

Pioneer Troubadour

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



AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

IN THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|---------------------------|----|
| Quartet Only Chapter ... | 4 |
| DSC at Tiger Stadium ... | 9 |
| Convention Forms | 13 |
| Chapters in Action! | 15 |



SELLING IT: Pioneer's International representatives perform in Atlanta. Clockwise from top left: FIREPOWER!, Onyx, Power Play, and The Great Lakes Chorus. (photos courtesy of PROBE)

Power Play takes 11th place at International contest, finishing only six points out of Top Ten

- *Onyx and FIREPOWER! take 44th and 46th spots*
- *Great Lakes Chorus finishes in 21st place*

For many barbershoppers, Fourth of July weekend is more than fireworks and barbecues. This summer, it meant travelling to Atlanta for the 60th Annual International Barbershop Harmony Convention.

Pioneer's own Power Play quartet took 11th place, out of 49 competing

quartets. The foursome missed breaking into the Top Ten by only six points. Last year, the quartet made it to the final round, finishing tenth overall.

Also representing Pioneer in Atlanta were Onyx and FIREPOWER! The two quartets placed 44th and 46th, respectively. Both groups have also competed in an International contest before.

Over 10,000 registrants were also able to see the chorus contest, which featured the Great Lakes Chorus from Grand Rapids. The group finished in 21st place out of 21 competing choruses, a finish that had many Pioneer loyalists disap-

pointed their fine performance didn't garner them a higher ranking.

The top five quartet finishers were: 1. Revival, from San Diego; 2. Michigan Jake, from Louisville and Cincinnati; 3. BSQ, from Baltimore and Dundalk, MD; 4. FRED, from Marietta, GA; 5. Bank Street, from Albuquerque.

The top five choruses were: 1. Alexandria Harmonizers; 2. New Tradition, from Northbrook, IL; 3. Ambassadors of Harmony, from St. Charles, MO; 4. Southern Gateway, from Western Hills, OH; 5. The Big Chicken Chorus, from Marietta, GA.

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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

Atlanta gives districts, Society chance to take care of business



Here is a brief summary of the three days worth of business meetings which your fearless leader attended during the International Convention in Atlanta.

First and utmost was the communications established between the 16 District Presidents and the Society Board Members (SBM), the Society Operations Group (OPS), and the Program Planning and Development Group (PP&DG). This is the first two-way dialog of these groups in anyone's recollection, indicating a will-

ingness of the Society to listen to the District's concerns for their customers - Joe Barbershopper.

We discussed our top five concerns at great length. Coincidentally, many of our concerns were also their concerns. These concerns included (in order of importance):

1. COTS - Concern about cost to the districts, as well as types of classes offered, and availability of classroom materials. We were delighted to find out that most of the material is nearing completion, and that it will be a very informative class this year.

2. Financing Society Programs - This has been an ongoing struggle with the Districts, in that we have had to carry the burden more often than not for ultimately see **COLE**, page 10



Society Synopsis

Don Challman, SBM

Society goals for 1998: an update on progress



In the April/May issue of the *Troubadour*, we outlined the goals set by the Society at the January Mid-Winter Convention. Six months have passed and it's time to review the progress made towards achieving these goals. Because we don't want this article to get too long, we'll only touch on the Musical Experience, Membership, and Support Services.

We'll save Image, Events, Finance and Governance for the next issue. You may want to pull out your April/May issue if you need to refresh your mind as to what these goals were. Let's begin with:

The Musical Experience: Our competing quartets continue to improve. All but one district conducts, or has planned a Top Gun quartet school. Unfortunately, two-thirds of our members fail to take advantage of Society and district sponsored harmony education programs to improve their musical abilities. It is no wonder that only 30% of our chapters see **CHALLMAN**, page 11

Number One with a Bulletin

Chad Sanders
Troubadour editor

I run spell check quite often in the course of preparing the *Troubadour*. Whenever I finish a page or two, I run that baby. What a lifesaver; it doesn't catch homonyms and grammar, but it sure helps.

It can irritate me (heck, at 3 a.m., the incessant grinding of the gears in the digital clock irritates me), though, when my trusty dictionary doesn't recognize everyday words and tries to suggest alternatives for me.

For instance, "Jarchow" isn't in there. I'm told that "Grouchy" should be used. Hmm... probably won't be doing that. Instead of "Internet," it prefers "intermittent." Well, that certainly describes my online service at times. Maybe this computer's on to something, after all...

Other vaguely portentous spelling fixes I've come across:

- Seely Silly
- Barberpole Briberies
- quartetting quarantined
- AHSOW HARSH
- SPEBSQSA SPASTICS
- Macomb Madmen
- Doran Darn
- Troub Trouble
- PioNet Pointed, Pained
- APDQC EPIC
- Adeline Yodeling
- SingAmerica Sanguinaria (!)
- Kienitz Kinkiest
- Grosse Pointe Greasy Pinto

Do you have goofy spell checks you'd like to share? Email, call, write me with them. Or maybe I'm the only one who is bizarre enough to actually pay attention to stuff like this...

-Chad

Here's the Pitch

Raleigh Bloch, Executive & Member Services VP

Summertime offers chance for recruiting



Summertime and the singing is easy. Well it sure is a busy time for most choruses and quartets. With summer festivals and picnics,

etc., people are hungry for more than burgers and lemonade.

They want some entertainment. My quartet recently performed at a new park dedication in

Niles. And what a response we got. It's fun when you have a responsive crowd. We got the people singing and then announced that if they like to sing they will have a chance again on September 13, when a new chorus will be starting in Niles. It didn't take long to mention and who knows we may have generated some interest.

Wait a minute, did you say September 13? That's a Sunday night? Well, there are some people that feel that's

just the right time for them, so the effort to start a new chapter in Niles will give Sundays a try.

You say that 13 is an unlucky number to start on? Well, I hope you are wrong, because on August 13, that's a Thursday night, and we have another potential chapter that is going to startup in Martin, MI. In case you don't know, we also have another potential chapter getting ready to start, only this

one is going to be a quartet only chapter. So it sounds like a lot is happen-

ing in the new chapter effort. What's happening in your chapter? Are you hawking your wares at each singout, are having membership drives? It really is easy to do, so why not do it. Who knows, your chapter might win the services of the next District Champion Quartet for your next show.

YOURS IN HARMONY
Raleigh Bloch

Clarkston forms quartet-only chapter

Lyle Howard
Rochester

I am pleased to announce the licensing of a new chapter. The "Clarkston Chordmasters" quartet-only chapter will meet the 2nd and 4th Fridays each month at the United Methodist Church, 6600 Waldon Rd. in Clarkston. Meetings will convene at 7:30. Our first meeting is scheduled for July 24.

Our purpose is to enhance your barber-shop experience, not to replace what you now do in your own chapters. Only dual membership status (\$9.00) will be accepted from current society members for one year from date of application, unless there is an unusual exception such as someone moving in from out of state, etc.

Our format will be quite flexible. Some evenings we will all learn a new song as a group, then break into quartets, rehearse for a while, return and perform in front of the group. Some nights we will break into quartets, work on anything that comes to mind, and perform for the group. We plan to have qualified coaching on hand during some meetings.

We plan to have guest quartets as often as possible. This will be an excellent opportunity for quartets to drop in unannounced. You will never be interrupting anything critical like a show dress rehearsal, or last minute preparation for a contest. We won't be doing anything that we wouldn't be delighted in stopping to let you do your thing for us.

You will never feel uneasy or rushed. And you may get put on twice. We want to develop and perfect the quartet style of singing. We want to be able to draw upon our group for quartets and octets to fulfill community entertainment and service needs. It will not be a woodshedding, boondoggling and tag quartetting chapter, although there will be ample time for those kinds of activities. Tags will be taught, practiced and sung before the

see **CLARKSTON**, page 7

Who knows, your chapter might win the services of the next District Champion Quartet for your next show.

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

Difference between success and failure is often attitude



So let's talk about enthusiasm for a few minutes. Fellas, enthusiasm makes the world go 'round.

Show me a person, a performance, a quartet, a chorus or a District without a firebrand form of enthusiastic go-power and I'll show you either a center stage failure or a failure waiting in the wings.

Our Society's Ev Nau puts out an excellent series of Recruiting Tips, authored by Society members who have achieved excellence in gaining new members. One blue ribbon recruiter writes: "The most important aspect which has worked for me is what most of us already know, but overlook -- ENTHUSIASM! Obviously, if you believe in what you're 'selling', your excitement should be automatic."

This brand of excitement and positive outlook goes hand in glove with success in our public relations and marketing efforts, be it a formal project or in our day-to-day efforts. OK, you singers out there: what kind of impression do YOU leave about your favorite hobby when you go head-to-head with your public, your co-workers, your fellow barbershoppers, or prospective members. Are you glum, cynical, negative? Or are you enthusiastic and positive? It's all public relations, you know, and it can leave either a good or bad impact on that unique craft of ours that we all cherish.

So are you on PioNet? Last count

shows us at about thirteen percent participation. It's an interesting form of Pioneer District E-Mail communications in that it's immediate, unrestricted, unedited and usually spontaneous. Also, it tends to evoke quick, sometimes emotional or negative responses from fellow members.

PioNet can be very informative or very chatty. Very personal or very trivial. It's worth assessing because it gives us a somewhat accurate consensus of what our members are thinking. And lately, we members have been thinking a lot! One guy wasn't given a ribbon and he's down on the District.... Women directors are going to spell the doom of the Society.... Champion singers are infiltrating our Bush League Contest.... There weren't enough Pioneer District supporters at International... The District and the Society are going down the tube. You get the drift. Inevitably, the complaints evoke a rash of "me too" responses, and before long, like Chicken Little, you're pretty darn sure the sky is falling down.

Don't get me wrong. There are definitely substantive issues worth addressing. And like most of you, in 26 years of barbershopping, I've sweated my dark days, too -- days I'd like to slug the director, tell that crow next to me on the risers to find another hobby, or bury that anti-bass judge in a deep hole. Fortunately, these downers are usually followed by all those fun things that make our activity so appealing. Meanwhile, if there is a major problem, let's address it, work toward solving it and then put on a happy face and get on with our life.

You know, from a public relations see **PEARSON**, page 11

Pioneer has coaching talent available

Looking for a coach to help you out?

Our Pioneer District has a wealth of talent that can be tapped. Here's a list of District members available in the "General" Category as provided by Russ Seely:

- * Denny Gore
- * Joel Mills
- * Mike Slamka
- * Bruce Evans
- * Ed Fritzen
- * Roger Lewis
- * Mike O'Donnell
- * Fred Kienitz
- * Jack Slamka
- * Jim Stephens
- * Marty Chirgwin
- * Jeff Rayburn
- * Don Stewart
- * Jamie Carey
- * Jeff Marks
- * Mike McClary
- * Mark Wilson
- * Russ Seely
- * Carl Dahlke
- * Al Fisk
- * Steve Sutherland
- * Jeff Gougeon

If you're interested, contact one of the above and they can tell you their particular coaching areas of interest, their availability, etc.

Various coaches will be highlighted with thumbnail sketches in future editions of the *Troubadour*.

Chapter Coaching

Doran McTaggart, DVP-CSLT

District VPs, Chapter Coaches available to help



Society President Ed Waesche sent a letter to every district president asking them for their input about a number of concerns. Our Society membership showed 16 consecutive months of year to year gains and then 12 straight months of year to year declines. Why?

Has your chapter signed up for the Chapter Challenge? Every chapter received the information months ago but few have responded. This is not a con-

test but a three year assistance to your membership program. Free materials will be sent from Kenosha when you check off your requests, tell what membership programs you will use (say, Guest Night), and send in the application. Call your Chapter Coach for assistance.

Almost two-thirds of our members do not sing in a chorus contest. President Waesche says that there must be a way to convince all chapters that they can improve their singing skills and as a result begin to attract new and younger members. In Pioneer this is a must because as I look around, the average age of some chapters is deceased.

One-third of our Pioneer chapters did not send even one chapter officer to

COTS last year. Our Society continues to invest in better training and communication methods. We have all sorts of help readily available starting right at our district level. All of our District VPs are listed on the inside front cover of every issue of the Troubadour.

Need assistance? Call you chapter coach. Your chapter coach is a well-trained facilitator who can access both human and physical resources that will enable your chapter to become all it can be. Vertical communication goes both ways from chapter to coach to District VP to Society Committee to Kenosha staff. Horizontal communication goes from chapter to coach to District VP's and their talented committees.

see **McTAGGART**, page 12

Take Note

Fred Kienitz, CDD VP



The biggest reason you haven't heard from me lately is that Mr. Editor, Chad Sanders, professed to have misplaced my photo and I'm very upset

about it.

As you are aware, I'm probably the prettiest of all the Pioneer Board members and if the truth were known they most likely voted unanimously to print all my articles from now on "Sans" picture.

I will be writing to all District Directors, their assistants, and "wanna be's" about the success we've had the past two Harmony Roundup gatherings with a

"Chorus Director Workshop."

The first of these was less than I had hoped for due to some unforeseen problems. One of our guest faculty members arrived at MSU only to be notified that his father had passed away while he was en route to the school, so he immediately left to go back home. I ended up dividing my time between chorus "students" and coaching. Fortunately, I took them along during the coaching part and it gave them a chance to see problems and how they could be resolved.

I felt badly about the double duty in that I wasn't able to spend the allotted time with my people, but they were not too concerned. About 80% of them came back for this session in '98.

The experience gave them the opportunity to hear some problems a director might face at any rehearsal and also they

Chorus Director Workshops proving successful, helpful

were able to determine how to handle the situation in correcting a problem or working toward a smoother, more intense approach to any given passage.

I plan to have yet another workshop at the '99 Harmony Roundup. I'll be confering with Jim Stephens as to the format and the curriculum to be presented, but it should serve to be a continuation of directing skills and ideas that will be useful to these directors.

I plan to write all the District Directors and ask them to send me some information on their willingness to attend, the type of information that would be most helpful in working with their own chapter ensemble back home.

I'll ask them to encourage their assistants to sign up for these sessions and to encourage their chapter to handle the costs
see **KIENITZ**, page 12

Don't send in your Convention registration form . . . without ordering your tickets for the APDQC show.

*The Association of Pioneer District
Quartet Champions is excited about
the presentation of our second
annual show Friday evening (Oct.
16) at the Sheraton Hotel 30
minutes following the contest.*



Please be our invited guests to see and hear past Quartet Champs and the combined QCA chorus. **At a bargain price of only \$4.00 (\$5.00 at the door)** this event will surely be the finest showing of talent our District may see all year! **Simply include your order and payment on the convention registration form.** Your tickets will be waiting for you at the registration table. You can also purchase tickets Saturday in the lobby or at the door!



Kindred Spirits

*A mixed
a cappella
sextet*



Contact:
Ken Gibson
(517) 351-8056
Kennysing@aol.com
2807 Buglers Way
East Lansing, MI 48823

CONGRATULATIONS to all of our Pioneer District representatives who competed in Atlanta. We were proud to be a part of your cheering section!

Kindred Spirits was honored to appear at the first Mixed Harmony Showcase and be featured at the 12th annual Gospel Sing. We would like to thank our many Pioneer friends who offered such kind words and warm applause.

It would be our pleasure to share the stage with you. Our repertoire includes: Vocal Jazz, Swing, and Big Band selections as well as contemporary Christian pieces.

Kindred Spirits . . . A unique addition to your next show!

'Quartet-only' chapter plans for fun, unrushed atmosphere

CLARKSTON, from page 4 group. In short, we plan to pursue all the activities that are designed to develop quality quartetting. The frosting on the cake will be when quartets decide to organize, register and develop their own repertoires.

In addition to current membership, we plan to draw upon the many churches in the area. There has been a great deal of interest expressed by local church members who love to sing. Therefore, our music selection will be divided about equally between what I would call barbershop secular, music that one wouldn't be ashamed to sing anywhere, and spiritual, gospel and inspirational. When a church or anyone calls, we want to be ready with the right kind of repertoire, no matter what the occasion.

If any of this interests you, or any of

your fellow members, you may want to give us a try. We'll look forward to seeing you on the 24th, or perhaps sometime soon thereafter. We need and invite singers, especially tenors and those who can handle more than one part. Mark your calendars now.

Directions: I-75 north to the Sashabaw Rd. exit. Left on Sashabaw to first light which is Waldon Rd. Right to church a couple of miles, almost downtown Clarkston.

From the North: I-75 to M-15 or Ortonville Rd. exit. Right to downtown Clarkston. Left on Waldon to the church, two or three blocks, left hand side.

Park towards rear of church and use rear entrance on West side of building.

Lyle Howard
Rochester Chapter
(248) 634-1577

To all male barbershoppers!

Motor City Metro will be hosting an Octet Contest for which the trophy will be the famous St. Thomas Chapter Octet Trophy.

- Date:** Friday Sept. 18, 1998
Time: Doors open 6:30, Dinner at 7:30.
Where: Dearborn Elks (Michigan Ave. just west of Telegraph)
Cost: \$7:00 (Canadian at par for our Canadian brothers)
Includes: All you can eat buffet (2 meats, potato, salad, rolls), cash bar.
Trophy: St. Thomas Chapter Octet Contest Trophy

Contact Ruben Queen:
ruque@JUNO.COM

Great Lakes Chorus of Sweet Adelines International presents "Spooktacular ~ a howling night of harmony"



featuring

SHOWTIME

Sweet Adelines International Quartet Champions
and

THE DREAM CATCHERS Utica Youth Show Choir

Adults \$13 ~ \$15 at the door
Seniors/Students \$11 (3 p.m. show only)
Information:
Diana: (810) 264-1018
Louise: (810) 566-5965

3 p.m. and 8 p.m. October 10
Macomb Center for
the Performing Arts
44575 Garfield, Clinton Township

Mail Orders:

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____

Please send _____ tickets

Make checks payable to:
Great Lakes Chorus



Mail with self addressed, stamped envelope to:

Louise Dimattia
4870 Potomac Ct.
Shelby Township, MI 48315

Detroit Sound Co. sings National Anthem for the Tigers

On Thursday evening June 25, **The Detroit Sound Co.** (reigning Pioneer District Quartet Champions), had the honor of singing the National Anthem before the start of the interleague baseball game between the Chicago Cubs and the Detroit Tigers. It was a hot time (95 degrees at game time) in the ol' town (Detroit) as we walked out onto the field to perform. Wanting to make a good impression in front of the announced crowd of 47,000 (though a few may have been in the beer line), we wore our white tuxedos and bore the heat reasonably well. The Tigers even let our official photographer and ex-bulletin proof reader (my beautiful bride, Bonnie) out onto the field to take some pictures. Although none of the media outlets (two television stations and one radio station) aired our efforts, the crowd seemed very appreciative of our singing.

As we walked through the concourse into the stands, many people expressed their gratitude for hearing the anthem sung so well. Personally, I was greeted with enthusiastic hugs from three very pretty young ladies. I was assuming that this response was due to my good looks and dashing persona. However, the girls reminded me that I was their high school choir teacher in 1985. (Man, do I feel old!)

The Detroit Sound Co. (Jeff Gougeon, Kelly Brummett, Jim Ryan, and Al Fisk) has been fortunate to sing the National Anthem (the Clancy/Acoustix version) for the Detroit Pistons (NBA), the Detroit Vipers (thrice for this minor league hockey team), the Detroit Tigers (baseball), and, in August, we will sing for the newly organized Detroit Shock (WNBA). Many people have asked me how we get these gigs. Well, persistent PR work is the key. I have called all of these organizations to get the info required: contact person in



PLAYING THE FIELD: The Detroit Sound Co. performs *The Star-Spangled Banner* on the field at Tiger Stadium. According to quartet member Al Fisk, the key to securing gigs like this one at Michigan and Trumbull is persistence.

charge of anthems and correct address. Then, I mailed a video tape (a cassette tape will also suffice) of our quartet and a resume listing our accomplishments. Personally, I have had the privilege of singing for the Tigers and Pistons in the past with other groups that I have directed: Rochester Heart of the Hills Barbershop Chorus, Hazel Park High School Chorale, and the Rochester Community Chorus. May I suggest that all y'all send in your tapes to various professional sporting events. It is a great thrill to sing the anthem for thousands of people, and you are certainly spreading the gospel of barbershop. So, as they say in the Michigan Lotto ads, you gotta play to win. Send in those tapes today!

Sing-cerely,
Al Fisk
The Detroit Sound Co.

Charitable gifts see drastic drop

from the *Update*

Good friends, charitable contributions to our Service Projects for the first four months of this year are running approximately 24 percent behind that which was contributed during the same period in 1997. Quite honestly, we are puzzled over this.

In 1988, the generosity of Barber-shoppers resulted in more than \$1,000,000 for our Service Project.

Our goal for this year is a mere \$600,000, yet we have only raised about 11 percent of our goal as of April 30.

More information on our projects has been coming out of the Harmony Foundation offices than in any time in the past and the response to this information has been very positive. Maybe you have an idea as to why we are having a slow start. We'd like to hear your thoughts. Give us a call at the Harmony Foundation office, (800) 876-SING, extension 8446.

Your gifts to the Harmony Foundation general fund will help improve life and quality of life through SingAmerica (SingCanada), Heartspring and the Heritage Hall Museum. Donors are free to designate any of these separate causes or the Society's Endowment Fund. Any of these will show that you Sing . . . for life.

We hope that all chapters and quartets have made a commitment to donate either a portion of their net show profits, the fee from one or two performances, or the proceeds of a special event to benefit our service projects. Only with this support from our chapters, quartets and individual donors will we be able to reach our goal. Let's all work together and make our dreams for the Society's charitable activities a reality.

Hot 'Lanta...

Convention gives opportunity to meet, discuss

COLE, from page 3

funding programs which in our opinion should be the responsibility of the Society. COTS, Leadership Forum, and College Quartet Financial Awards are just a few examples. While they now know of our concern for this matter, we will have to address it again at Leadership Forum in the fall.

3. Membership Dues Increase in 1999 - Initially we were against a dues increase, mostly because of a lack of information. Once informed by the Society that we are facing some serious losses of revenue for the past two years, and that we are headed into the future with some expensive programs which will help all barbershoppers, we better understood the rationale.

4. Membership Re: Younger Prospects - We found that we were on the same page as the Society, in that we have a real concern for the 25-40 year age bracket. We are doing fine in the younger and older ages, but have poor numbers in this bracket. Several ideas were shared, and with the return of Ev Nau to the membership side, we'll be seeing many of these ideas, as well as new plans in place real soon.

5. CDD and CDWI - The Chorus Director Workshop Intensive (CDWI) was a great concern of many parties. The quantity of 25 certified instructors, vs. the needed 40-45 instructors has been a slow laborious task, which we feel has been too slow. We were assured that it would be brought up to speed over the next year. It was also determined that CDWI was misunderstood. It was our original thought that this would be a training program for all directors - building up the ranks of existing, assistant, and want-a-be's. We quickly learned that it was intended solely for the purpose of training the upper tier directors, similar to the "Top Gun" program for quartets. With this in mind, it was urged that all of the districts develop their own respective training for the existing, assistant, and want-a-be's. You will be happy to know that Pioneer has already

established this program: contact Fred Kienitz for more information.

Other issues of importance which were discussed included:

All Districts will be required to implement a five year plan for their respective district which will be an evolving, continuous plan, updated on a year-to-year basis. Leadership Task Force (LTF) will develop a computer module which will assist us in this process. Once again, Pioneer has already started on this plan.

A committee, including myself, has been formed to discuss and find better solutions to how the Society could better fund the Society-based programs, rather than forcing the Districts to self-fund their programs.

Many, many membership issues were discussed, but here are a few of the ideas which came to the forefront. Currently in the planning stages will be a solicitation program (telemarketing and massed mailing) on a Society level (localized first for experimentation) with the purpose of getting new members. It was recommended that a video be developed for dissemination to any groups or individuals which might show interest in our vocation. A database of local choral groups could be developed by chapters for a mass mailing program.

Discussed at length, but removed from the floor was a program for Subscription Membership. This would allow the members to purchase three, five, or eight year memberships with discounts relative to the length - similar to a magazine subscription program. This was removed from the floor, because the numbers were not quite perfected, it will undoubtedly be brought forth at mid-winter.

And then there was the subtle hint about cooperative arrangements with other organizations such as Sweet Adelines, Harmony Incorporated, A Capella Incorporated, etc. It was hinted (OK, mildly questioned) about our feelings about a possible merger of these organizations for the betterment of everyone. This could even in-

clude the judging program - they talked about it too. Needless to say, there was much discussion about this issue. Since it was a survey of the issue, rather than a proposal, nothing more transpired. However the Society is fully aware of the President's position that we are NOT in favor of such a merger. Personally, I am totally against this concept, and you can bet your last dollar that I will do everything within my power to shoot this down, should it become a motion.

A "Buddy System" was discussed for bringing long time, non-competing chapters to convention for the purpose of convening, while at the same time competing for instruction. Your Pioneer board will put this on the table at our next meeting - it was an interesting concept to increase turnout.

In summary: All of the meetings were incredibly productive. We have established a communications link with the Society which resulted in two meetings at the fall Leadership Forum. This is amazing since we weren't able to even have one before. COTS will be a must to attend. After over a decade of zero trainers classes, the program is completely updated, trainers are trained and enthused, and it will be fantastic experience, with a variety of options available to all participants, includes those who are not on their boards.

I hope this was helpful in letting everyone in Pioneer in on the goings on of the Society and our District's representation.

Unlawful
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YOU WILL LIKE OUR SINGING

Raleigh Gene

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

Gary Ed

Update: Society looks at progress toward 1998 goals

CHALLMAN, from page 3

have demonstrated that their choruses can sing at the mid-C (average) or above level. This is a cause for concern as it related to the public appreciation of barbershop singing.

For those of you who would truly like to see your chorus/quartet improve, I draw your attention to two opportunities currently available... Stand Ovation (your performance is evaluated and suggestions for improvement given) and the Society and District Faculty Roster (coaches available and willing to help). Information and contacts can be made through your MVPV (Russ Seely).

If you want to get more updated repertoire material, check out the Free 'N Easy and Music Premiere series. They offer easy to moderately difficulty arrangements and learning tapes. It's incredible how much is available to our membership for a simple phone call.

The number of high school and Youth Outreach festivals and camps has doubled this year. Support your district's part in the action.

Chorus Directors are now receiving a regularly published Direct-ly Involved periodical. Are they sharing that with you? Ten Chorus Director Intensive Workshops have been held since the beginning of the year, and fourteen more will be held by year's end.

Membership and Support Services: We currently have just over 34,000 Society members. Down from a high of 38,000 in 1983, but at the same level as in 1993. Turnover averages at around 12% per year. Average age is 58...recruitment efforts need to be on the mid-40's (and below) range if we are to reverse this trend. Membership recruitment is running 20% below that rate targeted for the year, while the retention rate is about 1%

lower than last year. We continue to charter and license new chapters, and now have 804 chapters, 10% of which are in Canada.

Re-Member, a membership report/recruitment document is being circulated regularly to VPMS people...are they sharing the ideas with you and are you supporting programs like "Chapter Challenge," etc. If not, you may be part of the problem.

To respond to the constant need for "more communication," the Society operates an excellent home page on the World Wide Web, including a membership site and a Society-wide events calendar. All districts have their own home pages.

How About *Update*...a news bulletin from Society Headquarters. Several copies are sent to your chapter president/secretary...are they being shared with the membership? We are concerned about lack of communication. It's out there, chapter officers have it...they need to share it!

Regarding chapter support, as of the end of March, the Chapter Support and Leadership Training Committee had trained 151 chapter coach candidates. How many did Pioneer have in that group? Remember, the Society footed and is still footing the bill for this excellent program. The fifth and last (at Society expense) will be held in September.

Finally, the revised COTs program will provide an incredible opportunity for all chapters to get on board and be up to date on what's current in their Society. The specifics of this year's COTs was well covered by Chad on page 17 of the June/July issue of the Troubadour.

In the next issue, we'll look at progress made towards the goals listed under Image, Events, Finances, and Governance.

Attitude: one step toward success

PEARSON, from page 5

standpoint, a sour philosophy or glum attitude, whining and blathering stamps a negative image on the public. It's most certainly self-defeating. It's a form of prophecy fulfillment. If you think things are going to be bad, then, by Golly, they will be bad. Actually, there's a lot of good things happening in our District. Instead of dwelling on gloom and doom, ego-bruises or minor injustices, maybe we can brighten up and be a part of the solution.

Is that possible?

Enthusiasm coupled with a positive attitude simply have to lead to good PR. Take the Detroit Sound Company as one good example among many in our District. Following a Milford appearance, the fearsome foursome stopped at a local watering hole where they watched the Red Wings knock the Blues on their bass clef. As the game came to an end, they were inspired to sing Bye, Bye, Blues.

"We were an instant hit, and reached knighthood status," relates "Sound" member Al Fisk. "The job of winning the crowd and finding life-long friends is priceless."

Accentuating the positive, our own Detroit Sound Company captured the crowd and accomplished a neat PR coup for the District.

Something to remember in our darker moments, isn't it.

Doug
(517) 351-9587

Rich
(517) 482-0365



The Dutch Chords
Music and Mirth

(517) 521-3218
Roger

(517) 321-3941
Larry

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'.



Need help? Look to your District

McTAGGART, from page 6

Who are these District VPs and how can your chapter coach tap into their expertise on behalf of your chapter? VP of Membership Services (Raleigh Block) can assist with membership drives, getting more members, younger members, a balance of voice parts, etc.

Music and Performance VP (Russ Seely) can help with repertoire, new music, a balance of ballads and up-tunes, planning a six-month musical program, chorus and quartet activities, woodshedding, gang singing, Barberpole Cat songs, craft, tags, etc.

Marketing and Public Relations VP (Doug Pearson) can give you ideas about singing in your communities and dealing with the media - newspapers, radio, TV, internal and external PR, etc.

Chorus Director Development VP (Fred Kienitz) knows how to find a director, training available, how to use assistant directors, section leaders,

quartets, etc.

All of our chapter coaches and District VPs are eager to assist any and every chapter, but sometimes we feel like the Maytag repairman. No one calls. We are waiting for your call.

Why should you be reporting your weekly attendance figures to your chapter coach?

1. number on rolls (Kenosha)
2. active membership (anyone attending in past 6 months)
3. weekly attendance (any part of meeting) If we are doing the right things well and are following our chapter's mission statement, then we should notice all of the figures going upward. A drop may indicate problems that we should be addressing before the slide is allowed to continue. Reminder - COTS December 5 and 6. Let's have a record this year by having every chapter taking part. You will get the skills needed for leadership development and chapter growth.

Take Note...

CDWI a smart investment

KIENITZ, from page 6

of the school. Let's face it, a \$100 investment might be the biggest bargain in history if the results help save that chapter from closing its doors.

True, we won't send you back a Greg Lyne or a Jim Clancy, but I have seen first hand that these people go back home with a desire to be a better director and a fire in their bellies.

True, the degree of expertise varies from one student director to another. Further, the "gut" feeling in many of these people is to question their own ability and wonder if they have that something that will make them a good director.

I can't even answer that question right away but I'll tell you one thing, their chances of succeeding is 100% better than an empty pair of shoes placed in front of a chorus.

Ask your director, past or present, how they felt at their first rehearsal and I'm sure they will say they were scared to death.

So why did they do it? Their Chapter was dying and somebody needed to do something about it. Or, they needed a bigger challenge than they were getting from their chapter leadership.

My single most concern in forwarding this article is the fact that we are a quartet society. We stand in awe when we hear or watch a great quartet perform. We pay large sums of a chapter's money to have the best of the best grace our stage in our annual show. Yet, we fail to recognize the fact that these ensembles were born at a chapter, and this leads me to my closing paragraph.

Few if any persons reading this article have not seen a chapter rise or fall due to the presence or absence of a capable director. Thus, we need to change our thinking from present to future.

Long term planning will help insure the life of a chapter. Select, train and use young aspiring directors as part of your musical program now and your chapter will be well-rewarded in the future.

1998 PIONEER DISTRICT FALL CONVENTION
OCTOBER 16-18, 1998
LANSING, MICHIGAN

CONVENTION REGISTRATION

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

REGISTRANT NAME _____

SPOUSE/GUEST NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE (____) _____

COMPETING CHORUS? YES ___ NO ___ CHORUS NAME _____

COMPETING QUARTET? YES ___ NO ___ QUARTET NAME _____

CHAPTER NAME _____

VOICE PART: TENOR ___ LEAD ___ BARITONE ___ BASS ___

EARLY REGISTRATION: \$16.00 PER PERSON

LATE REGISTRATION: \$20.00 PER PERSON

EARLY REGISTRATION MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 3, 1998

If you wish to purchase tickets to the Friday, October 16 Association of District Quartet Champions Show, you must enclose \$4.00 for each ticket. (\$5.00 at the door.)

FEE FOR _____ PERSONS @ \$16.00/\$20.00

Total Registration Fee: _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: PIONEER DISTRICT, SPEBSQSA, INC.

MASTERCARD or VISA Number _____ Expiration Date _____

MAIL CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM AND FEE TO:

Stan Williams, Treasurer

421 Franklin Street

Leslie, MI 49251

NOTE: ALL EVENT PASSES WILL BE AT THE CONVENTION REGISTRATION DESK IN THE SHERATON LANSING HOTEL (HEAD-QUARTERS). SINGLE EVENT TICKETS MAY BE PURCHASED AT THE CONVENTION REGISTRATION DESK OR WAVERLY HIGH SCHOOL: FRIDAY \$10.00; SATURDAY NOON \$10.00; SATURDAY EVENING \$10.00. CHILDREN AGE 12 AND UNDER FREE.

EACH MEMBER OF A COMPETING QUARTET OR CHORUS MUST REGISTER FOR AN ALL EVENTS PASS. FAILURE TO DO SO COULD DISQUALIFY THE QUARTET OR CHORUS FROM THE CONTEST.

REFUND POLICY: REGISTRATION FEES WILL BE REFUNDED TO PERSONS CANCELING **IN WRITING** PRIOR TO THE 12:00 P.M. OPENING ON FRIDAY

1998 PIONEER DISTRICT FALL CONVENTION
OCTOBER 16-18, 1998

HOTEL RESERVATION

- All spaces must be filled out completely - type or print clearly.
- Hotels require a credit card guarantee.
- All acknowledgments will be sent to the individual whose name and address appear below.
- Confirmation will be sent directly to you by your assigned hotel.
- Any changes in reservations must be made directly to the hotel after confirmation is received. **Do not send any room deposits to the Housing Bureau.**
- Reservation requests must be received no later than September 16, 1998. Room requests will not be accepted after this date.

PLEASE MAIL FORM DIRECTLY TO:

SPEBSQSA Housing Bureau
P. O. Box 15066
Lansing, MI 48901-5066

Hotel should confirm this reservation to:

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone (Days) _____
(Area Code)

Arrival Date _____
Departure Date _____
Type of Room:
1 bed _____
(1-2 persons)
2 beds _____
(2-4 persons)

HOTEL/RATES (not including tax)

Number in order of preference.

1. ***Sheraton Lansing Hotel** - \$75.00 Flat Rate _____
(Headquarters Hotel)
2. Best Western Midway Hotel _____
\$59.00 Flat Rate
3. Hampton Inn - \$55.00 Flat Rate (incl. bkfst.) _____
4. Holiday Inn Lansing Conference Center _____
\$66.00 Flat Rate
5. Quality Suites - \$79.00 single/double; _____
+ \$10.00 each additional person (incl. bkfst.)

NAMES OF ADDITIONAL PEOPLE
OCCUPYING ROOM.

GUARANTEED RESERVATIONS:

The Convention/Visitors Bureau is not responsible for room rates.

Credit Card: AE ___ MC ___ VS ___ DISC ___

Number _____

Exp. Date _____

___ Request Non-Smoking Room

SPECIAL REQUESTS: _____



Chapters in Action

Holland

by Art Lane

Windmill Chorus

HELD OVER in Zaandam

Even before the Holland Windmill Chorus set foot in Europe, its show schedule was expanded.

The Hollanders, visiting their roots in the Netherlands in September, had scheduled a show with the Zaandam-based Whale City Sound Chorus of the Dutch Association of Barbershoppers. The president of the Zaandam Chapter telephoned Holland, Michigan to say that the Saturday show was proving so popular, could they add another show the next Wednesday? Sure, said the Chorus. It is nice to be appreciated before you get there.

Chapter Talent Night Spotlights Hidden Skills

Thirty-seven persons joined in the fun at a chapter talent night planned by impresario Ken Cook.

The offering included five quartets, both named and unnamed; harmonica music by Jack Essenburg, who became a chapter member in 1945; Scott Bruursema on the accordion, and several dramatic, comic and poetic renditions. A combo was formed by Steve Foster and Bob Eastman, Guitar; John Ozinga, bass viol, and singer Jack Oonk. They later were joined by Perry Mellifont on the clarinet for a little jamming. Director Myke Lucas brought the latest news from the Internet, plus a comedic recollection in Dutch English.

Tag Contest, Singout Held

The Holland Chapter held its 13th an-

nual Chester P. Oonk Memorial Tag Contest in July and in August took barbershopping to Allegan with a singout along the Kalamazoo River waterfront.

The Windmill Chorus had big crowds for its two Tulip Time shows, proudly sharing the stage with Pioneer's FIREPOWER! And the comedy masters, FRED.

The chapter welcomed new member James Hall, a 12-year barbershopper who moved to Holland from the Gratiot Chapter. Barbershoppers of the Month honored recently are Art Lane, Dale Bekker, Mark Andrew, Myke Lucas, and Vern Rose.

Motor City Metro

by Steve Ray

Converting Motor City Metro into the Pioneer District's first Quartet Chapter has been a challenging yet rewarding endeavor. It's amazing to see guys you never imagined ready to sing in a quartet, especially in front of their peers, literally jump at the opportunity to get up in front. And the smiles on their faces when that over-tone pops out on the last note of the tag is a true indicator that a quartet format was the right decision. Thanks to fellow chapter officers John Szewc, VP of Chapter Development; Gene Bulka, Treasurer; Harold Pashby, Secretary; and Ruben Queen, VP of Music and Performance, and to the regular members who attend every week, Motor City Metro is again a fun and exciting place to be on Wednesday nights.

One chapter-formed quartet recently had an opportunity to sing for over 4,000 people at the Naturalization Swearing-in Ceremony. Gene Bulka, Harold Pashby, Jeff Woodruff and yours truly entertained the new citizens and their guests at this annual fourth of July event at beautiful Shane Park in downtown Detroit. Everyone enjoyed the harmony even though at

least 1/3 of the crowd probably didn't speak English or understand a word we sang.

Do you remember the St. Thomas Chapter's Octet Contest Trophy? Well, we found it! An octet from Motor City won it back in 1991 and it got lost in someone's basement. Coming September 18, 1998, Motor City will host the "annual" octet contest and challenge all of the Pioneer District chapters to try and win it away. The event will take place at the Dearborn Elks club and will include a dinner buffet (not just pizza or a bunch of lunch meat) for only \$7.00 per person. Spouses and friends are invited. There will be a cash bar and we're even going to accept Canadian money at par from our Canadian brothers across the border. Call our 24-hour Quartet Hotline for more information on this event or our chapter.

Macomb County

by Roy Gurney

As I write this article, the results of the International contests are coming in. This chapter and our quartets, Power Play and FIREPOWER!, want to thank everyone who supported all of the fund raisers, including our own "Swiftly fifty" raffle.

Congratulations to all the participants in the "big one," (including my son-in-law, bass in Uptown Sound). We are very proud of all of our Pioneer representatives.

Now we look forward to our second retreat at Waldenwoods Resort on August 8, with all-day chorus coaching. This is a family function with a big cookout, an evening chorus performance, quartets in the pavilion, as well as fishing, swimming and fun.

Then on to the district contest in October and a big annual show in March. It feels great to have a full complement on the risers again. We hope to have more

see **MACOMB**, page 16

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Chapters in Action

HOLLAND, from page 15

quartets in competition this fall with emphasis on that as well. More quartets always makes a better singing chorus!

Pontiac

by Bob Woodward

Pontiac Chapter continues to be on the move. To more accurately reflect our geographic location, while retaining our heritage, we have changed the name of the chapter and chorus. This is another step in the rebirth of the chapter.

The chapter will become known as the Pontiac Waterford Chapter, and in recognition of the area's Indian past, the chorus is now the Big Chief Chorus.

For the first time in 13 years, the chorus competed in the Spring Contest. It was a learning experience for most of the members, who had never competed in the past.

Our membership continues to grow. We have added 11 members since Christmas, (more than a 50% increase).

The Barbershopper of the Month award has been revived. The first recipient was Howard Lynn. Howard has always been available to do anything that had to be done to support chapter activities. The second award went to Gene Downie, a new member who has already become an integral member of the chapter. The life-size cut-outs used in the Spring Contest were created by Howard and Gene.

The chapter hosted the 42nd annual Woodshed contest on March 27. There were more chapters represented this year than in any year in memory. Attending the contest this year were:

Detroit-Oakland
Flint
Grosse Pointe
Lansing
Macomb
Milford
Motor City Metro
Rochester

Saginaw Bay
Windsor

Saginaw Bay was the winner of the coveted Carroll P. Adams Memorial (Bennington) Trophy which is awarded to the chapter with the greatest attendance and participation, as a percentage of their membership.

The B-Natural Quartet (John Smith, Ron Gillies, Bill Pascher (subbing for Lyle Howard) and Randy Neldrum) comprised the distinguished judging panel. A good time was had by all.

Traverse City

by Elbert Ford

The Traverse City chapter is alive and living in the north, contrary to what you may have heard! We've been very busy all along, and are even busier now. I have just become the bulletin editor again, having done it in the past so I kind of remember what it's all about. I worked long hours until last April when I had the misfortune to suffer a stroke, rendering me paralyzed on my right side. Being right-handed, I've had to adapt quite a bit, although I've gained some use of the leg back and can walk after a fashion. It's cut my word processing speed down drastically but I now have plenty of time to do it. That's my story, now let me tell you about TC.

I almost hate to tell you how much fun we're having because some people feel TC has too many people living here now! Going back to Valentine's day, we had our most successful day ever. Recently, we did a performance with the Traverse City Symphony, doing selections from the Music Man along with many others.

I'm happy to report we also did our annual June Show at Interlochen, which was a two-nighter, with FRED as the headliner. We found out at mid-afternoon on Friday that the bari, Clay Hines, had missed the flight and wouldn't be in until ten that night. When the other three arrived at 6:30, they said with a bari filling in from the chorus, they could work out an acceptable repertoire. We quickly chose Marty Chirgwin, our Director, to sing with the second-place medalists. He had about two hours to prepare since he had to direct the

chorus also. They did an excellent job; sang as if they'd sung together for years...even fooled yours truly. (Marty is in Atlanta now attending the International Convention, staying at the same hotel as FRED. If I were Clay, I would watch stairways and open elevator shafts!)

The chorus and chapter quartets did a stellar job. We also featured a Jr. High quartet with their musical director Tom Stokes who sang with them on one song, a five-part number. FRED really lived up to their reputation as the comedy greats they are, with Clay in place Saturday.

We are scheduled for two coaching sessions before the fall convention, and will be competing, so watch out down-staters! Well, that's about all from the cool north, the Cherry Capital of the World. Come visit us if you get a chance. We meet at 7:30 on Tuesdays at the Presbyterian Church, off Munson and Airport Access Road. For information, call 616-947-8714.

Grosse Pointe

by Nick Piccione

The last half of the summer continues to make our schedule full of merry times.

On July 4th, in lieu of our regular Tuesday night meeting, Bill Lane invited the entire chorus to an evening of hot dogs, drinks, and harmony at his home on the shores of Lake St. Clair. The view is spectacular and the laughs were abundant. We even put on a performance for his neighbors.

Thanks, Bill, for the annual display of hospitality. It has become a most welcome tradition.

Summer is always a busy season for the Lakeshore Chorus and this year is true to form. For example:

Under the leadership of their new President, Barbara Grogan, The Ladies Auxiliary is sponsoring their 2nd annual Clinton River Excursion. The riverboat ride down the Clinton River from Mt. Clemens into Lake St. Clair and back includes dinner, refreshments, and great vistas. It has quickly become a widely anticipated and popular event. The Ladies Auxiliary is certainly a particular asset to our chorus. More see **GROSSE POINTE**, page 17

Chapters in Action

GROSSE POINTE, from page 16

on this in a future article.

On August 2, Don Adams commands a flotilla of power boats armed with Grosse Pointe singers as they embark on a poker run to at least five Yacht Clubs on Lake St. Clair and the Detroit River where they entertain in return for refreshments. They are met with enthusiastic response at all stops. Don always runs a great day.

On August 14, 15, and 16, the Lakeshore Chorus is again invited by our Canadian brethren for a weekend of camping and singing at their Harmony Woods near Grand Bend, Ontario. There is much to do there but friendly hospitality is their chief export.

Throughout all this, Chorus Directors Russ Seely and Steve Pauling are keeping us busy learning new songs for our 1999 Spring Show. Since the show involves Grosse Pointe getting religion, the new songs give us a unique and different type of music.

All these busy days make one ponder:
In the good old summertime
The activities are prime
It seems to me to increase in intensity
Come to think about it all
There are laughs in Spring and Fall
It just could be we have a fun propensity.

Lansing

by Bob Fox

It's business as usual in Lansing as the chorus, and Director Jamie Carey "make ready" for the Buckeye Invitational. The guys in the chapter are really excited about the singing and vocal techniques being taught on a regular basis by coach Wayne Kinde.

We just completed another successful Crazy Kwartet Kontest, our 14th, under the direction of Chairman Dave Barrett. Although not eligible to compete, four chapter quartets performed to open the

"show": College Park Four, Four County Connection, Patch Chords, and Gallery. Pioneer District Treasurer, Stan "Yoooper" Williams was Master of the Ceremonies.

Kontest Rules passed down from prior years were all eliminated except two:

- 1) The judges opinions are final.
- 2) Registered quartets are not eligible.

The Kontest saw nine highly entertaining foursomes and featured stuff like flying buffalo chips, dead shot cowboys, wild boars and even some of the chapter's beloved "yooopers". The judges, Gallery Quartet, were rigid in their interpretations and offered some far reaching opinions and observations.

The Kontest was won by the ever suave seniors, "Impure Aires." They unleashed an incredible amount of sound and fury to propel their way to victory. Members were:

David "Refried Beans" Barret
Marv Rhynard (Lyricist)
Bob Fox
Frank Richards

Other quartets were:

Crazy Connections
The Bores (Boars)
Pittsburgh Squealers
Whacko (Defending Champs)
Yoopers +1
Seekers of Harmony
Decadent Four
Brothers of the Throne

The "dog and suds" night was completed when the Taylors, Mike and George, appeared from the Kitchen with several tubs of goodies for performers and the audience.

Those of us that went to Atlanta thought that Power Play put on a wonderful performance and felt that they certainly deserved to be in the top ten! We also felt that it was incredible that fine presentations by FIREPOWER!, Onyx and the Great Lakes Chorus were not given better placement by the judging panel! Other than that, the convention was a blast!

Coming events in Lansing include more coaching sessions, a family picnic, a family night out at a Lugnuts game, which includes singing of the national anthem by the chorus, Buckeye Invitational and a September mini-show.

Flint

by Ken Rice

Ah, the lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer. For many of us it's the best time of the barbershopping year ... no pressure to prepare for competition; no frantic activity leading up to an annual show. Just sit down, stretch out, relax and SING!

The Arrowhead Chorus started the summer schedule in May with a Sunday afternoon picnic and celebration of the 100th Anniversary of director Mark Leimer's church in Lapeer — next county east of Flint. The day's only sour note came when Mark announced that he had found it necessary to resign from his director position due to work conflicts. Seems he's been promoted to a spot that requires a lot of mid-week travel ... exotic places like Japan and Mexico and Europe ... leaving little time for a chorus director's commitment. In the meantime, we're seeing a lot of Freddie Kienitz fronting the chorus on Tuesday evenings, and there's a lot of him to see!

The Village of Ortonville, southeast of Flint, will never be the same after our gang serenaded them on the occasion of their 150th Anniversary on July 18. Town founder Amos Orton returned from his grave to authorize the re-writing of "Meet Me In St. Louis, Louis", which now reads "Meet Me In Old Ortonville Village". Don Wills and Fred Kienitz helped with the new lyric, all five verses, but there has not yet been a clamoring for the CD.

The annual pontoon boat ride and sing-along following the shoreline of Bald Eagle Lake has been assigned a July 28 date. Every convenience store in a two-mile radius will be sold out of brats and brew for a couple of days, but the neighbors will survive. Speaking of neighbors, we hope the one in the white bathing suit motors out to meet us as she has each of the past three outings.

Yes, summer's a great time for barbershopping, but then, when isn't? Let's "Keep the Whole World Singing, All Year Long".

Snapshot file:

Windsor Chapter orchestrates night of fun, talent at annual International send-off



YOU SEND ME: The Windsor Send-Off gave attendees a chance to wish Pioneer's International Reps well, enjoy a great show, and raise some money to help the groups with expenses. Clockwise from left: Show emcee Doran McTaggart makes sure guests are having a good time; Quartet reps FIREPOWER!; Quartet reps Power Play; Quartet reps Onyx; Chorus rep Grand Rapids; College Quartet Champs Vocal Point.

Fanfare
an a cappella ensemble

Marv Moran
 (313) 459-4218

Bob Wisdom
 (810) 879-7083

The Detroit Sound Co.

Barbershop Harmony
 (248) 651-3796

Bruce Craig Mike Brian

ONYX
 Barbershop Quartet

(810) 474-1488

BUSH LEAGUE '98: HUNTING FOR A NEW CHAMPION!

Safari Schedule

- The Gathering Gaylord, Michigan. October 9.
- Pre-Hunt Glo Sunset. (Treetops Resort)
- Sick Call/Warmup Supplies & Equipment Tuneup. (Resort)
- The Hunt (contest) October 19. Dawn. (Gaylord HS/Resort)
- Replenishment 2:00 p.m. (Gaylord High School)
- Trophy Awards and Show . 8:00 p.m. (Gaylord High School)
- Hunt After-Glo 10:00 p.m. (Treetops Resort)

THIS WILL BE BIGGER AND BETTER THAN BUSH LEAGUE '97!

- Headliner Quartets • Comedy Quartets • Fall foliage •
- Family fun • Alpine shopping • Sing, sing, sing! •
- A perfect warm-up for District Fall Convention! •

**SEE YOUR QUARTET ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN
FOR REGISTRATION FORMS NOW: ROOMS ARE GOING FAST!**

**Send forms to: Treetops Sylvan Resort
3962 Wilkinson Road
Gaylord, MI 49735**

For additional information or forms, contact:
Chairman Al Glasby (517) 546-3889
Lee Walsman (616) 585-6745
Hank Hedges (517) 731-1169 <hhedges@freeway.net>

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

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NOTICE:

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

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

Flag Day gives quartet opportunity for patriotism, all-American harmony



YANKEE DOODLE DANDIES: The Patch Chords quartet from the Lansing Chapter used Flag Day as a vehicle for patriotism during its performance at a Masonic/Eastern Star banquet in Holt. Waving the flag along with Masonic/Eastern Star officers are “vested” quartet members (from left) Doug Pearson, Art Cardy (subbing for Roger Cahaney), Rich Harlow and Larry Best.