Motor City	662.50	50.00		712.50	72	9.90	
Muskegon	275.00	500.00		775.00	40	19.38	Bronze
Pontiac	700.00			700.00	22	31.82	Silver
Pt Huron							
Rochester	586.00	551.00	1600	2737.00	54	50.69	Gold
Sag Bay	10.00			10.00	28	.36	
S Ste Marie			2170	2170.00	40	54.25	Gold
Swan Vlly			256.96	256.96	18	14.28	Bronze
Traverse City	11.00	520.00	6010	6541.00	68	96.19	Gold
Wayne	2608.00			2608.00	61	42.75	Bronze
Windsor	500.00			500.00	49	10.20	Bronze
F Thorne	580.54			580.54	26	22.33	Bronze
Yr to date	18049.24	4902.18	12486.96	35438.38	1393	25.44	Silver

Bronze=\$10.00 per cap. Silver=\$25.00 Gold=\$50.00



Art Cardy - Tenor
David Hundt - Lead

Larry Wise - Bass
Larry Parker - Baritone

GALLERY

An Entertaining Barbershop Quartet

For information, contact:
Larry Parker
1416 New York Avenue
Lansing, MI 48906
(517) 373-9399
or David at
(517) 669-1188

Pioneer District
SPEBSQSA, Inc.
1616 W. Rundle Ave.
Lansing, MI 48910

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
LANSING, MI
PERMIT NO. 997

STEPHEN SUTHERLAND
46827 BARTLETT DR
CANTON MI 48187-1521

Postmaster: Dated material – Please RUSH!

An official publication of the Pioneer District Association of Chapters of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America, Incorporated.

NOTICE:

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

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

Phone: (517) 485-3641

Fax: (517) 482-7466

Chad Sanders
1616 West Rundle Avenue
Lansing, MI 48910

Upcoming Events

1998

- February 20-21 Detroit-Oakland Show
- March 6-7 Wayne Show
- March 7 Lansing Show
- March 7 Huron Valley Show
- March 14 Kalamazoo Show
- March 21 Grand Rapids Show
- March 21 Flint Show
- March 28 Muskegon Show
- March 28 Monroe North Show
- March 28 Macomb Show
- April 4 Sault Ste Marie Show
- April 17-18 Grosse Pointe Show
- April 24-26 District Contest
- May 15 Holland Show
- May 16 Boyne City Show
- June 12 Windsor Send-off
- September 19 Alpena Show
- September 26 Muskegon Show
- October 16-18 District Contest
- October 24 Rochester Show
- November 6-7 Grand Rapids Show

1999

- February 19-20 Detroit-Oakland Show
- March 5-6 Wayne Show
- March 6 Lansing Show
- March 20 Monroe North Show
- March 20 Grand Rapids Show
- March 27 Macomb Show
- May 14 Holland Show
- June 11 Windsor Send-Off
- November 5-6 Grand Rapids Show

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

Please notify:

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

Looking back 50 years



*Edwin Carlson
Traverse City*

Let's go back fifty plus years into Barbershopping.

This is a photo of the Outsiders, taken at the Garden City, MI Square Deal Hall in 1944. At that time, Garden City had a Barbershop Chapter, but later on we became members of the Dearborn Chapter. At one time

THE OLD SONGS: Edwin Carlson thinks back to the days when he rang chords with the Garden City Chapter. Now a member of the Cherry Capital Chorus, Carlson remembers The Outsiders, shown here, circa 1944. Left to right: Lead Gene Oxford (dec.), Tenor Ed "Swede" Carlson, Bari Lionel Steed (dec.), and Bass Vic Favier (dec.)

Dearborn Chapter had 100 members.

I am presently a member of Traverse City Chapter, since 1965. What a wonderful memory of days gone by. The Barbershop chords keep ringing in my ears. I just love singing bass these past 30 years.

I'm a golden oldie and let's hear from some former Dearborn members.

Keep singing those old tunes.

Directory Corrections:

David Anderson, page 8

usfmcsl@ibMMail.com.
Note the difference:
2 Ms, as in IBM Mail

Dan Casamatta - page 22
home phone 616-676-8814

Ed Fritzen - pages 7, 8 and 19
ELFritz@net-link.net

Dale Bekker - pages 10 & 24
2551 N. 120th Ave.
Holland, MI 49424
Fax 616-395-9630