

Pioneer Troubadour

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



OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

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Gaylord hosts successful Bush League contest

Top quartet honors went to Traverse City's **Bayshore IV** in this year's Bush League contest, held in Gaylord.

The contest, put together by the Gaylord chapter, exists to allow quartets who have not competed in a contest at the district level to get a feel for competition in a more relaxed atmosphere.

The weekend of October 10 saw Tree-tops Sylvan resort filled with barbershoppers. The event, the second annual since its rebirth in Gaylord last year, gave participants and attendees ample time to enjoy the beauty of northern Michigan, shop, and visit, in addition to the contest.

Event Chairman Al Glasby was very pleased with the weekend, and called it the best Bush League yet.

"The fall colors were wonderful; the warm reception at the resort when we arrived was wonderful and the show itself was *more* than wonderful," said Glasby. "Long live the Bush League tradition."

The contest, held at Gaylord High School, ended with some very close scores. Bayshore IV came out on top, but there was a difference of only 30 points separating second (**Renaissance**) and sixth (**Four Man Fishin' Tackle Choir**) places.

Marty Chirgwin, baritone for **Bayshore IV**, said that Bush League was not only a place for good competition, but for impressive atmosphere.

"The facilities and acoustics at Gaylord high school were great," said Chirgwin. "It was a very friendly, barbershop-supportive atmosphere."

Chirgwin also said the responsive



First place quartet **Bayshore IV** performs *May I Never Love Again*. From left, baritone Marty Chirgwin, bass Jim Fegan, lead Jim Scranton, tenor Terry White.

Second place quartet **Renaissance** harmonizes with *St. Louie Woman*. From left, bari Mike Hansen, bass Bob Fox, lead Paul Jones, and tenor Tim Duman.



crowd and congenial Gaylord chapter only added to the weekend's success.

Barbershoppers weren't the only folks in attendance at the contest. The auditorium, which came close to being full, included community members as well.

"Today I went in the public Library to rearrange my Harmonie Meisters display...and the lady behind the counter said the show was the greatest," said Glasby.

Bush League '98 represented the culmination of time and effort on the part of the Gaylord chapter, and they're ready to do it all again next year. District VP

for Marketing and Public Relations Doug Pearson has been impressed with the event and its organizers.

"This year's Bush League weekend was another smash success," said Pearson. "Many thanks go to Hank Hedges, Al Glasby and the rest of the Gaylord crew for their leadership and hard work in making the contest another memorable event."

For those who missed this year's event, Pearson has a word of advice: "If you haven't experienced the enrichment of a Bush League weekend, then by all means do so."



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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

Learning from the best not all bad



Many of life's lessons are learned from simple observation. While barber-shopping is not a spectator sport, you can learn from watching the

choruses and quartets who cross the International stage. Here are some observations from the International Convention in Atlanta.

Comedy is very special to me. It was a joy to see several comedy quartets entertain. It was very apparent that if you perform comedy on stage, your dedication has to be much higher than that of a

"straight" quartet. And when you are pushing the envelope to its limits as **FRED** does, you may lose it all on a tag.

Many barbershoppers hold their emotions on their sleeves, and that's OK, because we all know what this hobby means to us individually. This was evident when **Revival** was named the champs and we watched as their Bass, Bill Myers, was overcome with emotion. Congratulations, **Revival**!

"Respect is more rewarding than a standing ovation," stated the lady next to me from California. She was speaking of our own **Power Play**. "When was the last time that a mike tester quartet received a standing ovation," she asked, "that's called respect." Thanks guys, see **COLE**, page 10

Number One with a Bulletin

Chad Sanders
Troubadour editor

Obviously, this ish of the *Troub* is reaching your doorstep a little later than usual. As deadline approached, I realized that this wouldn't reach you before contest. Which is unfortunate, because Al Fisk and Carole Parker had some pieces that were dependent upon this happening. Fall contest comes too early in the month for me (and the printer/printer) to accomplish this. I've managed to get the Spring out on time, since that contest comes a week later in the month, but Fall comes too fast.

Anyhow, I wanted something relatively newsworthy, so I held off for Bush League info. Which was good, because I really didn't have much of a front page otherwise. And a huge thank you is due Al Glasby, who rushed me the photos in this ish.

OK, enough excuses. On to other stuff: Holland's Art Lane suggested I post the year's worth of *Troub* deadlines in every issue, making it easier for anyone picking up an old copy of the newsletter to know when the next deadline is. Great idea... you'll see it next issue.

This issue, like last year's Oct/Nov ish, is light on chapter submissions. Is it because folks don't have anything to talk about? Possible. I know I encourage my newspaper students to ask questions, and not let people get away with answering "Nothing" when asked what they've been up to lately. So I'm giving you a cheat sheet (pg. 15). Clip it and save it. When you sit down to think about Chapters in Action, maybe it'll jog something.

Look for more Bush League stuff, and all the fun convention coverage next ish!

-Chad



Society Synopsis

Don Challman, SBM

Objectives for 1998, and how well the Society has met them



In the last issue of the *Troubadour*, we reviewed the goals of "the music experience" and "membership and support services" set by the Society Board

for the year 1998. In this issue, we'll concentrate on the remaining goals regarding Image, Events, Finance, Revenue Enhancement and Governance/Operations Management.

Regarding "Image," we wanted to

share our philosophy of singing a cappella music while having good fun and fellowship, supporting our communities with the gift of quality music and charitable and educational activities.

Along these lines, we achieved the following:

- A PBS documentary was shot in Atlanta for airing in the winter of 1999. A companion is also being negotiated.

- Over two dozen chapters took part in the National Pause for the Pledge of Allegiance, sponsored by the National Flag Day Foundation (was your chapter involved?).

- The movie *Good Will Hunting* see **CHALLMAN**, page 11

Here's the Pitch

Raleigh Bloch, Executive & Member Services VP

Recruitment programs can keep you out of 'Last Man Club'



How Many Are In Your Quartet? We joke about how we've been asked that question, and it is kind of funny when you think

about it. Yet it could be a sad thing if we had to say, "Ah, well I don't have a quartet anymore."

The same thing can be said about a

chorus. We have a number of choruses that are struggling to keep going. Some of them are trying to do something about it, by using some of the recruiting programs that have been sent to them. There is a wealth of ideas that every chorus received, either from Patrick Tucker-Kelly at the meeting on Membership Recruitment, at our Spring Convention, or sent by me to each chapter that wasn't represented. Incidentally, most chapters were not represented at that meeting.

So, every chapter has a whole packet of programs that are well documented

as successful and spell out the steps to take. Is your chapter growing? Based on the August 31 figures, I can say in general, "No, it is not!"

Of the 28 Chapters in our District, only nine are ahead of December '97 figures. They are Macomb, Grosse Pointe, Rochester, Milford, Pontiac, Hillsdale, Kalamazoo, Benton Harbor, and Huron Valley. So is your chapter utilizing any of the programs that they

have? Or has your chapter decided on the "Last

Man" program?

That's where you purchased that famous bottle of wine for the last man to drink when there is no one left. Hopefully, your chapter officers will try those membership programs they have, because they don't try themselves.

Is your chapter among those that are getting smaller? If your chapter officers aren't taking action by trying some of these great programs, that we know work, tell them you don't want to be a member of the "Last Man Club." How many in your Quartet or Chorus? Hey! We can't do this hobby alone.

Is your chapter among those getting smaller?



Mailbag.

Lansing chapter invites women 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 some delicious cookies during the fall convention, October 16 - 17, 1998.

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

- Friday 2:00-5:00 p.m.
- Saturday 9:00-11:00 a.m.
- Saturday 3:00-5:00 p.m.

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

Carole Parker
Hospitality Room Host

I realize this isn't timely, but it's such a nice invitation, I thought everyone should see it... -ed.



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Public Relating

Doug Pearson, Marketing & Public Relations VP

Barbershoppers generates positive buzz nationwide



How do you "get" good PR on something? Actually, there's no simple answer. It can be sheer luck; it can be the drive and professionalism of an individual;

it can be a team effort; it can be dictated by the event itself; it can be the result of planning, opportunity and circumstance. Or it can be a combination of any of the above.

Looking at some of the above as "reasons", our four-part activity has gotten a lot of nifty public relations in recent weeks.

Nationally, barbershopping scored big in the New York Times, whose readers number in the millions. Played on the front page of the Times' Living Arts section, a major feature included a huge photo and keyed on the recent Harmony College in Missouri.

Here's how the article read in part: "The Society is a group of ardent, amateur hobbyists, true believers devoted to a kind of gospel. 'We believe' members are wont to say, 'that you can't be unhappy when you're singing.' Indeed, barbershop singing is the proverbial way of life, said Darryl Flin, a former insurance executive who is the Society's executive director. 'Singing is what we do, but you cannot ignore the fraternal and familial aspect of what we do.'"

On a statewide level, our Pioneer District received a huge public relations boost with a major feature and photo

on the front page of the Detroit Free Press' Travel Section. The article focused on our Harrisville Labor Day weekend, and was titled "Quartets make magic with music."

Here's some segments from the article: "If you want to step back in time, if only for a few moments, you'll have the chance over the Labor Day weekend. That's when barbershoppers from all over Michigan and surrounding states descend on Harrisville for Harmony Weekend...SPEBSQSA says the appeal of barbershop harmony is simple, heartfelt emotions: love, friendship and such. When barbershoppers sing in competition, they are partially judged by the impact of their performance or the transference of an emotional experience to the audience."

Now let's see what an individual effort (along with a quartet) can do in promoting our accomplishments. As I've done in the past, I'll pick on Al Fisk because Al is a walking PR Promoter for our District, and his efforts pay off. Thanks to Al, the Detroit Sound Co. sang the National Anthem in front of 47,000 spectators at the Chicago Cubs-Detroit Tigers game. The quartet has also sung the National Anthem at games featuring the Detroit Pistons (basketball); Detroit Vipers (hockey) and the Detroit Shock (women's basketball).

On this subject, Al offered these how-to-do-it PR nuggets in the last Troub, and they're worth paraphrasing: "Make a tape, find the right contact person, mail the tape and resume and then follow up. May I suggest you all send in your tapes to various professional sporting events."

see **PEARSON**, page 11

Gaylord chorus pays tribute to past members

Press release, Gaylord Chapter

The Harmonie Meisters, all-male barbershop chorus of Gaylord, will dedicate their portion of a fall fundraiser show in memory of two members that recently passed away. When the Harmonie Meisters perform their selections for Bush League '98, they will do so in memory of Joe Forest and Art Storch. The passing of these two Gaylord residents has deeply saddened the singing group.

Bush League '98 is a barbershop quartet competition event. The daytime competition results in three quartet winners. The winners then join the Harmonie Meisters chorus, the Northern Lights chorus (all-female four-part harmony chorus) and three nationally-known champion quartets for a gala evening show (October 10, at Gornick auditorium).

The '98 show is the second annual. The show is designed to raise funds for the Harmonie Meister's annual giving of five vocal music awards. In addition, the group supports Heartspring (a treatment center treating speech disabilities in children), Harmony Explosion Camp and other local charities.

Harmonie Meisters president Steve Willford said "these two fine gentlemen will be greatly missed." Chorus musical director Marlyn Byrd added: "They were enthusiastic contributors to our group and gave us all inspiration."

For further information, contact president Willford at (517) 939-7144 or event chairman Al Glasby at (616) 546-3899.

Chapter Coaching

Doran McTaggart, DVP-CSLT

Meetings should offer quartetting opportunities



In the last several issues of *The Harmonizer* and *The Troubadour*, there have been a number of articles about the benefits and enjoyment of

singing in a barbershop quartet. Our Society's Executive Director Darryl Flynn, Society President Ed Waesche, our District President David Cole and many others have mentioned the value of quartetting.

The December 1994 report of the marketing study by Dieringer Research

Associates reported one finding that ought to shake our Society to its roots. Of the 2,300 barbershoppers surveyed, over sixty percent want more time spent on quartet singing in their chapter meetings. No other requested activity came close to this. This was true regardless of the size of the chapter, the age of the barbershopper or personality type. Does your chapter give opportunities for members who wish to sing in a quartet with three other guys to do so every week at the chapter meeting? If not, why not? Perhaps the problem is where to begin.

If men are to get involved in quartetting, we must make it easily available, non-embarrassing, and start at a level that includes everyone. The old

Program VP manuals had many pages filled with quartet activities. Look them up, but in the meantime, here are some ideas:

1. Count 'em off - Have each section count off (1,2,3,4,1,2,3,4, etc.). If you have four tenors, then that's the number you use. Start singing a song and when the leader calls out a number, then only men with that number continue singing. Vary the order in calling numbers.

2. VLQ - The Very Large Quartet is a group larger than four and less than 12.

3. Octets - Double quartets offer an opportunity for members to gain confidence while someone else is singing along with them.

4. Quartets - Change partners - This see **McTAGGART**, page 12

Take Note

Fred Kienitz, CDD VP



I just finished reading *The Harmonizer* and the advanced COTS School brochure which lists the classes being taught and the various

subjects with which International is concerned.

One of the most relevant areas of concerns seems to be one of my biggest concerns in that it deals with chorus director development and workshop-intensive sessions at which you as directors work with certified people for a day of intense training.

By way of review, we have had two

of these sessions to date and ten people were given the opportunity to attend and develop or hone their directing skills. The first was held in Rochester and hosted by Rochester Hills Chapter and the second was in Lansing and, you guessed it, was hosted by the Lansing Chapter.

I fully intended to run another school in the northern region but the designated weekends were grabbed up fast and I couldn't get the dates I wanted. I was given the opportunity to select a later fall or winter date but given the distance between those northern chapters I was hesitant in selecting a date what with the winter conditions we have north of highway 55.

This brings up another idea I've been kicking around for some time

CDWI, director's clinics continue to train leaders

now and I would like to run it by any and all current chorus directors, assistant directors, aspiring directors, wanna-be-directors and perhaps even a few tone-deaf chapter treasurers.

For the past two summers I have run an abbreviated chorus directors' clinic in conjunction with the Harmony Roundup at MSU.

In all honesty, I wasn't sure if this year's class would become a reality in that the first one, which I did alone, left a lot to be desired. To begin with, we had one instructor back out at the last minute and another instructor made it to Lansing only to go back home immediately due to the death of his father. Thus I spent part of my time working with choruses.

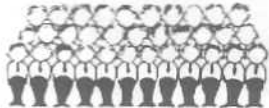
This past year was a very good class, see **KIENITZ**, page 9

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District web site, e-mail list continues to grow

Jim Styer

PioNet Administrator

The Pioneer District's Web site has increased its capacity and the PioNet e-mail list has been growing during the past several months. The Web site home-page URL address has been changed to: <http://www.harmonize.com/Pioneer/pio.htm>. The site is still free to the district, as was the previous site at the University of Pennsylvania. Both locations host several barbershop Web sites.

Pioneer District was approaching the limited space available at U-Penn. The new host location allows more space for expansion, and provides for subdirectories so the site can be managed and updated more easily.

The site includes fall convention registration forms and maps.

It also has information on district chapters, including maps of their meeting sites; district quartets; a calendar of international and district events and chapter shows; a list of registered quartets; directory information, the district honor roll, scores from recent district and international conventions, stories on recent district conventions; links to several other barbershop sites, including Pioneer chapter Web sites and the headquarters in Kenosha; information on the Heartspring and SingAmerica service projects, Pioneer District history; and photos of the district's championship quartets.

Further improvements and additions are expected. Any questions about the Web site, and any suggestions for improvements or updates can be e-mailed to Webmaster Steve Sutherland at: sps@mw.mediaone.net or to Jim Styer at: jimstyer@voyager.net. The Web site has clocked more than 1,000 visitors since it was begun in April 1987.

E-MAIL

The Web site also includes information on the district's e-mail list, called

PioNet, and a way to sign on to the list. PioNet, begun in February 1997, now has about 160 subscribers, including all district officers, several district committee chairmen and 27 of the 29 district chapters, plus members from five other districts and some Sweet Adeline members.

The only chapters not represented are Hillsdale and Swan Valley. Any member of those chapters who has e-mail is asked to write jimstyer@voyager.net to join PioNet.

Chapters with more than 10 subscribers are Lansing (20); Grand Rapids and Grosse Pointe (16 each) and Rochester (12). More than 1,650 messages have been sent to PioNet. The average has grown from one message per day to four messages a day. They have ranged all the way from about seven per day to none for three or four days. At least 140 subscribers have sent at least one message each; 106 subscribers have sent ten or more messages each.

NEWS AND TICKETS ON PIONET

PioNet has provided subscribers with registration forms for district conventions, Harmony Roundup and Bush League and information on many chapter shows and regional and district events. Subscribers often get chapter-show ticket contacts via PioNet. Grand Rapids even offered discounts on PioNet orders.

Several breaking news stories have appeared first on PioNet, including district and international contest scores, stories and commentary on chorus and quartet contests, singing order at district contests, district and international bulletin award winners, details on youth-outreach events, the change of Motor City Metro into a quartet chapter, the formation of a new quartet chapter in Clarkston, new di-



rectors, details on fall Joe Barbershop Chorus plans and the deaths and funeral arrangements for some district members.

Several issues also have been discussed on PioNet, including opinions on support for district college quartets and mixed (male and female) singing groups.

SIGN UP FOR PIONET

All Pioneer District barbershoppers with e-mail capability may sign up for Pionet without charge. Just send your first and last name, e-mail address and chapter to PioNet operator Jim Styer at: jimstyer@voyager.net

If you include your chapter and/or district positions and quartet (if any) and other barbershop information, we also will share this with other subscribers when we sign you up.

ADDRESS CHANGES

PioNet has received some address error messages over the past few months. This likely is because some barbershoppers have changed their e-mail address without notifying PioNet, because some have moved out of the area, or because some Internet servers have had problems passing along PioNet messages.

Please notify jimstyer@voyager.net so corrections can be made if you have stopped receiving PioNet messages, think you may have missed some messages, have received error messages, or have changed your e-mail address. Also let us know if you are aware of any member previously on PioNet who has since moved out of your chapter.

Take Note...

Input sought for May Harmony Roundup

KIENITZ, from page 6

however, with about 12 people signing up. I persuaded Jim Stephens to work this school and it proved quite successful. Needless to say I was encouraged and have been now thinking ahead to the 1998 May Harmony Roundup with a new exciting, and much improved Chorus Director Development section as part of the curriculum. And, this is where you come in.

I plan to send every director a questionnaire from which you could make selections of those areas of concentration most important to you.

Having not formulated said questionnaire yet, I may ask that you select three to five areas and list them in order of importance to you. You may feel free to contact me by mail or e-mail at fritzki@mindspring.com with suggestions you would like to be included as areas of concentration for this school.

I would also encourage you to share, and discuss this brochure with any assistants you may have or you may simply allow them to make their own selections.

I might also encourage you to ask if anyone else might be interested in this type of school.

You should be hearing from me, most likely by mail in the near future, before Christmas if possible. And, a prompt reply is extremely important, if I am going to get top people for faculty.

I really feel this is too important to continue on with only district personnel because it would limit us to only a few areas of concentration. Conversely, if this idea is widely received we could get outside instructors also and run the school for several consecu-

tive years as the demand for enrollment dictates.

In deciding to move in this direction I have asked myself (this being my 50th year as a Pioneer barbershopper) what, over my years as a member has remained fairly constant in our chapters. The answer points at the Chapter Chorus and its director(s).

Most NEW people come in with little knowledge of this unique art form and what they do get comes from the music leadership team.

For the most part, the strength of this music team is directly related to the success or failure of any given chapter.

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to evaluate the strength of any chapter in any district. Simply look at the music team and question the members and you have your answer.

This isn't new. Very few of us have any kind of a musical background and thus we must depend on the chapter music team to give us our "jollies" week after week. And it's from these roots that we grow and expand and learn more and more.

Ultimately we may attend Harmony schools, Roundups, etc. and slowly but surely find our niche which could take us another step higher on the ladder of barbershopping success.

Keep in mind, Mr. or Mrs. Director, you are a VIP in your own chapter and as such you have an obligation to your members. You are the most important, the most influential, the most revered and the most respected person in the Chapter.

Good luck and let me hear from you!

Kenosha looking for stories, volunteers

from the *Update*

We are still looking for stories of young people amongst your acquaintances, your family or in your communities who have had their lives positively changed by music, and singing in particular. Perhaps the story is your own. We will collect these stories as testimony for the SingAmerica and SingCanada cause. Contact Gary Stamm (see below) and share these accounts. If we use the story publicly, we will change or delete names and any other identifying factors.

Also, we are looking for a few chapters to pilot a new, fun way to raise money for our Service Projects. Most of us have taken part in a "walk-a-thon," "jump-a-thon," or a "run-for-something," either as a participant or contributor. What about a Sing-a-thon to support the projects that we back when we Sing . . . for Life?

Basically, it would work like this. A chorus (or even neighboring choruses joining together) gathers in a mall on a Saturday or Sunday and sings (and leads the by-standers in singing) a whole bunch of songs, non-stop. Of course the money would be collected by having friends, co-workers, and neighbors pledge 5, 10 or 25 cents per song in advance.

This would get a lot of publicity and might attract potential members. You could even do it with a high school music program and split the proceeds.

And, most certainly, it should be a lot of fun and a raise some good money for some very worthwhile causes, with a minimum of preparation.

Before we suggest that this might be a Society-wide program and develop all the materials, etc., we would like several chapters to try the idea and give us some feedback. If your chapter would be interested in this Grand Experiment, contact Harmony Foundation Executive Director Gary Stamm, 6315 Third Ave., Kenosha, WI 53143-5199; (800) 876-SING; e-mail: gstamm@spebsqsa.org

International acts can teach us about quality, style

COLE, from page 3

you have gained the respect of the world and we are all very proud of your performance. You deserved that standing ovation!

The chorus competition brought us a repeat champ in the **Alexandria Harmonizers**. But the real winners didn't compete that day, they simply sang the trophy away. Lori and I had dinner the night before with a member of the **Vocal Majority**. He told us not to miss their rendition of *Battle of Jericho*. That was simply one of the most amazing things I have ever seen. I absolutely knew that the walls of Jericho were going to fall down, along with the walls of the Georgia Dome. Incredible!

My favorite moments: **Freestyle** doing the *Sonny Boy* parody as Pinnocchio. **Michigan Jake's** *You Make Me Feel So Young* was so good, you could dance to it. **The Big Chicken Chorus'** civil war set was so involved it boggled the mind. Last but not least was our own Pioneer representatives. Thanks to the **Great Lakes Chorus; Onyx; FIREPOWER!;** and **Vocal Point**. We were proud to watch you perform on the big stage. Someday, maybe, we'll all have that opportunity. Finally, my apologies to **Vocal Point** for not having their name on the yellow ribbons which we wore, supporting our representatives. It was simply an omission, and we are truly sorry for that omission.

LOOKING INTO THE CRYSTAL BALL

Planning for the future is very important. The Society has asked each District to develop a five year, evolving plan of attack. We have a lot of work ahead of us, but we will have this done by the end of the year. By doing so, we can look into our crystal ball with more certainty of what we want to accomplish. Each chapter needs to do this as well. The Vocal Majority didn't become the

VM overnight. It took planning, work, and more planning. Knowing what assets are available will help you plan even better.

COTS: Chapter Operations Training Seminar is always the first weekend of December, at the Kellogg Biological Center in Gull Lake. I have received the schedule of classes, and you won't want to miss this event. Yes, the Chapter Officers need to attend, but anyone with specific interest can attend as well. There will be more to follow, but plan on being there. Ask Doran McTaggart or John Gillespie for details.

CDWI: Chorus Director Workshop Intensive is just that. It's for the more qualified directors to work on the skills which they think they need work on. This is a must for anyone aspiring to take their chorus to the next level. Also, we'll have Director Workshops available for those wanting to hone their skills, or simply wanting to learn how to wave their arms. Ask Fred Kienitz for details.

Chapter Coaching: This is not musical coaching, but rather administrative coaching. How can you make your chapter better through planning and forethought? Every chapter has a coach assigned to them who is eagerly awaiting a phone call. They have proven to be very valuable throughout the district already. Give Doran Mc Taggart a call, and he'll put you in touch with your chapter coach.

Finally, If we are going to continue to grow in Pioneer, we will need to open new doors, welcoming new members, in new cities. One such city is Clarkston, who has applied and received its "License to Operate." Now they need to find enough guys to join their ranks, and become an official chapter. We also have two other locations which look very promising; they are Martin and Niles. Who else is going to jump on the new chapter bandwagon?



Send in those questionnaires!

from the Update

A two-page questionnaire was passed out to attendees at the quartet finals in Atlanta, and will also appear in the Sep/Oct *Harmonizer* for members to clip and submit. Entries must be received by November 15, 1998.

In appreciation of your sharing your ideas with us, a drawing will be held of submitters' names. The grand prize will be:

Two front-row tickets to the '99 convention in Anaheim, Calif., Four nights lodging at a major convention hotel and \$500 cash travel allowance.

Doug (517) 351-9587	Rich (517) 482-0365
 The Datch Chords Music and Mirth	
(517) 521-3218 Roger	(517) 321-3941 Larry

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Raleigh	Gene
To put out a contract... contact Gene Hanover PO Box 259 - Bridgman, MI 49106 616 - 465 - 6223	
Gary	Ed

With 1998 coming to a close, SBM continues look at work toward completion of '98 goals

CHALLMAN, from page 3

showed a brief performance of the Northeast Connection quartet from NED.

- 350 chapters registered for the Singing Valentines program.

- The Society's music education and Youth Outreach programs continue to reach MENC members through the Choral Journal and Music Educators Journal as well as other advertising outlets.

- FWD's **Metropolis** quartet won the National Harmony Sweepstakes finals, besting all a cappella singers of any style. This was the first finals win for a barbershop quartet in the 125 year history of this competition.

- Our members have contributed \$567,000 to Heartspring, SingAmerica and SingCanada, the Heritage Hall Museum, World Harmony and other projects.

- Harmony Foundation is now responsible for all fund-raising for the Society, and is providing district and chapter service chairmen with a regular newsletter re: their service projects.

- Our affiliate organizations continue to grow, with a total of 4,563 affiliate members at the end of 1997. European Harmony Colleges and Pan-Pacific Harmony Colleges are maturing and European and Pan-Pacific contests are being held each fall.

As for "Events," the goal was to achieve well-attended festivals, conven-

tions and other events that meet the needs of Barbershoppers and enrich their experiences. These included:

- The fact that the Tampa Mid-winter convention had the second highest attendance in history.

- The Bolton Landing Festival and Columbus Buckeye Invitational continue to improve each year, drawing male and female performers and attendees from throughout the US and overseas.

- Rocky Mountain District held its inaugural Aspen Barbershop Celebration over Memorial Day Weekend and Dixie District's North Carolina Harmony Brigade weekend has developed into a fine musical and social event. Unfortunately, only three-quarters of our districts have yet to begin holding non-convention festivals in support of the above goal or the Society's mission statement.

- Foothills masters of harmony chorus participated in the Kilarney, Ireland roaring 20s Festival and provided faculty for the second Irish Association of Barbershoppers Harmony College. **The Big Chicken Chorus** appeared at the BABS Annual Convention in Harrogate, England.

- The Society Board has approved the 2001 Vocal Music Festival, to be held in conjunction with other music organizations immediately prior to the Nashville annual convention that year.

And the always exciting, "Finances and Administration."

- Our financial position is good because of non-merchandising income due to an increased market value of our securities investments and an underspending of budgeted expenses last year. However, unanticipated expenses for our two-year COTS Plus trials and increases in the expected costs of our headquarters technology strategy, coupled with sluggish new member recruitment, may require a member dues increase earlier than the currently planned date of January 2000.

Thanks to a bullish stock market and increased Harmony Marketplace activity, "Revenues Enhancement" should exceed our goal of generating \$1,130,000 worth of non-dues income this year.

Finally, regarding "Governance and Operational Management," we find that communications by the new management structure is beginning to happen. Members are more easily able to pass on their needs and concerns through their chapters, districts and on to the Society Board through data gathered and reported on by district presidents and vice presidents in their quarterly reports to the Board.

That's it for now... in the following issues, we'll be looking at what's new for 1999.

Public Relating...

A little effort can create public relations windfall

PEARSON, from page 5

Finally, a team effort in public and community relations involves the Wayne Chapter. In an effort to raise its profile in the community, the chapter joined the Livonia Chamber of Commerce. By joining, the chapter expects to make contact with local civic leaders and businessmen who might engage

the chorus for grand openings, anniversaries, and other special events. The Chamber's Business Directory is mailed annually to 26,000 homes and 5,000 businesses in the area. "Our involvement with the Chamber might also help us grow our membership by exposing us to people who are unaware of our chapter and its chorus," accord-

ing to Wayne Chapter officers.

So there you have it in the proverbial nutshell. Some pretty darn good PR and PR programs on different levels.

As an individual, you too can create an awareness of our hobby by our various publics. Directly or indirectly it'll help lead to the good public relations you just read about.

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*.

email it.

snail mail it.

fax it.

FedEx it.

Western Union it.

However you get it there,

You Must Submit!

Because, **face it...**

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



Quartetting important part of life in a barbershop chorus

McTAGGART, from page 6 is a good rehearsal technique. Tenors line up one behind the other. The other parts do the same, all facing the director. The front four sing. At a signal they go to the end of the line and the next four continue singing, etc.

Wagon Wheels - Do the same thing but have the lines face each other like the spokes of a wheel. The quartet is singing facing each other.

Pinwheel - Arrange twelve singers in a semi-circle or a circle, tenor, lead, bari, bass. Any four consecutive members form a quartet.

5. Repertoire Quartets - They can help men sing better.

6. Teaching Quartets - Can be used to teach new songs. This can offer a quartet a chance to grow.

7. Tag Quartet/Octet - Push out the singer and take his place singing.

Another option is to point to your replacement and continue singing until he replaces you.

8. Barberpole Cat Program - This is an excellent quartet activity to build confidence and repertoire, especially for new members.

9. Comedy Quartet Contest - If you want FUN, then this is it.

10. Novice Quartet/Octet Contest - These contests are great at the chapter level. Later these can be inter-chapter activities which could ultimately result in a Quartet Jamboree.

These are some ways to get your chapter started in quartet activities. The goal is not to produce a Gold Medalist but rather to add some variety and fun at every chapter meeting and keep quartetting alive. Ask your chapter coach for assistance. He'd just love to sing in one of your quartets.

Chapter Service Chair plays important role within chapter

from the *Update*

When you elect your 1999 chapter officers, will your chapter be selecting a chapter service chairman? Approximately half of SPEBSQSA chapters reported a chapter service chairman as one of their officers in 1998, and we'd like to see that number rise significantly in 1999. A chapter service chairman is responsible for informing and educating his chapter about the Society's service projects and any local charities the chapter supports, as well as encouraging donations to such charitable causes.

With the revamping of Harmony Foundation, there are now more resources available, which should make the Chapter Service Chairman's job easier and more effective. Here are a few examples of the support available to him:

1. A Chapter Service Chairman manual will be released this fall.
2. A Chapter Service Chairman newsletter is published twice a year.
3. Harmony Foundation brochures and annual reports available from the Foundation office in Kenosha. New donation envelopes will also be available in 1999.
4. The Society's district service chairmen have been receiving more information and training in 1998 to help support the chapter service chairmen in their respective districts.
5. A presentation on the Harmony Foundation and the Society's service projects will be part of this fall's COTS general sessions.
6. Assistance from the Harmony Foundation office; just call (800) 876-SING.

Now that all of these things are in place, why not put some thought into who would make a good chapter service chairman from your own ranks and elect or appoint him to the office this fall? You (and your chapter) will be glad you did, as we all Sing . . . for life.

Chapters in Action

Holland

by Art Lane

Chorus says farewell before Netherlands concert tour

The Windmill Chorus seized upon its Netherlands singing trip as the occasion for a farewell concert in the city of Holland.

Now, some people might think that being gone for ten days was a little brief for saying farewell. But several hundred people attended the show, which included ice cream and cake at intermission. And the concert served as a dress rehearsal for the 30 singers going to the Netherlands. Not overlooked was the usefulness of the farewell concert as an occasion for the newspapers to have stories and pictures about the departing chorus. The farewell concert was planned by Paul Bekker.

The tour included three shows in conjunction with chapters in the Dutch Association of Barbershoppers, a singout at a church, and sightseeing in what is for many Windmill Chorus members the Old Country.

Tag contest prizes awarded

Twenty-seven quartets competed in the 13th annual Chester P. Oonk Memorial Tag Contest, held in July at the Saugatuck RV Resort. Chefs Don Lucas, Jack Oonk and Steve Foster provided roast pig and chili for about 75 barbershoppers and fans.

Tag contest winner in the pro division was Gold Plated, including Al Walters, Jack Oonk, Mike Oonk and John Ozinga. The winner in the novice category was Got It Covered, with Linda Rozema, Marilee Sanders, Glenna Webster and Mike Oonk.

Winner of the Bart Tillitt Tag Hog Award for being in the most quartets was Mike Oonk. The Bob Von Ins Gut Bucket Award went to bass John Izinga.

The Holland Windmill Chapter's Barbershopper of the Year award was announced at the tag contest. Recipient was Art Lane, editor of the chapter's bulletin, *Windmill Blade*, and promoter of chapter activities.

Grosse Pointe

by Nick Piccione

This article is a salute to our great Ladies Auxiliary on whom the chorus is so dependent.

With our Fall Convention at hand, we take for granted: that sandwiches will be prepared and served for lunch between warm-up and show time on Saturday...that make-up from experienced and gentle hands will make us look "handsome and young" (well, that might be an exaggeration)...that hostesses will render our Hospitality Room warm, friendly, and well stocked...and, of course, that they provide an appreciative audience at warm-up and stage time encouraging us on to "greatness" (that might be another exaggeration).

At our shows, we can be secure in the expectation that they will be there to sell tickets, usher, sell raffle chances, and provide make-up so that we can look "handsome and young" (oops, there I go again).

Their potluck dinner and auction in

January and Riverboat Excursion in July are anticipated for the good times they give us.

Several years ago, we began celebrating COIN Night with our own personally prepared dinners. Again, the Auxiliary is there to help with the myriad of details.

This year the Auxiliary's slate of Officers are: President Barbara Grogran, Vice-President Lyle Daudlin, Secretary Barbara Fox, Treasurer Kay Collins, Past President Lucille Dubrow, Historian Barbara Kramb, and Sunshine Shirley Henk.

Of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Lakeshore Chorus who do all the above and more, we must declare:

There's none that we'd rather be among
When our contest and show songs are sung
Than the Ladies who would
Always make us look good
Though they can't make us
"handsome and young."

Detroit-Oakland

by Tom Uiker

You didn't hear from us last issue, but that's not because we weren't doing anything. We are busy working on songs for our show next February 19 & 20, at Clarenceville High School in Livonia. This year we are planning on taking a "Sentimental Journey." Helping us out will be two top-notch quartets—Gas House Gang and Uptown Sound. We should have a flyer in the next issue of the *Troubadour* with the ticket information. (Tickets should be available by Thanksgiving if you don't want to wait for the *Troubadour*; just give me a call at 248-559-7082.) Meanwhile, mark see **DETROIT-OAKLAND**, pg. 14


A mixed
a cappella
sextet

Kindred Spirits



Contact:
Ken Gibson
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Kenmysing@aol.com

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David Hundt - Lead Larry Parker - Baritone

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Chapters in Action

DETROIT-OAKLAND, from pg. 13
down the dates—February 19 & 20.

I want to thank all the chapters for supporting the "Traveling Jug" program last year. Through your generosity we were able to divide over \$1200 among our three district quartet representatives. Unfortunately, two of the chapters were missed in the travels (one for each jug) because we were late starting them out. This year we have started both jugs earlier. Now, if we can keep them moving expeditiously, we won't have the frantic scrambling next May trying to complete their routes before they are called back to Detroit-Oakland on June 4.

Another tradition is coming soon. Detroit-Oakland hosts "Canada Night" on November 6 (first Friday). I can't give you any details right now, but we will probably repeat the format of a mini-chorus competition. Fliers explaining all details should be available during the district fall competition in Lansing, as well as mailed out to the chapter PVP's.

That is about it from Detroit-Oakland. We look forward to seeing a lot of you in Lansing in October and then at "Canada Night" on November 6.

Grand Rapids

by Dick Williams

All of us here in Grand Rapids would like to compliment all of our fine quartets. **Power Play, Onyx, and FIRE-POWER!** for the outstanding job they did in Atlanta. They represented the Pioneer District in the highest manner and we are very proud of them all. Outstanding job gentlemen, outstanding.

Now for your chorus representative. All I can tell you is we were really on fire and ringin' those chords in rehearsal prior to going on stage. We felt very good about our package and the way we were singing. We were ready to strut our stuff and, oops, by some space time warp

we were replaced by some alien group in our bodies and of course being from some other planet, couldn't sing as well as we, of course, and you know the rest. It was only a few minutes after we left the stage that we returned to normal, not even aware we had sang.

At this writing, we have made a full recovery, with, thankfully no lingering effects and are once again on track and raring to go. It's with a renewed spirit and excitement along with some neat interp for Ann that we look forward to having lotsa fun in the contest while performing well.

We have moved into a new facility which will allow us to do more things with the chorus. Separate rooms for each section, the change for different riser placement for different chorus sound, etc. This will give Ann and our coaches a chance to be able to do more with the chorus. It's really neat.

During the summer, we had a lot of things going on for the membership. The umpteenth annual Herm Baker corn roast. Chapter Quartet Contest, golf outing, and family picnic. The family picnic was hosted by Steve Brown and family and Paul Slack and family. They live next to each other and both sing tenor. Yep, truly a dynamic duo. All these events were well attended and a lot of fun was had by all.

The winner of the chapter pickup quartet contest was Wine Notes, featuring Dan Casamatta, Curt Struyk, Paul Slack, and Mark Kettner. Ringers all, of course.

There you have it my friends, in a capsule. We look forward to seeing all of you again at the Fall Convention. Good luck, and good singing to all. Should be another outstanding convention and contest. Let the singing begin.



Fanfare
an a cappella ensemble

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

Clip art collection can help harried eds.

from the *Update*

The Society's collection of clip art available on floppy disk, shown in previous Harmony Marketplace catalogs, has been discontinued. Much of this collection was not of top quality and, to be frank, some images fell into a gray area of copyright.

The collection has been winnowed down to the best quality images, all known to be legal, and nearly all relate directly to barbershop. Many new images have been created by artists under Society commission.


All images are available in three formats: GIF, TIF and PCX, for maximum flexibility in application. Many are also available in EPS format. Where possible, images also come in color, black-and-white and grayscale variations.

The collection is currently available only on CD-ROM—now becoming the most popular of software tools. Although prepared for use on PCs, most modern Macs can make access. Ask for stock no. 22075 at \$15 each. Also look for it in the fall catalog.

Chapter bulletin editors, this is a great, inexpensive, easy way to spruce up your publications! Just remember... less is more. You've got your whole life to use these images, they don't all need to be used in your first ish! -ed.



The Detroit Sound Co.
Barbershop Harmony
(248) 651-3796



Brace Craig Mike Brian

ONYX
Barbershop Quartet

(810) 874-1488

So...

it's time to sit down and crank out another
Chapters In Action, and you're fresh out of ideas?**BRAIN
STORM****I feel your pain.**

It's not easy to come up with a new angle all the time. So your chapter hasn't doing anything earth-shattering lately. That's OK. We still want to hear from you... let us know you're still out there, ringing chords and having a blast. Use this page as a way to brainstorm some story ideas you may not have thought of. Then, get writing!

1. Performances

In recent months, has your CHORUS performed:

- In the community?
- In concert?
- Informally?

In recent months, have CHAPTER QUARTETS performed:

- In the community?
- In concert?
- Informally?

2. Charity/Community Service

In recent months, has your CHORUS:

- Worked with a community organization
(food drive, recycling, community cleanup, PBS, etc.)?
- Helped with a fundraiser (CROP, collected soup labels, etc.)?
- Made special efforts toward supporting Society charities
(Sing/America, Heartspring)?

In recent months, have your CHAPTER QUARTETS:

- Worked with a community organization?
- Helped with a fundraiser?
- Made special efforts toward supporting Society charities?

3. Chapter meetings

In recent months, has your CHORUS:

- Organized its meetings differently? What was the reason? Has it helped your organization? How?
- Created a new segment in its meetings? Why? Is it fun? Explain.
- Done something unusual to make meetings more interesting? Tell us!
- Had guests from other chapters? Who? Why were they there? Did they sing? What songs?
- Begun work on new music? What is it? When will it be performed?
- Inducted new members? Who? Where are they from/ what do they do?
- Given out awards? For what and to whom?
- Had a change in leadership? Who are the new guys?

4. PR efforts

In recent months, has your CHORUS:

- Sponsored a guest night? How was it? Any leads?
- Been on TV/radio or in the paper? Why? How did it turn out?
- Been preparing an ad campaign for the group or a show? What's it like?

In recent months, have your CHAPTER QUARTETS:

- Sponsored a guest night? How was it? Any leads?
- Been on TV/radio or in the paper? Why? How did it turn out?
- Been preparing an ad campaign for the group? What's it like?

5. Personal news

We want to know about your membership, too: For instance:

- Are there any new babies (future barbershoppers)?
- Have there been any marriages?
- Have members moved away? (we'll miss 'em!)
- Has a member passed away? (we'll miss them, too!)
- Any other landmark occasions?
- Are there folks we should contact?

Give us their address, we'll write to them!

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SPEBSQSA, Inc.
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Lansing, MI 48910

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NOTICE:

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email: 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

- September 19 Alpena Show
- September 26 Muskegon Show
- September 26 Gratiot County Show
- October 9-10 Bush League-Gaylord
- October 10 Pontiac-Waterford Show
- 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
- April 10 Sault Ste. Marie 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 11 Monroe North 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



Top: Northern Lights
Sweet Adelines



Right: Upstage Sound
Bottom: Bush League host
Hamonie Meisters

