

Pioneer Troubadour

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

APRIL/MAY

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High School quartet competition draws crowd

With 11 quartets vying for top honors, The Lansing Chapter conducted its First Annual High School Barbershop Quartet Competition in February at Chippewa Middle School in Okemos.

Male and female quartets from five area high schools competed. Each member of the winning quartet receives a \$500 scholarship upon their entrance into college. In addition, a \$500 grant is being awarded to the winning quartet's school music program. First, second and third place quartets all received medals.

The champion quartet was the Dia-

mond Girls from Grand Ledge High School. Second place went to B.J. Cubed, also from Grand Ledge, while third place honors were taken by the Waverly High Barbershop Quartet from Waverly High School.

Presentation of the awards was made by the Lansing Chapter's Barbershopper of the Year, Monte Bates. The Lansing Capital City Chordsmen Chorus, directed by Jamie Carey, provided a selection of songs as part of the event.

Contest judges were our District's Joel Mills and Mike O'Donnell, both certified judges, and Vicki Gibson,

1975 "Front Office Four" Queen of Harmony.

"We were pleased with the response to this contest from our area high schools, especially since this is our first go-around," said Contest Coordinator Larry Best. "Hopefully, this will provide a springboard for our other district chapters to do the same thing."

Best also extended his appreciation to the high school music directors. "We want to thank these directors and their students for helping us to promote the world of barbershop harmony for the youth of America," he said.



Clockwise from top: BEACH BOYS: Members of second-place B.J. Cubed. VESTED INTEREST: Third-place Waverly High Barbershop Quartet. ANCHORS AWEIGH: Quartet Contest winners The Diamond Girls strut their stuff. GRAND PANEL: Judges Michael O'Donnell, Joel Mills, and Vicki Gibson. FROM THE EDGE: Lansing Chapter director Jamie Carey leads the audience in the National Anthem.

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TroubadourOfficial Publication of the Pioneer District,
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Barbershop Singing in America, Inc.

Publication authorized by the Pioneer District, SPEBSQSA, Inc.

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

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A View From The Top

David Cole, President

Barbershop can make the bluest day better



Did you ever have one of those days? You know, anything that could possibly go wrong, did! Yep, even your district president has those

once in a while. But you know what? It happened to have been on my barbershopping day and once I arrived at the rehearsal hall, ALL of my troubles were behind me, I was singing a song with a pickup quartet, and life was once again good — until I got stopped by the cop on the way

home. Singing, but more particularly barbershop singing, has an amazing soothing effect on our nerves, and provides a wonderful sense of well being when we are singing with our barbershop friends. We need to get more people involved in this hobby so that they too can escape from the day to day drudgery that we all can fall into.

We also can provide a wonderful soothing effect to our audiences. Recently I saw both sides of that coin. Sitting in the audience, enjoying the Lansing show I got really big goose bumps hearing BSQ's "Old Man River", and later delighted in a young man's com-
see **COLE**, page 8

Society Synopsis

Don Challman, SBM

Society mission for 1998 and beyond ambitious, exciting



Greetings: My name is Don Challman, recently elected Society Board Member who has been given the opportunity to serve as Society Board liaison to the mem-

bers of the Pioneer and Land O' Lakes Districts. The SBM term of office runs from 1998-2000. As you may be aware, Pioneer and LOL are "paired" districts who share a common SBM on a three year rotating basis. Russ Seely ably held

this position prior to my coming on board.

Briefly, I'm a 34 year Society member, spent 27 years as lead of the Night Howls comedy quartet and am entering my 18th year as a judge in the presentation category. Over the years I've had the good fortune of meeting and working with many of you district's officers and judges. Hopefully, by the turn of the century, this number will have grown considerably.

The new Society, District and Chapter reorganization is in full swing. In spite of the natural growing pains inherent in trying anything "new," these

see **CHALLMAN**, page 12

Number One with a Bulletin

Chad Sanders
Troubadour editor

As I put the final proof on this edition of the *Troub*, I need to make sure the guys who were in the bulletin editors' class I led at COTS notice something. At one point during the class, I was explaining a basic design rule: that you pick a size for body copy, and then you stick to it.

Somebody asked if you couldn't mess with size and spacing to fill space. I said no way... find *content* to fill the space, don't mess with the readability of your text. Then, I was quick to point out that the "Do as I say, not as I do" rule was in full effect.

Well, guys, I'm sure you'll notice Doran's column on page six. It's a titch bigger type, and the spacing's set higher than it should be. What can I say, I want to go to bed.

Also in this issue, check out Don Challman, Pioneer's new Society board member (page three).

More are folks e-mailing their contributions to me. Makes me a happy guy. Many thanks! Also, more folks are sending photos to accompany their stories. Sure makes things so much prettier to look at, no?

Page two contains updated officer information. If folks could take a second to double-check their digits, I'd appreciate it. Let me know if I need to make any changes.

Spring break is next week. I am so ready. Cheers!

-Chad

Here's the Pitch

Raleigh Bloch, Executive & Member Services VP

Baseball legend taught us all about enthusiasm



Holy Cow!!!

Well, as most of you know an icon of the baseball world has left us. Harry Carey was a great announcer who baseball

fans loved dearly. He was famous for his seventh inning stretch antics, which included some community singing. He would be up there waving his arms, directing the people with great enthusiasm and was able to get young and old to sing "Take Me Out To The Ball Game."

The people loved it! He would bring life back into a game. He would put a smile on the fan's faces, even when the game wasn't going that great. Yes, baseball fans singing, thousands of them. Hey! Wait a minute. Harry wasn't in the singing business. He wasn't a music director, he was a sports announcer. Yes, but he knew people love to sing and we need to take a lesson from Harry.

We should lead our audiences in singing every chance we get. We're a

singing society, we should not only encourage it within our ranks, but also in our community. Better yet, we should lead it.

Let's pledge to lead singing at every function we can. That doesn't mean just when our director is there and it doesn't mean just when the chorus is there to back us up. If your quartet is out performing, make community singing a part of your program.

At your annual show, make it a part of your program. When you're the only barbershopper in a group, you can do it. Harry

didn't get out his pitch pipe and tune the leads and then the basses, etc. He lead with his heart and a lot of enthusiasm and it worked.

Aside from making people feel good, you may just get someone to say, "Hey this is fun, I think I'll give this barbershop thing a try."

Thanks Harry, we'll miss you, but we'll try to carry on your tradition of community singing.

YOURS IN HARMMMMONY

Raleigh Bloch
VP Member Services

Harry wasn't in the singing business...but he knew people love to sing.



Mailbag.

Lansing invites ladies to visit at convention

Ladies, take a break, have a snack . . . win a prize?

Ladies, I cordially invite you to drop by the **Pioneer District Women's Hospitality Room** for lots of fellowship, a cup of coffee and a snack, during the spring convention April 24 - 25, 1998.

Our room is the fifth floor **Executive Suite** at the **Sheraton Hotel** in Lansing. Our times of operation are:

Friday, April 24 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 25 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, April 25 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Please stop by, say hello and sign in for a chance to win one of several great door prizes. The only cost to you . . . just a little bit of your time. We would really like to see you. Please come!

Carole Parker
Hospitality Room Coordinator



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

Public Relating

Doug Pearson, Marketing & Public Relations VP

District turns singing valentines into public relations bonanza



As most of you know, the Singing Valentines Program has really taken off, both on a national scale and within our Pioneer District.

Among the values of this program is the positive spin on public relations within your community. Handled correctly, your Valentines singing efforts can reap huge rewards in good media play as you tell and sell our barber-shop story.

Traverse City has a Valentines public relations formula that's tried, tested and that works. Chapter President Al Bonney shares these tips: Several days before February 14, try showing up at the TV studio maybe a half-hour before the evening newscast, and sing briefly for the weather girl or lady anchor. She'll be so surprised and pleased that the news director may want to do something on air that night or (more likely) a few days later; or you can arrange with the news director in advance for a brief on-camera surprise song for her, maybe just before a commercial. Not the whole song, just a few bars, on air.

Al continues to say that part of your newsworthiness pitch to the station can be the great number of people who are ordering Valentines "and the glee that the givers, the receivers and the quartets all get from it...a feel-good news story, which also shows there is a real interest in your community for

this activity."

Going gang-busters in their first effort, the newly-organized Lansing Chapter quartet "4 County Connection" traveled more than 100 miles on February 13, singing to more than 30 people on request. They started at 9 a.m. and didn't rest their tonsils until 8 p.m., performing over 100 songs and raising \$600 for the Society.

During the day, the quartet captured a great PR opportunity by getting themselves photographed with Governor Engler at Owosso's Comstock Inn. As a follow-up, quartet member Don Horton sent the photo and writeup to the Harmonizer.

Meanwhile, the Rochester Chapter offered a \$35 package which included two songs sung by a quartet, a long-stem rose, a Valentine's Day card with a personal message and a Polaroid photo of the event.

Incidentally, photographing the quartet with the song recipient is an excellent idea. By sending a copy to the person you've serenaded, you're providing a lasting reminder of the event. Also the best of the photos can be put to good use by sending them to your local media.

Expanding their program this year, quartets from the Holland chapter performed from Thursday through Saturday (Feb 12-14), delivering Valentines in Holland and Zeeland, and from Hudsonville to Douglas and Borculo to Fennville.

According to event chair Mark Andrew, the chapter delivered an impressive 128 Singing Valentines and netted an estimated \$3,800. Mark hit the pub-
see **PEARSON**, page 11

Directory Updates

OK, folks, get out your District Directories, the whiteout and the felt tips. Here are a few changes.

MEETING SITE CHANGES

Lansing is now meeting on Tuesday nights at the Dewitt Township Hall, just off US-27, a mile south of their former meeting place.

Grand Rapids is now meeting at the United Methodist Church, 3140 Wilson Avenue, in Grandville which is one block south of where they were meeting.

NEW TITLES

Pontiac Chapter has designated Don Denoyer as their services chairman.

35512 Warringham
Waterford, MI 48329
H (248) 623-7825.

PHONE NUMBERS

Tom Uicker's phone number (pg. 20) is (248) 559-7082.

TITLE CORRECTIONS

Roy Gurney is the BE for Macomb (Pg. 27).

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Chapter Coaching

Doran McTaggart, DVP-CSLT

Happy New Year! Singing's Great in '98



Now that our COTS-Plus is over and we have returned home from Gull Lake, most of us are wound up like a \$2.00

watch. Now we must put all the good things we learned into practice at the chapter level.

Manuals were mailed to those chapters who did not attend COTS. Make sure that they are distributed to the appropriate chapter officers and pay particular attention to the goldenrod-colored "Addendum." Information on page 17 can be mailed to me anytime during 1998. Your chapter can be a catalyst for change in our Society. Any recommendations for changes in the manuals must be done quickly because they are being rewritten in the next month or two and will be approved by the Society board in July. Your chapter board of directors' structure can change to be consistent with your mission statement. Your input can influence the direction of the training for future chapter leaders at the COTS-Plus weekend.

REMEMBER: The input for revising the chapter officer manuals and COTS training is NOW!

Who can assist your chapter through this first year of the Society's new management structure? Your Chapter

Coach, that's who! (The list of coaches and their assigned chapters was published in my last article in the last *Troub.*) Your chapter coach is the general practitioner who can be the conduit to access many specialists at the district and society level who can support and assist you in meeting your objectives.

Call on your chapter coach. See if this conduit really "can do it." Let's learn and grow together. Your chapter coach is user-friendly and is available at no cost to your chapter. We strongly believe that this is the way to go and have provided sufficient funds to support the program in the district budget.

Everything you do with your chapter coach is up to you and him. Every chapter coach will be asking every chapter to collect attendance data on a weekly basis. Here are the three numbers that we need:

1. Total Membership - This should be the same as Kenosha's number.

2. Active Membership - The number of members attending at least one meeting in the last six months.

3. Weekly Attendance - The number of members who attend any part of the weekly chapter meeting.

Please start recording this information starting January 1, 1998 and communicate, communicate, communicate.

Ed. Note: This article of Doran's was supposed to run last ish. I goofed.

Pioneer well represented in recent edition of *Harmonizer*

Doug Pearson
Public Relations VP

A good eye for the value of public relations paid off recently for our district in the March/April edition of *The Harmonizer*.

Two of the 11 quartets featured in the "News About Quartets" segment were from the Pioneer District. The Detroit Sound Company was shown on the scoreboard TV, performing the national anthem before a Detroit Pistons basketball game. And the Patch Chords were shown entertaining at a Dominos Pizza Christmas party for the Children's Leukemia Foundation of Michigan.

In addition, one of the four chapters featured pictorially in the "Charitable Services" section was the Rochester Chapter. Members were shown presenting a check for \$1,000, proceeds from the group's Singing Valentines efforts, to Leader Dogs for the Blind.

Considering the vast number of quartets, chapters and districts within our Society, nailing down three photos in a single edition is a pretty good record, and one that we can build on to an even great extent in our future PR efforts.

Looking ahead, the Pioneer District is scheduled for several major mentions in upcoming editions of the *Harmonizer*. These include our Singing Valentine's Program and the Lansing Chapter's High School Barbershop Quartet Contest.

During the many activities of your chapters, choruses and quartets, keep in mind the numerous photo ops, then follow through with the *Harmonizer* (in addition to your own chapter publications and the *Troubadour*).

Unlike many outlets, our musical activity has exciting visual possibilities at every turn. Let's take advantage of them.

Take Note

Fred Kienitz, CDD VP

The Barbershop Brotherhood

The past two issues of the *Troubadour* included articles from well-known Pioneer members who seemed to be soul-searching on "how barbershopping has changed over the years and the fact that the sixth letter in SPEBSQSA seems to have slowly but surely changed to a "C" for the word CHORUS.

The underlying theme in both these articles seemed to ask the question of "How do we get back to the "Q" or quartet which our fore fathers chose as part of this now famous acronym."

There is no doubt in my mind that the quartet is the single-most important entity in the formation and continuation of our Society to the point that we will most likely see this wonderful fraternity grow beyond the 40,000 membership figure in the next few years. However, our involvement over the years has been slowly migrating to chorus involvement in that new and prospective members feel less threatened when able to sing a given part with 10-20 other people singing that same part.

This, then, brings me to the point of this article: namely, the fact that the biggest and best drawing power any Chapter can have is their Chorus.

This is the lifeblood of the chapter as we know it today and thus the musical leadership and the attitude of the existing members can, in far too many cases, make or break any individual chapter.

Because I am in a position to see and visit chapters with various degrees of successful music teams which seem to still be struggling, I would like to dedicate this article to just the singers, the members, the life blood of every Chapter in Pioneer District.

We all truly need an ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT and a different way to think about and approach the way we conduct ourselves as active members in

our Chapters. Each of us look around for someone to blame for every single problem we have at the chapter level. I would like you to join me in a very simple task that may help each of us to reevaluate our membership and our attitude toward our fellow brothers in harmony.

Every morning when you go in to shave, look at that guy in the mirror and ask him this question, "What are you doing to contribute to the success or failure of my chapter?"

Ours is a barbershop family in that my wife is a Sweet Adeline and one of cassettes in our barbershop library is a video called "Voices." It is about the Vocal Majority from Dallas, Texas and deals with the inner workings, the musical team, and the individual members, all of which are very special to the success of this great ENSEMBLE.

Theirs is a very unique example of a real genuine "Barbershop Brotherhood." They even went to the point of body and stamina building so they could sing well and do rigorous choreography interpretation for contests and chapter shows.

I began to question how they were able to do this and to develop into a finely tuned group of "off the street" singers, each of which pushed themselves to train and sing like professional vocal musicians.

After a great deal of thought and analysis, I came to the conclusion that it really and truly boils down to a simple concept that DEDICATION, EFFORT AND EXECUTION EQUALS EXCELLENCE. And, fellow singers, this is what is lacking in most of the chapters in this wonderful Society.

The next question, then, is why is this a common flaw within these chapters?

I think we all agree that "Barbershop see KIENTIZ, page 8

PIONEER DISTRICT, SPEBSQSA, INC. SUMMARY OF MINUTES

DECEMBER 5-6, 1997 BOARD MEETING

Moved, seconded and carried that the minutes of the October board meeting be approved as presented.

Moved, seconded and carried that the Treasurer's report be accepted as presented pending audit.

Moved seconded and carried that the District Board will meet for a planning session in conjunction with Harmony Roundup.

Moved, seconded and carried that the motion to return to our former procedure for the Seniors Quartet Contest be tabled until the spring board meeting.

Moved, seconded and carried that we decline the opportunity to have a CDWI in June and hold it instead in conjunction with Harmony Roundup.

Moved, seconded and defeated that we volunteer to become a test district for the new entertainment package for our fall contest.

Moved, seconded and carried that the Immediate Past President would assume the responsibilities for the following matters and the Policy Manual be updated accordingly:

- Purchase gifts for the COTS faculty.
- Run the business meetings in the absence of the President.
- Operation of the Ladies Hospitality room.
- Presentation of awards at district contests.
- Clear all announcements on district contests and shows
- Serve as special events coordinator
- Serve as House Activities Chair on the District Convention Committee.

Moved, seconded and carried to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Schneider
District Secretary

Dedication key to barbershop brotherhood

KEINTIZ, from page 7

Harmony" is one of the finest, most resonant, thrilling, and self-satisfying forms of any male singing ensemble in the world. Further, we are in awe that we are able to execute this could with little or no training, no vocal lessons, and only a smidgen of chord structure and ability to read music.

As a Society member of 49 years this has somewhat remained a constant in most chapters. Why, then, is the quality of music produced in far too many of our choruses substandard and slowly deteriorating over the years? Indulge me, if you will, and go back to the 'success formula,' where the word "dedication" becomes that single most important ingredient for success.

My chapter has Joe Barbershoppers, section leaders, music teams, arrangers, directors, musicians, officers, and the like. Each of these people has a special gift to offer our chapter, some with greater or lesser degrees of ability. But, it is not a question of how much they are able to give, but, rather how intense is their dedication to a chapter's success, and how will we measure the success of this chapter in the future?

The director and music committee have agreed that we need to give every member a comfort zone in which to work, learn, ingest and sing any one of four parts. We have agreed that every singer be given music, a cassette tape of the voice part, (baritone, lead, bass, and tenor). We have instructed section leaders to prepare and be ready to teach each section. We are also finding inhouse, and outside coaching in

music and choreography. We are providing an interpretive plan which will be most appropriate to the telling of the story being performed musically. All this is in place to a greater or lesser degree. And, yet, something is lacking.

Again, let my return to the single word, "dedication"! It is difficult to measure the success of this concept. And, yet there are numerous questions we all need to ask ourselves in order to determine how successful we are in deciding if we are, indeed, heading in the right direction in the chorus.

1. Am I attending 100, 90, 80, 70, 60, or 50 percent of all chorus rehearsals?
2. Do I use my learning tapes and prepare for each rehearsal?
3. Am I a productive member or just riding on someone else's coat tail?
4. If I am unable to attend rehearsals, do I make a special effort to do extra work?
5. Do I have an obligation to the other chapter members to keep pace with the learning efforts of the rest of the chorus?
6. Can I be somewhat selfish and expect the other members to wait for me to catch up at my own pace?
7. Should I make an effort to be the number one man in my section?
8. Is my approach to the finer art of singing barbershop harmony "I" or "We"?
9. Regardless of my personal learning pace, should I be held responsible for my personal productivity?
10. Further, should the director, sec-

tion leaders, and chapter officers be made equally responsible?

11. Should I be held responsible for knowing my part, my breathing scheme, my forming of vowel sounds and turning diphthongs at the proper time?
- Should I also keep myself prepared vocally by setting aside a portion of time, on a daily basis, to vocalize and concentrate on proper mouth formation in an effort to produce the most resonant sound possible at all times?
12. If the leadership team comes in unprepared are they short changing the other members? And, if they aren't prepared, are they being fair to the membership?
 13. This, of course, leads to another question that is very important to our future as a chapter. If you see yourself as a guilty member when reading these questions, could you, or more important, would you be willing to make a hundred and eighty degree turn and become part of the solution?

As for my part, I promise to make every effort possible to become a positive force in dealing with my fellow chapter members. Further, I challenge every other member to be positive when working with fellow chapter members.

Please help your chapter, your fellow members, and your leadership team to develop a NEW formula for success based on POSITIVE APPROACH, DEDICATION, EFFORT, and EXECUTION to attain our goal of EXCELLENCE.

Barbershop harmony touches hearts

COLE, from page 3

ments about the Patch Chords "A Lion Sleeps Tonight". And then at a different time, I enjoyed the audience's response to my quartet's comedy routine. I guess it's good medicine for all of the participants.

How important is your quartet and/or chorus? VERY IMPORTANT! We all provide a truly amazing service to our

communities and ourselves. Singing Valentines is a perfect example — how many hearts did we touch on Valentine's weekend? How many other hearts do we touch on other occasions? How about those singouts at the retirement homes, the county fairs, the hospitals during the Christmas season? The list is endless.

We should all be very proud of the

amount of hearts we touch in our respective communities. We should all be very aware of the benefits to ourselves, our chapters, and our communities. We have a very rewarding product to sell, one that is very intangible, but one that is more valuable than anything tangible.

Let's keep improving that product so that we can continue to touch hearts in a positive way.

Chapters in Action

Detroit-Oakland

by Tom Uicker, Bulletin Editor

What a show we had! There was a bit of a nail-biter on Friday night when we heard that the tenor from FRED, one of our guest quartets, had missed his flight; but he caught another flight and the show went on. Our guest quartets were FRED (as mentioned) and BSQ; second and fifth place respectively in last summer's competition. From what I heard, there will be a close race this summer in Atlanta.

We can also take pride in the Gentlemen Songsters Chorus with our own chapter quartets—Four Note Trump, Note-torious and Shindig. Whether it was the guest quartets or superb ticket-selling by our members, word-of mouth or extra warm weather, we had better than usual sales on Friday and Saturday completely sold out. Now we look forward to next year's show on February 19 & 20, 1999. Feature quartets will be Uptown Sound and Gas House Gang.

A special thank you to Fred Kienitz who stepped in, almost at the last minute, as Master of Ceremonies when we found that our own Bill Wickstrom had to go in for surgery. Bill is doing fine now, resting at home; I'm sure he will be in Lansing in April if at all possible.

Now that the show is over, we have to do some adjustment to the show package, so we can take it on the road. We are also polishing up a couple of songs to use in Lansing in April. And the music team is looking ahead for the songs we want in next year's show. Our Daytime Singers are also active, with two performances in March and one in April (so far).

Looking ahead, I want to remind you readers of two things. First, Detroit-Oakland chapter has scholarship money set aside in the Bill Butler Memorial Fund for any Pioneer District quartet or quartet coach who would like to attend the quartet coaching sessions at this year's Harmony Round-Up (mini-HEP) at MSU. To apply for this scholarship, contact Bill Wickstrom at (810) 756-4294 or write to him at 2533 Donna Avenue, Warren, MI 48091. You can even e-mail him at MWickstrom@aol.com.

The other reminder is that Return-of-the-Jug night is coming soon. We are moving off the first Friday of June (this year only) to the last Friday of May; May 29, 1998. To get more audience for the quartets, we are also opening it up to women in the audience. We don't have the location fixed yet, but look for fliers by the time of spring convention. We look forward to seeing you in Lansing on the last weekend in April. If you miss us there, stop by some Monday night at Starr Presbyterian Church in Royal Oak.

Wayne

by Gary Simon
GSimon@Juno.com

Our 1998 annual show in early March, featuring Harmonix, Fanfare and Michigan Jake, was well received by our enthusiastic audience. Now, our Renaissance Chorus must prepare for the district competition in April.

It was an honor for our chapter to participate in the St. Patrick's Day services at Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Detroit. Included in the songs we sang were "It's a Great Day for the Irish," "If There'd Never been an Ireland," "My Wild Irish Rose," "Gospel Medley," "Abide with Me," and "Love at Home." We also acted as the responsorial choir for the service.

Our chapter has recently begun

voice-mail service to provide membership, rehearsal, performance and annual show information to the public. The 24-hour InfoLine phone no. is 313/438-2364.

On Saturday, April 18, we'll do our first-ever cleanup as a participant in Wayne County's Adopt-A-Road program. We've adopted Farmington Road between Plymouth Road and Joy Road in Livonia. We hope to have 16 members working that day (ideally, four tenors, four leads, four baris and four basses!).

All in all, this promises to be a great year for our chapter and Barbershoping throughout the world.



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A mixed a cappella sextet



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Art Cardy - Tenor Larry Wise - Bass
David Hundt - Lead Larry Parker - Baritone



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The Patch Chords
Music and Mirth

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Chapters in Action

Flint

by Ken Rice, Publicity Chair

Close your eyes. Well, wait a minute...don't literally close your eyes, because then you couldn't read the rest of this report. Just sort of pretend to close your eyes so that you can imagine attending and enjoying the Flint Arrowhead Chorus spring show, "Klondike Gold!" You see, when the show is scheduled for March 21, and the deadline for this article is March 15, it's kind of awkward to write about what a great show we performed.

Your reporter has had the pleasure of both writing and directing our show this year, and in the process we have learned a lot about producing such an extravaganza. There have been pitfalls...Paul Lehmkuhle, Jim Toombs and Dale Wells all underwent serious surgeries within the month before the show. Florida vacations cut into attendance at rehearsals. And we never were able to find a good mule costume for one of our quartet members.

On the other hand, there have been some bright moments. Bob Longroy was successful in borrowing the stuffed, eight-foot polar bear from the Flint Children's Museum. The bear looked terrific in the bass section, and sang better than several of our basses... Mike Hammond and John Noteware did a knee-slapping interpretation on the old Hudson & Landry "Prospectors" routine...yeah, yeah, I couldn't live like that. But best of all, we managed to coax the old Beantown Four quartet out of the 22-year retirement to sing "The Shooting of Dan McGrew." Fred Kienitz, Ron Gillies, Bob Deming and Doug Beaver were as funny as when they were performing at their peak back in the late '60s and early '70s. There are many, many years of quality barbershopping represented in this group.

Thanks to Gold Rush poet laureate Robert Service, played by Dale Radford, to hard-working music director Mark Keimer, to set-builder Ron Gruener and costume coordinator Harry Gramer, and to a dedicated bunch of grizzled old gold miners, ne Arrowhead Chorus members, we'll make it through two packed-house celebrations of the Yukon Gold Rush of 1898.

Guest talent will round out the show. We're looking forward to the performance of Pioneer District favorite Onyx, to the comedy of Studio Four from the Toronto area, and to the plinkety-good medley of tenor banjo tunes played by the Banjo Bissonnettes, a father/son duo from Davidson, Michigan.

This show has been two years in the making, from inspiration to opening curtain. From your reporter's perspective, it's been worth every minute. My recommendation—if you ever decide to get involved in barbershopping up to your eyeballs, volunteer to write and direct your chapter's next show. Wow, what an experience!

Grosse Pointe

by Jim Kinner

Meet Gordon Dubrul

Gordon Dubrul was 18 years old in 1948 when he joined the Oakland County Chapter. Singing in local and District quartets has occupied a large part of Gordie's barbershop life.

1950-1952 Sang bass with the Occidental Four.

1952-1956 While in the U.S. Navy, sang bass in the Sea Chords with the ship's doctor, an electronic tech and Walt Martine of the Lansing Chapter. They entertained aboard several ships while in foreign ports and also in USO shows in Italy, North Africa, Greece, and Turkey.

1958-1960 Sang with the Sonic Aires. Won the pre-Boyne Novice Contest, but didn't win at Boyne City.

1960 Gordon was invited to fill a va-

cancy in the Wonderlads quartet singing bari. In 1962, entered the Boyne City Bush League Contest and were runners-up to the champs, the 4-Fits of Grosse Pointe. Come 1963, the Wonderlads were the winners. In 1968 the Wonderlads won second place at the Pioneer District Contest. 1971 saw the demise of the Wonderlads who had performed in many chapter shows in Southeast Michigan and Ontario.

1971 Gordon transferred to the Grosse Pointe Chapter and formed the Car Tunes, a quartet looking a lot like the Wonderlads.

1974 Joined a new quartet call the Point Four who won the Boyne City Bush League Contest in 1975.

1978 Reorganized under a new name, the Harmony Forum.

1987 Formed a new quartet called the Lakeshore Clippers, now singing bari to participate in Grosse Pointe functions.

Rehearsals and engagements weren't enough to keep Gordie busy, so he became a charter member of the Good News Chorus in January of 1994. This is the Gospel spin-off of Grosse Pointe's Lakeshore Chorus. Next, he joined the Good News Singers, a Gospel singing quartet.

Gordon has competed in eight District Tag contests and was a member of the winning quartet six times.

1991 As part of the Friends Indeed, Gordon competed in the Pioneer District Seniors Quartet Contest and won. He is

quite proud that all four members of Friends Indeed are Grosse Pointe members.

Gordon married his childhood sweetheart, Lucille, and they have two children.

When asked what he would do different if he could go back in time,

Gordon says "I'm not sure I would like to go back in time...currently, I'm having the time of my life."

Well, Gordon, we hope you continue to enjoy barbershopping for many years to come.



Chapters in Action

Muskegon

by Frank Scott
scrivco@novagate.com

The four chapter quartets, Four Score and More, Harmony Transfer, Act Four," and Whatever Four did a great job delivering twenty percent more singing valentines than we did last year. This was not achieved without a good deal of anxiety on the part of the chapter officers and members. John Tyler, board member at large, agreed to be the chair-



I'M WITH CUPID: "Whatever Four" serenades 90-year old Hazel Wager, Frank Scott's aunt, at the Hart Senior citizens' luncheon site. (l to r) Tenor Mike Wittkopp, Lead Chuck Kitchka, Bass Bill Tobias and Bari Dave Jones

man of the Singing Valentines Committee in early January of 98. On January 17th after attending our chapter planning session John and his wife Pat went to Lansing where John was slated to play the bagpipes. After several hours of practice, John experienced some very severe chest pains. An off duty nurse at the scene recognized the symptoms, summoned an ambulance crew that transported John to Sparrow hospital where he was treated immediately for a heart attack. Wife Patty spent many hours on the road between Muskegon and Lansing until he was released to return home later the following week. It required hiring some temporary help to keep John's computer customers happy and take a few singing valentine requests. Luckily for everybody, John recovered quickly. By the week of Valentine's day John was back on his computer scheduling quartets.

The Anvil salesman in "Music Man" said, "You gotta know the territory!" John proved he did as he superbly kept the quartets' travel to a minimum so there was time to relax occasionally between serenades. The quartets shared some of the highlights at our next chapter meeting.

John received accolades for his scheduling from quartet members. There were reports of some very poignant moments at convalescent homes, schools, grocery stores and senior centers. An unnamed quartet member said, "It's almost too much fun delivering singing valentines." Many invitations to attend a chapter meeting were extended. One of our quartet singers joined the chapter several years ago after hiring a quartet

to serenade a family member. Some quartet members had work commitments and substitutes were used for a day or half a day. We had 18 chapter singers and one guest singer participating.

Fred Kendall and Frank Scott handled the publicity and advertising this year. We received a little better newspaper coverage this year and managed to get articles with pictures in newspapers in Hart and Grand Haven as well as the Muskegon Chronicle.

On 2-28-98 Cardinal District judge and chorus coach, Scott Kitzmiller, conducted a coaching session at the church that was very beneficial. He helped regenerate some enthusiasm in the members who attended. He is slated to return for a second session in March.

John Tyler has recovered enough to start rehearsing the bass part with Webb Scrivnor's "Four Score and More" Quartet. To date, Webb has been too busy to arrange any songs for three voices and bagpipe.

Relating, cont.

PEARSON, from page 5

lic relations nail on the head when he said the event generated a lot of good news about barbershoppers.


And finally, from the Grand Rapids Chapter, Peter Westers comments that "Singing Valentines continue to be a way for us barbershoppers to spread love and cheer."

Peter report the following Valentines anecdote: "As our quartet was out doing 'jobs' on Friday night, we found ourselves at the Elks Club in Grand Rapids. We went in and did our normal thing, and it went great! Even made a busboy drop some glasses during 'Story of the Rose.'

"Anyway, when it was done and we turned to leave, there stood my wife's Sweet Adeline quartet to pin one on me. They immediately went into 'Unforgettable' as I pulled up a seat in blushing red embarrassment. She certainly outdid me this time, and I will never forget it."

So there you have it. Another Singing Valentines event is now history. For those Pioneer District Chapters who participated, thanks from all of us -- and when you do it again, please don't forget all of the exciting media opportunities that are wrapped up in each performance. And for those chapters who have yet to get on the bandwagon -- hop aboard! It'll be a real public relations plus for both your chapter and for your community.

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Gary Ed

Chapters in Action

Holland

by Art Lane

The Holland Windmill Chorus is polishing its vowels and its wooden shoes for the rilly big show of the year on May 15 during Holland's Tulip Festival.

The headline quartet will be FRED. You're invited to enjoy the tulips and the best comedy act in barbershop. If you need tickets please call president Steve Foster, 616/335-2218.

Four Quartets Spread Valentine Sentiment

Singers from the Holland Chapter spent a happy three days distributing Singing Valentines to 128 recipients this year. A flexible four-quartet setup with unlimited substitutions helped the singers get the Valentine messages delivered. Head organizer was Mark Andrew.

Sending out a bunch of tuxedo-clad singers generated a lot of community awareness. The effort also raised about \$3,800 for the chapter's singing tour in the Netherlands, planned for September.

Chapter Retreat Celebrates Songs, Brotherhood

A winter retreat of the Holland Chapter offered its 20 or so participants a mix of craft lessons, inspiring singing by the

Dutch Masters and the message that the real gift of barbershop is the friends you make.

Presenters included Ed Fritzen of the Kalamazoo Chapter, Bruce Evans, a coach and Society judge, Windmill Chorus director Myke Lucas and assistant director Mike Oonk.

Farewell Dinner Honors Dick Plaisted

The Holland Chapter said good-bye to Dick and Sadie Plaisted in February before they moved back home to Minneapolis.

Dick was chapter president in 1996 and 1997. He also served as treasurer and as co-chair of shows and the chapter's 50th anniversary celebration in 1995. He received a certificate from the Society for his contributions to the Holland Chapter.

The chapter also presented Dick with a pair of size 16 wooden shoes fitted with shiny skate blades. The wooden-shoe skates, with windmills painted on the toes, were engraved to thank Dick for his enthusiasm and leadership during his nine years in Holland.

The presentations were made by the spirit of O.C. Cash who, with Rupert Hall, made a special trip from Heaven for the occasion. The two Society founders were portrayed by Bill McAndrew and Jack Oonk in a skit by Art Lane. The Plaisteds received a farewell serenade from the Gold Standard quartet.



Sadie and Dick Plaisted display the size 16 wooden-shoe skates given by the Holland Chapter prior to their move to Minneapolis. The skates thank Dick for his enthusiasm and leadership in Holland barbershopping. At left is chapter president Steve Foster and at right secretary Dale Bekker.

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

You're **excited**.

The **WHOLE CHORUS**
is excited.

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

Not yet you can't.

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

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

e-mail it.

snail mail it.

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However you get it there,

**You Must
Submit!**

Because,
face it...

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

^{Pioneer}
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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) 363-8977 or Fred Kienitz at (810) 750-8259

N **update** →

news from spebsqa headquarters

News from around the Society

Kalamazoo Chapter finds grant money through local arts council

The Kalamazoo, Mich., Chapter recently discovered what several other chapters are learning: there is grant money available through local cultural affairs or fine arts councils to fund barbershop activities. The Mall City Barbershop Chorus was awarded a \$2,000 grant by the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs to fund its Popgun Coaching Clinic (Harmony

Roundup).

The grant was submitted through the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo Inc., to which the Kalamazoo Chapter belongs. Chapter member Raleigh Bloch attended a grant-writing class sponsored by the arts council, and was able to turn right around and have the course instructor review the grant application before it was submitted. That's doing it right.

Quartet performs in Oscar-winner *Good Will Hunting*

The recently opened movie, *Good Will Hunting*, has a segment filmed at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The script called for a barbershop quartet to perform at an MIT alumni reunion.

Central casting contacted Northeast Connection, and offered the gig, which was naturally accepted with alacrity. Filming took place last April.

To avoid royalty fees, the foursome,

Matt Mercier, tenor; Ralph St. George, lead; Dan Washington, bari and Bob Lynds, bass, were searching for a public domain song. Joe Liles gave them permission to use his "If I Had The Last Dream Left In The World."

About 28 seconds of the song may be heard on the sound track, and the quartet got about eight seconds of screen time, but both appear in the closing credits. Good show!

Vocal Majority on Family Radio Network

Some time ago, Bill Harrison, Sr., a 42-year member of the Society and now a member of the Frank Thorne Chapter-at-Large, sent the Family Radio Network of Oakland, California, a CD of the Vocal Majority's *Voices in Harmony 1997* chorus champion album. He also contacted the VM's person responsible for sales, who in turn sent Family Radio

Network other recordings, one of which was *Alleluia*. Family Radio Network is now airing selections from both albums.

Family Radio is a non-profit, 24-hour, non-denominational, educational organization that has numerous radio stations and translators throughout the states and broadcasts to other countries throughout the world via short wave.

GOOD NEWS ABOUT SERVICE PROJECTS

Our Unified Service Projects enjoyed a good year in 1997. Total Society donations to SingAmerica (SingCanada) and Heartspring were \$479,352, \$48,283 more than 1996. That translates to an 11.2 percent increase. The Heartspring total was \$388,242 (up 1.1 percent) and the SingAmerica and SingCanada total was \$91,110 (up 93.2 percent).

You are showing that you really care about life and quality of life as represented by these projects. As a reminder, Harmony Foundation is now the friend and fund raiser for all Society Service projects. An unofficial goal for all our service areas-SingAmerica, Heartspring, Heritage Hall Museum and the general fund-is \$700,000 for 1998. That shouldn't be difficult. Remember, in 1988 (10 years ago) we raised more than \$1,000,000 for our single service project.

We urge chapters and individuals to donate to Harmony Foundation Service Projects. The trustees can then see that all our projects are properly funded. Of course, you are free to specify one or more projects for your donation. The Foundation is working hard to help hundreds of young people and others have a better quality of life.

We urge you to: Sing . . . for life.

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Phone: (517) 485-3641

Fax: (517) 482-7466

Chad Sanders
1616 West Rundle Avenue
Lansing, MI 48910

Upcoming Events

1998

April 4	Sault Ste Marie Show
April 4	Windsor Show
April 17-18	Grosse Pointe Show
April 24-26	District Contest
May 15	Holland Show
May 16	Boyne City Show
June 5-6	Traverse City Show
June 12	Windsor Send-off
September 19	Alpena Show
September 26	Muskegon Show
October 9-20	Bush League-Gaylord
October 16-18	District Contest
October 24	Rochester 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

2000

February 18-19	Detroit-Oakland Show
March 3-4	Wayne Show
March 4	Lansing Show
March 25	Grand Rapids Show
June 9	Windsor Send-Off
November 3-4	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

New Society Board Member outlines Society goals for '98

CHALLMAN, from page 3

are exciting times. Society President, Ed Waesche, has put together an awesome strategic framework and work plan proposal for 1998. For the sake of brevity, I'll only list the general mission statements he has outlined:

• The Musical Experience:

To provide music, education, a competitive system and necessary support to perpetuate the barbershop style while satisfying the needs of a wide range of ages and skill levels.

• Membership and Support Services:

To develop and conduct membership recruitment, retention and extension programs, and satisfy members' needs for education, requests for services and products in a timely manner.

• Image:

To develop and conduct public relations, marketing and charitable activities to enhance the Society's image, heighten public and member awareness of the Society and its purposes, and broaden and strengthen relationships with music educators and other voice music organizations.

In spite of the natural growing pains inherent in trying anything "new," these are exciting times

• **Events:** To develop, manage, and participate in conventions, contests, festivals, music schools, etc. and support members, chapters and districts in their efforts to conduct such activities.

• **Finance and Administration:** To discharge administrative, financial and property management functions for the Society, including related assistance to the Society's members and units.

• **Revenue Enhancement:** To develop and manage near and long term sources of non-dues income.

• **Governance and Operational Management:** To govern the Society and manage its operating units, and empower leaders at all levels.

In future articles, I'll attempt to keep you informed as to "how we're doing" in more specific terms.

If you have any thoughts, concerns, suggestions etc. related to bettering our hobby, feel free to contact me at 916 Tanglewood Drive, Shoreview, MN 55126. Phone 612/484-9738 or e-mail Bdchallman@aol.com.