

Pioneer Troubadour

Official publication of the Pioneer District
Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of
Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc.



Dec 1999/Jan 2000

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District tunes in to WJBC, the great voices of the Great Lakes Chorus

By Jim Styer, Convention PR

Grand Rapids' GREAT LAKES CHORUS outsang all 12 other competing choruses at the fall convention to win the right to represent Pioneer District at the international convention next summer in Kansas City.

The 44 men, directed by Ann Jarchow, opened with good sound and subdued movement in "May I Never Love Again," then displayed its active front row in the more-flashy "I Used to Love You/Who's Sorry Now." In a non-competitive appearance that night, the chorus appeared in loud shirts to enliven the pace even more with the "Banana Boat Song" and a Beach Boys medley.

The chorus scored 839 points, outpointing Macomb's HARMONY HERITAGE CHORUS by 25. More than half of that difference, 14 points, was in the singing score. But in the music and presentation categories, Macomb was closing in

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Pioneer District Quartet Champion WJBC. (From left) Tenor Jason Oyler, lead Craig Pollard, bass Wayne Kinde, and bari Brian Kaufman.

By Jim Styer, Convention PR

A combination of experience and strong presentation brought WJBC the Pioneer District quartet championship at the fall convention. Except for a time penalty assessed one of the quartets, the new show package format scores made no difference in the final placement of competitors.

WJBC, representing the Macomb and Frank Thorne chapters, squeezed a large amount of

music into the 14-minute presentation, doing five songs and two commercial jingles as studio musicians in a live-radio setting, complete with an "APPLAUSE" sign. The package was tightly written and fast-paced, and there was no attempt to go far beyond the "barbershop umbrella." The two barbershop competition numbers in the package were "Peg O' My Heart" and "Don't Waste Your Tears Over Me."

They topped the show package score and the regular presentation category by wide margins and led the music category by 5 points.

All four quartetters were members of previous district championship quartets. Among others, bari Brian Kaufman was in GREAT LAKES XPRESS in 1979, tenor Ja-

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DERF wins Great Octet Contest

Macomb Chapter hosted the annual "Great Octet Contest" on Friday, October 1, at Weber's Inn in Ann Arbor. Six octets competed for the St. Thomas Trophy with Macomb's DERF capturing first place. Finishing second was RECYCLED PARTS from the Bay City Chapter; Macomb's LOOSE ENDS was third.

Organized and emceed by Mike Weilbacher, the octets were judged by Tom Peirce, Lynne Peirce, and Gene Hanover.



Octet DERF (l to r): Fred McFadyen, Terry Grimme, Al Fisk, Gene Harrington, Gary Washburn, Roy Gurney, Dave Anderson, and Dick Van Dyke.



Gene Hanover (above) directs the evening's mass sing with the closing song, "Keep the Whole World Singing." (Right) Octet contest judges Tom Peirce (left), Lynne Peirce, and Gene Hanover.

PIONET SUBSCRIPTIONS

To subscribe at no cost, e-mail your name and chapter name to:

jimstyer@voyager.net

or go to:

<http://www.harmonize.com/Pioneer/pio.htm>



Four-Man Fishin' Tackle Choir hooks Bush League 1999 title

By Chairman Hank Hedges

The HARMONIE MEISTERS of Gaylord were overwhelmed at the response to Bush League '99. An audience of over 400 locals and about 120 from district chapters participated. Our style of music, the dedication of our people, and personal superb character of the Pioneer family were so very evident every moment of the weekend. We can only simply thank all of you.

At Bush League, quartets can not have more than two members who have competed in a Society-sanctioned competition and placed 3rd or higher. Scoring follows the Society's guidelines.

Congratulations to the FOUR-MAN FISHIN' TACKLE CHOIR, our new and worthy '99 champs, and TAKE IV and GRAND PRIX, champions themselves, who showed us all "how it's done!" Many warm

and ear-opening comments were made about relative harmony from, up to that point, non-barbershoppers. "You know, our kids can sing too! Where can we get music like that?"

The performance of BAY SHORE 4 was just wonderful. The performances of FIRE-POWER! and UP-STAGE SOUND were superlative, in the true meaning of champions. The diversity of style, magnificent sound, and great show business once again demonstrated the power of Barbershop to a community that has rarely experienced such professionalism from "hobbyists and amateurs."

Don Bazely's quartet, RELATIVE HARMONY, opened so many positive doors, showing barbershop as a family hobby, singing at the Saturday night show. They were Bazely (bass), his



FOUR-MAN FISHIN' TACKLE CHOIR: (l to r) Tenor Tracy Ulrich, lead Kurtis Busman, bass Bill Woodbeck, and bari Neil Nugent.

daughter, Virginia McKinnon (tenor), Reah Webb (bari), and her son, Bill Webb (lead), all from the Soo.

Bazely was the master of ceremonies for the afterglow. Macomb Chapter President Dave Anderson did a great job at moving the show artistically and professionally.

A special thanks goes to our judges — Al Fisk, Raleigh Bloch, Ed Fritzen, and John Gillespie. Scores couldn't get much closer, huh, guys? Two points separating first and second places, with third place only four points out of second. Wonderful job.

Finally, our heartfelt and humble gratitude to the 10 terrific quartets that truly showed what Bush League is all about. We owe you guys BIG TIME! ■



TAKE IV: (l to r) Tenor Tom Lehman, lead Al Murray, bass Don Bazely, and bari Bob Shami.

A View From The Top

David Cole, President

What a hobby! What an adventure!

As I near the end of my term as district president, I've been thinking about all of the wonderful experiences as a barbershopper and the past seven years serving on the district board. I couldn't possibly thank all of the people who have made this hobby a daily part of my



David Cole

life.

So instead, I'd like to share some of the highlights with you to thank everyone in the Pioneer family, and also our larger barbershop family for allowing me to be a small part of this wonderful adventure we call barbershopping. As I reflect, I hope you will be able to do the same, and later share your most precious moments with someone else.

The contests: All of them are special. It's the excitement of participating. It's the rush from the applause. And it's the friendships created while convening with the family of Pioneer. Congratulations to the GREAT LAKES CHORUS for becoming our international rep in Kansas City; we'll be there rooting you on. Kudos to WJBC for winning the Pioneer District Quartet Competition. Nice job, guys, and nice show package, too.

The choruses: This is our more intimate family — the ones we live and die with, both in life and on stage. These are the men for whom

we shed tears of gladness and sadness. These are the men with whom we could trust our most private moments without fear of retribution or embarrassment. These are the men who if asked would give you the shirts off their backs — some you wouldn't even need to ask. These are just some of the men who will stay in my memories forever: Gus, who taught me to sing baritone. John, who sang in my first contest quartet. Don, who constantly reminisced about his old quartets on the East Coast. Roger, who taught me barbershop as my first director. Myke, who directed me to the next level. Dr. Greg, who gives me voice lessons every week. My list could go on forever as could yours, I'm sure.

The quartets: Some were better than others. Some lasted longer than others. All of them were (and I hope will be) experiences of a lifetime.

The pickup quartet for Singing Valentines: While we were singing to a teacher, the removable wall in the back of her room opened to what had to be several hundred students wanting to see what was happening. My quartet sang "Teach the Children to Sing" jointly with a junior high choir during one of their shows — wow, not a dry eye in the house. My quartets that made people laugh — we didn't win any awards, but we sure did make 'em laugh.

The chapters: Having finally understood the difference between

chapter and chorus, I learned to appreciate the friendships of the non-singers and spouses. The chili dinners, the potlucks, the golf outings, the Netherlands trip, the fun and relaxation — and the singing which made us a family. I'll never forget standing on the tee waiting for the foursome ahead as our foursome sang a song. Then watching them turn around wondering where the music was coming from. We never had to wait for them again.

The support of our spouses has been an inspiration to every man — causing us to work even harder toward perfection.

The training sessions: COTS, Mini-Hep, Bush League, and the coaching sessions have been invaluable. They have taught me new techniques, given me confidence, and provided a wealth of information. One COTS experience: After saying yes to becoming program-VP for the chapter, I attended COTS after being a member for only three months. During the attitude adjustment hour on Saturday night, a man grabbed me and asked if I would sing some tags. Having explained I just started singing baritone, he said, "No problem; I'll teach you a few." Three hours later, I ran out of goose bumps and decided to get my second soda. Being new, I asked some of the more experienced men what that medallion was hanging on the guy's neck who was teaching the tags. After the laughter died down, they explained that it was an International Gold Medal belonging to Ronald Knickerbocker, baritone of the REGENTS.

Serving on the board: Other than the singing, this has given me the most joy. It's been my way of paying back my debts for the enjoy-

(Continued on page 14)

Society Synopsis

Don Challman, Society Board Member

Value vs values

Having just returned from five days at the Society's Leadership Forum, my mind keeps revolving around incoming Society President Chuck Watson's theme for the year, "Share The Dream."



Don Challman

To me it means what are my thoughts, actions, and visions as they

pertain to my personal experiences in Barbershop. With all the "to-do" about dues increases, etc., it dawned on me to look at both sides of the scale. In other words, what am I getting for my buck and is it worth it? It took me 0.2 of a second to realize I have the best bargain around ... Barbershopping.

Bear with me while I reflect. Lets see, I pay \$65.00 to the Society, \$35.00 to the district, and \$25.00 to my chapter each year. That adds up to \$125.00 (I hope). This amounts to \$2.40 a week (again, I hope). If I was a golfer, I could play two holes a week for that amount (based on senior rates in Minnesota). If I smoked, I could purchase one pack of cigarettes for my weekly dues amount.

If I drank beer, I could get a six-pack of Old Milwaukee for \$2.64 a week for my weekly dues amount. If I bowled, I could bowl 3/4 of a line for my weekly dues amount. My point — there is more to \$\$ value when considering what you really get for your Society/district/

chapter dues.

Let's look at the non-monetary value connected to barbershopping. At the forum, we looked at the concept that as Barbershoppers we are "guided by the knowledge that singing songs in the barbershop style and enjoying fellowship with Barbershoppers worldwide gives real 'value' to a man's life and times." To me it means I am offered a feeling of "belonging," of being able to "make a difference" in my life and in that of others I may affect.

The "dream" continues, stating that singing music, especially barbershop harmony, enriches life. To me that means humor and music is beneficial both physically and mentally. I really believe that!

The "dream" states that "Barbershoppers are friendly men of good will." To me this means the opportunity to expand my "family" through all the wonderful acquaintances I have made the past 35 years.

The "dream" says that Society membership provides a very special place for men of diverse backgrounds to share their love and generosity. To me this means there is a place for everyone regardless of level of talent. The most important question asked is, "What part do you sing?"

The "dream" allows for authentic human interactions for men to grow in music, administrative, and leadership skills. To me this means the endless opportunities I have to challenge my self-imposed limitations.

The "dream" allows that "the joy of self-expression and fulfillment is a natural extension of active participation in the Society." This means to me that it is OK to perform the emotional theme of a song even if I am German (I AM, so I can say this).

Finally, the "dream" states that "these values extend beyond the Barbershopper and do, indeed, enrich family and community life." To me, Barbershopping has made me a better man, has helped me to be a better "family" man, and an overall contributor to my community.

Having lain my soul open somewhat, I find that the "monetary" value I get from my "hobby" far outshines the value I might be getting from golfing, smoking, bowling, or (heaven forbid), drinking Old Milwaukee beer.

Let's really put "value" in its proper prospective. ■

Music Man 2000 international convention registration on-line

The site for the Music Man 2000 convention is online at <http://www.spebsqsa.org/KansasCity>, with the first draft of the convention schedule and information on special activities.

You can safely use your VISA or MasterCard to order convention registrations on-line. Save money — save time — and get your confirmation via e-mail.

Here's the Pitch

Raleigh Bloch, Executive & Member Services VP

Now What Do I Do?

Well, I'm back. For those of you who didn't read my article last time, I was held hostage while this guy who keeps bugging me took over the article. Actually, he did pretty well, but don't say anything now 'cause here he comes again.



Raleigh Bloch

Hey! Are you writing another article? Yes, I'm writing another article for the *Troubadour*. You're not going to hold me hostage again, are you?

Nah, but it was fun for awhile. What are you going to write about this time? Well, I'm having a hard time with that. We still aren't growing in membership, the district is down about 15 members from last year at this time, and I don't know what to do. Got any suggestions?

Well, 15 doesn't sound so bad. Yes, but that's what been happening for years now. Well, if the chapters don't seem to be growing, why don't we get new chapters? You mean more of them?

You bet. More chapters, more members. From what I've been hearing, the new chapters are starting off with new blood, new ideas, and attracting younger members. Well, you're right about that. We lost another old chapter recently and we have a couple of other chapters that may not make it for another year. Yet, we have some new chapters like Livingston Co., Allegan Co., and Niles, Mich., that are attracting new members.

Maybe you're on to something. Yab, those guys in those new chapters don't know they can't get new members, so they just go out and get them. In fact I was over in Hastings this past weekend with my quartet and there is interest in that town.

We can't paint all of the chapters with the same brush though. Look at Pontiac. They were struggling and then all of a sudden, WOW, did they grow. You're right. Huron Valley is growing also. And Windsor took a big leap as well. So it looks like old and new chapters can grow; they just have to work at it. New chapters know that in order to exist they have to recruit new members and some of the old chapters know that they have to recruit new members before they get so low in membership they don't have the ability to attract new members.

Maybe you should tell your readers that they can call on you if they would like some help with recruiting ideas. OK, I will. Hey, if you need some ideas to juice up your recruiting efforts, give me a call. Or call the Huron Valley, Pontiac, or Windsor chapters. They'll be glad to help you. You should also tell all the chapters to be sure to have their leadership team at COTS the first weekend of December, because they'll pick up tons of ideas there to help their chapters grow.

Hey, thank you, you really helped me. I didn't know what I was going to write. Well, I like this hobby, too, and I want to see it grow. Now if we could find two other guys (or is it three), we could sing a tag.

Yup, that's what it's all about. ■

Pionet reaching more

By Jim Styer, Pionet Administrator

Pionet, the e-mail list for Pioneer District barbershoppers, is the fastest-growing communications medium in the district. In the week that included the fall convention, 28 subscribers were added, most of whom had filled out sign-up sheets at the convention. This is by far the biggest single increase since Pionet began with 30 subscribers on February 1, 1997.

In fact, Pionet growth has accelerated in the past six months. At 200 subscribers in April, it added 32 through September. And October alone accounted for 33 more, passing the 250 level.

With 265 subscribers, Pionet now reaches 20 percent of district membership and all but one chapter. Included are the newest chapters, Livingston County and Niles. The only chapter not represented is Allegan. And yet, Pionet still has stayed small enough not to clog our computers, averaging only four messages or less per day.

Any chapter member with an e-mail address can join. New members get full convention coverage and other district information, and can communicate with district officers and hundreds of other Pioneer barbershoppers at the stroke of a key. To sign up, simply send your name, chapter affiliation, and e-mail address to jimstyer@voyager.net.

A great deal of district information also is on the district Web site, operated by Steve Sutherland of Detroit-Oakland Chapter. For example, it includes links to all chapters, complete chorus and quartet scores for many years back, and information on each convention. Its URL is <http://www.harmonize.com/Pioneer/pio.htm>. ■

Public Relating

Doug Pearson, Marketing & Public Relations VP

Think you can live without PR? Think again!



Doug Pearson

Harmonizing my way recently through the fictional world of Barbershop Fantasyland, I stumbled across my Pioneer District pal, old Groucho Sournote. As usual,

my greeting was cheery: "Hey, old buddy, haven't seen you for awhile. How are things going with you and your chapter?"

"I tell you, they'd be a danged lot better if we could get rid of all that PR and communications crapola," he scowled. (Scowling was Groucho's trademark. That's why his quartet always scored poorly in the Presentation Category.) "All that stuff does is take a lot of time and money. It's useless. Our chapter has more important things to do."

Handling PR and communications for the district, I felt a surge of adrenalin as he spoke. His disrespect hurt me, but I responded: "Gee, Groucho, I'm sorry you feel that way. I want to make you happy, so maybe we should initiate some changes."

Now keep in mind that in this world of Barbershop Fantasyland, I can impart certain magical powers. So, waving my wondrous wand, I said, "Groucho, henceforth, both

you and your chapter will get your wish. We will relieve you from the awesome burden of your discontent. Effective immediately, I hereby decree that you will no longer have to carry the baggage of PR and communications in your barbershop world. As of now, it no longer exists for you or your chapter." I waved my wand a couple of extra times to make sure the spell was complete.

"Well, that's a relief," he mumbled as he slew-footed into the Darkness on the Delta (Delta is a small town in the Thumb area).

Almost a year passed before I ran into old Groucho again. Immersed in my own district duties, I'd almost forgotten about Mister Sournote and his chapter. "Hi, Groucho," I greeted him. "It's been a long time since we talked. I bet you're glad I got that PR monkey off your back. Tell me what's going on in your chapter?"

Groucho's voice lowered to a gravelly E-flat. He slurred his consonants. "Guess I don't know," he said. "You know, since you waved that wand of yours last year, we don't have a chapter bulletin, so it's danged hard to keep track of what our chapter and our members are doing. Actually, no one knows what anyone is doing!" I'm sure this was hard for Groucho to admit since last year his chapter won the coveted Jim Styer Revolving Trophy

for Excellence in Publications.

Quickly changing the subject, I said, "Well I'll bet your chapter show was another success. You guys always do a bang-up job."

"Boy, you're sure wrong there," Groucho replied. "Thanks to you, we had no promotion, no public relations, no stories in our local papers, and no community support. No one seemed to know about our show, and hardly anyone showed up. It was a real disaster."

"So tell me how your chorus did in our district competition," I said, trying to move to a more positive subject.

"That was the biggest disaster of all," said Groucho. "Because you cut us off from all public relations and communications, we never heard when the competition was. Of course, we don't have the *Troub* and we don't have *PioNet*, so it kind of slipped our minds. We never got the entry forms, so we missed the competition and the convention completely."

"That's certainly too bad," I said. "But I sense a note of anger directed toward me. Don't forget that you're the one who thought public relations and communications were worthless, and that you could live without them."

Groucho looked uncharacteristically sheepish. He gave me a side-long glance. In a barely audible voice, he said, "Yeah, that's what I thought. But I know now that I was wrong. Would you mind waving that magic wand of yours again?"

"No problem," I said, lifting my baton. And so PR and communications were restored to Groucho and his chapter, and peace and tranquility reigned once again. ■

Chapter Coaching

Doran McTaggart, Chapter Support/Leadership VP

As we close out the millennium, I'd like to bring a few "odds and ends" to your attention. Most of these things are planned on a yearly basis, so they can be included now in your year 2000 calendar.



Doran McTaggart

1. Chapter Installation

Your chapter coach would be the perfect person to act as your installation officer

when you install your officers for 2000. Give him a call and strengthen these beneficial ties.

2. Troubadour Usage - Gary Simon, our *Troub* editor, is creating a district publication that we can rely on to be published in a timely fashion. Your chapter can promote your annual show and other special activities at very reasonable rates. Distribution includes mailings to all members in our district. Only a few chapters have had articles in the "Chapters in Action" section. There is always room for news about your chapter. Let us know what's happening.

3. COTS - What can I do or say to get the seven chapters who didn't attend COTS last year to do so now? The Chapter Operations Training Seminar (COTS) provides all you need to know to run a successful chapter and then some. A well-trained faculty provides an excellent curriculum to your chapter's leadership team. The nuts and bolts of each office are covered in all of

the job-specific classes. The chorus directors have a class, too, stressing rehearsal techniques, conducting skills and other CDDC programs for directors. The Marketing and Public Relations class is second to none. It stresses both internal communications as well as dealing with the media and the public.

Other informative and interesting classes give ideas about guest nights, membership orientation and retention, chapter programming, developing leadership skills, running effective meetings, and developing vision and mission statements. Some classes will be repeated because they were so popular last year: Singing Valentines, Standing Ovation, Young Men in Harmony (YMIH), Quartet Support and Development and Chapter Planning Headstart.

Your chapter is being short-changed if your leadership team is not at COTS. Your chapter coach will be there also to assist you. What a team! What a beginning!

4. Conventions - Why do we have the idea that if we don't compete, we don't go to our conventions? At conventions, we convene; we meet; we come together. There are many things that we can do.

Your chapter delegate can get to feel the pulse of the district and vote on motions that will affect your chapter. You can be part of the mass sing or the gospel service. You can enjoy hearing some great quartets and choruses, sing or woodshed all day or night, visit hospitality rooms, eat at some fine restaurants, and shop 'til you drop.

Conventions give you an opportunity to renew old friendships and make new ones.

If you really want to sing on stage, you can sing in the Joe Barbershop Chorus, the Senior Quartet Contest, or, perish the thought, your own quartet or chorus. Now is the time to commit your chapter to attend the spring convention in Battle Creek, April 28-30, 2000. Have your membership participate in all of the activities and your retention problems will be nonexistent.

If your chorus hasn't entered the contest in many years because of insufficient numbers, lack of voice parts, no uniforms, lack of money, or any other reason under the sun, call me and I promise that if you want to sing on stage next April, I will throw the resources of my CSLT office and the chapter coach program to make this happen.

5. Chapter Coaches - No longer will we wait for your phone call. Next year we will be pro-active. We are trained to help you in being true to your mission statement and accessing the human and material resources that can be of assistance to your chapter. Again, here are our chapter coaches and their assigned chapters: David Anderson - Detroit-Oakland, Milford, Motor City Metro; Ed Fritzen - Benton Harbor/St. Joe, Grand Rapids, Holland, and Muskegon; Maurie Allen - Alpena, Gaylord, Petoskey, Soo, and Traverse City; Earl Berry - Hillsdale, Huron Valley, Monroe North, and Wayne; Derrick Deakins - Flint, Pontiac-Waterford, Saginaw Bay, and Swan Valley; Jay Smits - Battle Creek, Gratiot County, Kalamazoo, and Lansing; Doran McTaggart - Grosse Pointe, Macomb County, Rochester, and Windsor. ■

Take Note

Fred Kienitz, Chorus Director Development VP

In my past few articles, I've tried to relate to all of you some of the components which are vital to a finely tuned barbershop chorus.

Many of these concepts dealt with the training and education necessary to produce a competent director. And, after all, this is one of the most important facet of my job as CDDVP, namely the education and training of musical leaders for the various chapters throughout this district.

As I look around this district, I count 18 chapters who have sent representatives to these chorus director development schools and I am proud to see the results of some of their combined efforts.

Bear in mind that these mini-schools or workshops are not limited to only a minor few chapters, but to everyone in Pioneer.

If you have an interest in directing or want to further your education by honing your directing skills and overall techniques, come on board at the next Harmony Round-up in May at MSU in Lansing. And by the way, one of your fellow directors did just that by attending the last two CP workshops and placed fourth in the last contest. This is not to say we were responsible, but I don't think we hurt them any, either.

Further, to date we have enrolled 15 directors who have attended workshop intensive sessions which utilize the top Society train-

ers and run for the entire day. All these students gave "rave reviews" and they overwhelmingly agree that they benefited from these workshops.

As mentioned earlier, the "Director Workshop" will again be part of the curriculum for the upcoming Harmony Round-Up in May, so stay tuned.

The major focus this year will be "How can I use my hands to talk to my chorus in contest or during a performance?" Many of the faculty members are front-line directors and have experience in directing on an international stage, so they really know what they are doing.

Each of these directors have a style of their own and have become very adept at using body language to transfer ideas to their chorus while they are actually performing on stage. It really isn't necessary for the new guy to learn how to emulate these styles, but to understand the concept and develop a style of his or her own to use while sending messages to his own singers. So with all this in mind, let's switch our attention to the one who is the actual performer — the chorus member.

Actually, we tend to allow for a wide range of ability in our singers and, for the most part, the director is the one who puts the demands on the singers. And most of the time the amount of pressure on the singer is directly proportionate to the degree of ability of the director. Thus we have choral groups that range from the MUDVILLE MUSICMAKERS to the VOCAL MAJORITY.

This, then, is the theme of this article. Is it really the director who actually does the singing part of the performance? Heck no! Oh sure, he is the brains behind the group perhaps, but take the singer out of the picture and all his efforts will produce nothing.

So dear friend, the last article I submitted talked about C&D (commitment and dedication). However, the remainder of this article will speak only to YOU, the singer.

Begin by asking yourself what you really want from this hobby. Far too often we say we want to be the best bari in our chorus. Then that little voice starts finding excuses why we can't attain that goal. "It takes too much time and effort." Or "Most of the guys are better singers than me."

Perhaps this is true. But the next question is, "How did that happen?" Maybe they were the "you" of last year. And it took them a year to be better. But here is a new twist. If you work harder, you might catch up with them in four months.

Oh, dear friend, there are vast differences in people's abilities, but I have some questions for you on this subject.

Do people who study and know music sing better than those who don't?

Do you need two years of college to be a director?

Do you need a degree to sing in a quartet?

Do you have to get a doctor's degree to become an international champ?

You already know the answer to these questions. You need dedication, commitment, drive, a desire to learn to sing well, the drive to be the first guy in your section to learn

(Continued on page 16)



Fred Kienitz

Yours 4 A Song

Russ Seely, Music & Performance VP



Russ Seely

I have just returned from the Society's Leadership Forum, held annually in Racine, Wisconsin, where about 200 of your Society volunteers convened to review and

plan our Society's direction. You don't have to wonder what a barbershop Who's Who would look like. Just attend! This tireless group of dedicated singers

are constantly challenging the specter of doom and gloom to assist the districts to present each and every customer — YOU — with the most enjoyable musical experience you ever had with your quartet or chorus.

A large number of "bull sessions" occur at these functions, especially on the subject of what is barbershop and the ever-constant discussion provoker, "Should we incorporate the quartet performance package within the contest?"

Well, friends, you've witnessed it. So what did you think about the performance package? Did you enjoy it? Would you like it to continue? How 'bout as a permanent part of our contests?

Interestingly, in an informal poll of my M & P brethren, an overwhelming majority voted NOT to infuse the performance package into future sessions. Why, you ask?

Here's a sample of comments I noted: Since our contest audiences are close to 100-percent barbershoppers, who are we trying to

prove showmanship to? We attend contests to see a contest. Right? Next, asking our current certified judges (in three categories) to adjudicate highly subjective performances doesn't bode well for the judges or the contestants.

Another VP whose district has experimented with the idea more than once stated that as a second go-round, the quartets either did the same act or rebelled since they felt it was a heavy requirement to come up with fresh material for each contest.

If you'd like to have your opinion considered, send a note, letter, e-mail, whatever, to: Mr. Lou Benedict c/o Society HQ. He'll get it since he is the latest chairman of the Contest & Judging Committee. A decision will be forthcoming, so let Lou know how you feel.

The high-priority item on the music & performance agenda was/is the Standing Ovation program. The philosophy is that poorly presented performances steer people away from us, and, conversely, good performances attract. Sounds reasonable to me. We are going to be mighty busy training folks to be evaluators so that we can meet the high demand. (We hope to have your performance evaluated. Remember, this would be a confidential evaluation that is shared between the evaluator and chorus ONLY!)

Some fine tuning here and there can quickly raise that level a full grade for those choruses that are performing at a "C" level or less.

Past President Dave Cole has

volunteered to head the S.O. Committee for our district, and he anxiously awaits your request for an evaluation. However, he won't wait too long for your request since chances are when he sees the date of your show pop up, he'll probably call to offer the committee's service.

Finally, as you quartets and choruses perform throughout the holidays, get your audiences involved by having them sing along — at least once. REMEMBER, EVERYONE LOVES TO SING! Why not make it a constant feature of your performances?

Oh yeah, Happy Holidays and SMILE — at least throughout every performance. ■

2000 Harmony Round-Up scheduled

The next annual Harmony Round-up will be held the weekend of May 19-21, 2000, at the MSU campus in East Lansing.

Harmony Round-Up is held each spring to assist barbershoppers in improving their singing/performing skills. Classes include vocal technique, sight reading, proper warm-up skills, woodshedding, tag singing, and directing.

Choruses can have specific problems addressed by expert coaches.

In addition, quartets can receive individual coaching by a medallist quartet. The guest quartet for the 2000 round-up will be 1981 international Gold Medal winners, CHICAGO NEWS.

More info and schedules will appear in succeeding *Troubs*.

Russ Seely

Young Men in Harmony

Al Bonney, District Chairman

This issue's notes on Young Men in Harmony (used to be Youth Outreach) present a piece written by Bill Rasheigh following a



Al Bonney

YMIH class at Harmony College. I am impressed by the wisdom of this tool and hope you find it as valuable as many others have already. Bill calls this "The Sequence for Success in YMIH

Development." Based on the successes achieved in recent years, we know that the receptivity of teachers and/or students to what the Society has to offer is often contingent on a sequence of events, each relying on the success of the previous step. Below is a suggested sequence for implementing and developing a YMIH program.

1. Determine chapter strengths, level of interest, commitment to program development, financial ramifications, etc. There are many facets to the Young Men In Harmony program. Some are passive in nature and require little time and money investment on the part of the chapter, while other aspects of the program are intensive and require an extensive amount of funding and resources.

At what level does the chapter want to commit? What is the ultimate goal? Would it be to host a festival, clinic, send students and teachers to camp, help fund students on a choir tour, etc.? These all require different approaches and

levels of involvement, so determine what your final objective would be and then begin the process that follows to establish strategies to accomplish it.

2. Develop a positive working relationship with music educator. We often believe that the music teacher is anxiously awaiting our input to revitalize their programs when, in reality, they are very busy people who are not looking for more things to do or more choirs to direct.

Usually their opinion about barbershopping and what the Society has to offer is based on their local exposure. If that exposure has been positive, then the teacher can be very receptive to what we can offer.

However, if the exposure has not been positive or they perceive that the barbershopper has intentions other than helping the teacher with their school programs, the teacher will have nothing to do with barbershopping.

In order to begin to develop a positive working relationship, one of the easiest ways is to start attending concerts and musical functions in your community. Introduce yourself after the concert, congratulating the teacher on a job well done. Mention that you are with the local barbershop organization and say that you think it is great that the teacher is doing such a fine job in the school and community with their music program.

We often expect the teacher to be eager to support our programs and efforts, but we don't often actively and visibly support their pro-

grams and efforts. Stay current with the activities of the local music programs. If a music teacher is taking a group of students on tour, offer some funding to help defray expenses ... with no strings attached.

Raise the teacher's awareness of our SingAmerica-SingCanada efforts and the potential grants available through this outstanding program. This would be another method of furthering an already positive relationship with the teacher.

3. Bring the Society to their environment. The next step would be to introduce the style and what the Society can offer to the teacher and students in their own environment. This would be only after a positive working relationship has been established, for it is likely that the teacher will not be interested prior to this.

The reason this is an important step, and in this particular sequence, is that it doesn't require very much effort on the part of the student. The teacher needs only to give up a class period for this to be effective. If a staff member or qualified barbershopper could visit the choir and work with the students, presenting some aspects of the barbershop style, perhaps showing a feature chorus or quartet from one of the recent international videos, teaching a tag, etc., this would expose the students and teachers to our style in a positive manner.

This session can conclude by presenting to the teacher the music educators packet available from the Society.

4. Repeat Step 3 to more schools in the area. Once a group of schools in an area has been introduced to the style through success-

(Continued on page 27)

Meet Don Bazely, Pioneer District president for 2000

By Jim Styer, Troubadour Staff Writer

Americans in the Pioneer District may fondly think of Don Bazely as one of those foreigners who says "eh."

But the incoming district president, from Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, is even more foreign than most have believed.

Bazely was born 70 years ago in India. As a result, he loves hot curries.

He was the third generation of his family born on the huge sub-continent. He was a British subject, then became a resident. His forefathers were in the British armed forces, the medical profession, and the police force. His dad was educated as a marine engineer in England, and claimed the engineering staff makes the ship go, not the captain.

Don, now retired, took a similar route in life. In England, he received his secondary education and studied to become a civil engineer.

His first contact with barbershop came when he was 26 in St. Johns, Newfoundland, Canada. Airmen on Pepperell Air Force Base began a barbershop chapter and Bazely became a member of the CABOTEERS quartet. "It sounded terrific then," he said, "but it wouldn't get past a chapter audition now."

He interrupted barbershopping for two years while working on an assignment in Nigeria, West Africa. When he returned to Canada, he invited himself to a chapter meeting in Toronto, but says a "frigid reception" kept him out of barbershopping for another two years.

In 1962, when he was 32, his company asked him to go to Sault Ste. Marie for "six months max."

Now a Canadian citizen, he's been there now 37 years.

At least in part, that may be because the Soo barbershop welcome was a lot warmer. Don was almost a charter member of the chapter. "Missed it," he said, "by that much."

The chorus director, transferring out of town two years later, figured that Don read music almost as well as he did and promptly appointed



President-elect Don Bazely

Don as chorus director. That was six weeks before the Soo's first chorus competition. "We didn't even come in last," Don said with a hint of both surprise and pride. He has directed the chorus full time and part time ever since. But he now is "gradually easing out of the job so that younger guys can get their feet wet," he said. "I know I will miss it."

Don also has been chapter president, chapter Barbershopper of the Year twice, an area counselor, a division vice president, and a district assistant director of music education. He has 12 Men of Note

awards for men he has brought into barbershopping. And he has been named to the district Hall of Fame, which he calls "an awesome distinction."

Since his barbershop beginnings with the CABOTEERS in Newfoundland, he has been in eight other quartets. The latest is TAKE IV with Tom Lehman, Al Murray, and Bob Shami. At this year's Bush League, they placed second, only two points from the top.

Don also is the bass in RELATIVE HARMONY, a mixed quartet with the Soo chapter's Bill Webb as lead; Webb's mother, Reah, from the Soo Sweet Adelines, as bari; and Don's daughter, Virginia McKinnon, as tenor. "It may not be the greatest quartet ever, but nothing can compare with the thrill of singing with members of your family," Don said.

Don is "looking forward with great pleasure" to his tenure as district president. "There are one or two things which I am going to try to persuade the Pioneer barbershoppers to do. That will all be laid out as soon as I start my regular *Troubadour* columns."

As captain of the district, this foreigner just might hearken back to the philosophy he heard from his dad: "The engineering staff makes the ship go, not the captain."

And at some district meeting, hot curries might show up. If so, it could be quite a meeting.

Don says, "A curry consists of meat, fish, or vegetables cooked in a sauce made with hot chili, saffron, coriander, and various other Asiatic spices. If it doesn't break you out in a sweat and bring tears to your eyes, it's too wimpy!" ■

Great Lakes Chorus

(Continued from page 1)

with the song "Bundle of Old Love Letters" and "Darkness on the Delta," and with nine more singers on stage. The chorus was hit recently with the retirement of Jack Slamka as director. But former Rochester director Al Fisk succeeded him with enthusiasm. Off-stage, chapter members wore "AL" tags on their shirts, showing their camaraderie with their new director.

Kalamazoo's MALL CITY CHORUS placed third, 7 points behind Macomb. But the chorus placed second in singing, only 3 points behind Grand Rapids. It was named the most improved chorus, compared with its scores in fall 1998.

Two of the smaller choruses on the risers, the HURON VALLEY HARMONIZERS and Gratiot County's MIDSTATESMEN CHORUS, placed fourth and fifth with 23 and 24 men, respectively. Many noted the way in which the HARMONIZERS's Lynne Peirce used minimal direction, simply giving the pickups and setting the tempo. This was Gratiot County's last competition under Jeff Rayburn, who recently announced that he is stepping down after 16 years.

Lansing placed sixth under Interim Director Larry Parker, who has led the chorus since the resignation of Jamie Carey as director last spring. Shortly after this fall's competition, the chapter announced that Jeff Gougeon is their new chorus director.

Windsor's SUN PARLOUR CHORUS, under the direction of Dan Bezaire, placed 10th with 37 men on stage, 10 of whom were new to competition following a strong membership drive. ■

District Hall of Fame adds George Schmidt and Earl Berry

Two members received the Pioneer District's highest honor at the fall convention. Inducted into the Hall of Fame were George Schmidt and Earl Berry.

Schmidt was a former district treasurer and a member of the district board for three years. He was a founder of the Rochester Chapter and has held several chapter offices.

Berry was 1988-89 district president. He also has been an international board member, district executive vice president and area counselor. He is a member of the district Chapter Support and Leadership Training Team and of the

Detroit-Oakland Chapter, where he has held several offices.

Also recognized at the House of Delegates meeting were Art Lane and Gary Simon.

Lane, a member of the Holland Chapter, was named Society Public Relations Officer of the Year. He was also a participant in PROBE's international Bulletin Editor of the Year contest.

Simon placed 6th in the Society's Bulletin Editor of the Year contest with his Wayne Chapter bulletin, the *Chordinator*. He had finished first for the past three years in the district contest. He also is editor of the district's *Troubadour*. ■

What a hobby!

(Continued from page 5)

ment of this adventure. It's also been a springboard for many other experiences.

Chatting with Darryl Flynn, our executive director who is a gentleman's gentleman. Even though he's seen and done most everything, he would simply enjoy listening and chatting about your own experiences.

Roger Lewis, Mr. Barbershop. If we could all be 50 percent as dedicated to our hobby as Roger, we would all be successful.

Russ Seely, your love for this hobby has been an inspiration to me, and many others — may we all know your passion. Remember our "three-hour tour"?

To the rest of the board, thank you for your dedication and devotion to our hobby. You are truly a testament to the definition of bar-

bershoppers.

My immediate family: There is no greater joy than having your family supporting you in this hobby. It may not be "cool" for the kids to show their support in an obvious fashion, but they are still rooting you on when needed. My deepest thanks to my wife Lori, for demanding that I find a hobby twelve years ago. Little did she know what this would become. I hope to repay you someday soon — say in Kansas City.

It's been a great, wonderful adventure so far. I hope that we can make some more memories very soon. What are some of your memories? I'd love to hear them.

Finally, please help me welcome your new Pioneer District President, Mr. Don Bazely. I know that President Don will help guide Pioneer to new heights and greater memories.

Now go out there and earn a "Standing Ovation." ■

WJBC

(Continued from page 1)

son Oyler in POWER PLAY in 1989, lead Craig Pollard in CHECKMATE in 1990, and bass Wayne Kinde in FERMATA! in 1996. Other quartets represented in WJBC include district champs STAY TUNED, GOOD NEWS and HIGH TECH, and international competitor ONYX. Their quartet name comes from the first initials of their first names.

In the show package format, a quartet has the option of filling up to 14 minutes on stage in any way it wishes, but must sing at least two barbershop contest songs.

Placing second was PHILATOGA TOWNSHIP, winning the singing category by 19 points. This foursome, from the Hillsdale, Kalamazoo, and Frank Thorne chapters, sang "The Railroad Rag" and "If You Had All the World and Its Gold" as their contest numbers. They concluded with a tour-de-force version of "The Auctioneer," done at an increasingly faster pace. Bass Phil Haines, who is an auctioneer in real life, did the auctioneer's patter, and the quartet kept up with him.

All four members are experienced quartetters. Haines was in HIGH BID, which previously finished second in the district. Lead Larry Reinhart was in the CRACKER-JACKS in the Dixie District, which placed 19th in international competition in 1991. Some say the quartet name is derived from the first names of the quartet members. But Reinhart says it is inspired by a remote vacation spot between Philadelphia (the city of brotherly love) and Saratoga (the city of harmony).

Placing third was RESOLUTION, tying for second in the presentation category and scoring only 3 points

behind WJBC in the singing category. This quartet, from the Grosse Pointe, Macomb, and Motor City Metro chapters, ranked sixth in the show package format score, proving that a relatively low show score doesn't hurt a good quartet. The short set included just two straight barbershop songs and a brief verbal poke at the show format.

In another approach to the show format, FOUR-MAN FISHIN' TACKLE CHOIR performed five basically barbershop songs with outdoory parody lyrics. No talking, no jokes — nothing but singing. The quartet from Petoskey and Traverse City chapters received the third-highest show score, just 2 points behind PHILATOGA TOWNSHIP'S show score.

FOUR-MAN FISHIN' TACKLE CHOIR placed fourth overall, but GRAND PRIX from Battle Creek would have been in fourth place if it had not been penalized 48 points for taking eight seconds beyond the 14-minute show package time limit.

Both GRAND PRIX and sixth-place PRIZM from Grand Rapids used typical show presentations with barbershop-style songs interspersed with jokes or quartet interaction. Their show package format scores were seventh and eighth, respectively.

HARMONY TRANSFER from Muskegon placed seventh overall and fourth for show package. In "One of Those Songs," they used every possible corny one-liner that could be fitted into one program.

FOOL'S GOLD from Grand Rapids strayed the farthest from the "barbershop umbrella," scoring eighth overall and receiving the fifth-highest show score. You knew something was coming when, throughout the weekend, quartet members wore FOOL'S GOLD medals hung around their necks on blue

ribbons. On their entrance, bari Joel Mills flipped out a handful of confetti, a la "Pookie dust" from new international champs FRED. They sang about "A typical New Hampshire town": "nondescript" ... "undistinguished" ... "useless" ... "who cares?!" Singing "live from the WJBC Studio" and, donning dark glasses, they did a '50s do-wop styling of "Li'l Darlin'." A bass voice-over had gals in the audience screaming. Naming quartets in the competition, they said they wanted to take us on a HARMONY TRANSFER and give us a musical GRAND PRIX. They concluded with a "Six-Foot Underground" parody. One singer died, lying on his back, arms high, as FRED's Jared "Pookie" Carlson has done. The other three then dropped, all singing their last notes from the floor.

Even the mike-testers, FOUR-PART DIGITAL SURROUND SOUND from Kalamazoo, got into the show package act, fitting a short introduction of the quartet into the first number. This quartet, singing together for only two months, was named district Novice Quartet Champion. It placed fifth at the Bush League competition in September.

Among the other quartets in the fall finals, FISHIN' TACKLE was first at Bush League, GRAND PRIX was third, and FOOL'S GOLD was fourth. The Bush League ninth-placer, THIRD COAST from Traverse City, was 13th in fall competition.

Reactions to the show package format were surveyed among the audience, the competitors, and the judges. Results of the surveys were to be reported back to the district at a future date. ■

**Sing ...
For LIFE!**

A snapshot of where we stand

The good news, the bad news, and the easy solutions!

Submitted by Charity Services
Chairman Alex Willox

The good news:

On a national level, our total service project donations (General Fund, Heartspring, SingAmerica/SingCanada, Heritage Hall Museum) donations are running 10 percent ahead of last year for the first nine months of the year.

The bad news:

Through July, we were running 20 percent ahead of 1998 for the first seven months. August and September were dismal months; they ran about 23 percent *behind* their 1998 counterparts.

Scenario

If we continue the August/September trend (-23 percent) through the remainder of the year, we will not make our 1999 goal. In fact, we would end up at \$394,234.00, far below our goal of \$450,000.00.

If we can get back on track with the first seven-month trend (+20 percent), we will make our goal. In fact, we would end up at \$503,235.00, well above the \$450,000.00.

Easy solutions

We need to get back on the track we were on in the first half of the year. How can you, as a chapter service chairman, make a difference? Well ... did you know, based on 1998 donations and average gifts:

- Five percent of our registered quartets made a donation to the service projects. If that percentage went to 20 percent, that would bring in an additional \$60,000.00.
- 62 percent of our chapters

made a donation to the Service Projects. If we added another quartet of the "missing" chapters, we would bring in an additional \$50,000.00.

- 1.7 percent of our members made a donation through the General Fund Campaign (the mail campaign last fall). If that percentage went to five percent (one out of 20 members), we would bring in an additional \$50,000.00.
- If every member contributed an extra \$1.50 (less than the cost of one magazine) *for the rest of the year*, we would bring in an additional \$48,000.00.

These are small steps that would make a giant difference. How can you make one or more of these small steps happen?

The difference between great success and a big disappointment lies with all of us. Success, however, is only a small effort away if we all choose to make a difference.

* * *

As of September 30, only half of the chapters in the Pioneer District had contributed to the Harmony Foundation this year. ■

Take note

(Continued from page 10)

your part, and a real love for barbershop harmony. But, equally important is the love and friendship of those who surround you at every chapter meeting and function.

Oh yes, it's great to be a barbershopper, but remember — if you really believe this, then be the best barbershopper you can possibly be. ■

Under New Management takes Great Lakes Express Trophy

By Kurt Amundson, Lead,
Under New Management

QUARTET UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT is extremely proud and honored to have received the Great Lakes Express Logopedics Traveling Trophy for contributions to Heartspring. Our philosophy is to donate 100 percent of all proceeds from every one of our performances to Heartspring — and do it because we enjoy getting out in front of audiences and entertaining. (Too bad we don't do so well in front of judges! But that's another story altogether.)

We are delighted to join the long list of quartets named on the trophy and, most recently, THE FURNITURE CITY CHORD COMPANY and THE LAST GOODBYE, who have held it on and off since 1988. We would like to challenge ALL Pioneer District quartets to increase their donations to Heartspring and show Alex Willox that the quartets in this district really can make a difference! ■

It's COTS time!

By John Gillespie, COTS Coordinator

THIS year's COTS program will be held December 4-5 at the W. K. Kellogg Biological Station Education Center, Gull Lake.

All chapter presidents and secretaries have been mailed the registration package. Again this year, COTS is offering an expanded curriculum that covers classes for every barbershopper, not just officers and board members.

I hope to see all of you on this exciting COTS weekend! ■

The Detroit-Oakland Chapter, SPEBSQSA, Inc.
and THE GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS CHORUS
present their 61st Parade of Harmony



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2000, at 7:59 p.m.
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2000, at 7:29 p.m.
SCHMIDT AUDITORIUM — CLARENCEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL, LIVONIA, MI

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Wayne and Macomb chapter's Terry Grimme (top left) is registered by Muskegon Chapter's Eileen O'Brien, Jane Weber, and Dick DeWitt, as Bev Bomers (standing) looks on. (Left) President Dave Cole (center) with the district's newest members of the Hall of Fame: Earl Berry (left) and George Schmidt. (Below) Gene Hanover leads Kalamazoo's MALL CITY CHORUS to fourth place and the district's most improved chorus title.





Ann Jarchow directs Grand Rapids Chapter's GREAT LAKES CHORUS to a district win.



David Krause leads a seminar in "How To Be A Great Lead."

Convention photos by Doug Pearson and Gary Simon.

Fall Convention '99

Pioneer District 1999 Senior Champions from Grand Rapids Chapter, quartet SHADES OF GRAY. (l to r) Tenor Dick Weirich, lead Bud Kraft, bass Jack Sidor, and bari Gary Branch.





The SILVER DOMES will represent the Pioneer District in the senior quartet contest at the winter convention. (from left) Tenor John Wearing, lead Russ Seely, bass John Wade, and bari Gene Bulka.

Finishing second in the district's fall quartet contest is PHILATOGA TOWNSHIP: (l to r) Tenor Tom McCoy, lead Larry Reinhart, bass Phil Haines, and bari Gary Nitz.



Quartet RESOLUTION at the Saturday night chorditorium: (l to r) tenor Tony Ales, lead Tom Conner, bass Pete Burns, and bari Steve Pauling.

Receiving their charter from Pioneer District President Dave Cole (right), Livingston Chapter Musical Director Mell Coleman (left) and Chapter President Ray Jones.





The Quartet Champions Association Show recognized the tenth anniversary of POWER PLAY'S 1989 district championship. (Left) Jason Oyler was the tenor when they won that year, shown on Friday night with lead Mike Slamka, bass Jack Slamka, and bari Mark Slamka.

Quartet PROTÉGÉ sings for the chorditorium audience. (L to r) Tenor Roger Anderson, lead Steve Charleston, bass Mike Pepperman, and bari Tim Prah.



Fall Convention '99

Quartet FOUR-PART DIGITAL SURROUND SOUND from the Kalamazoo Chapter won the Novice Quartet Championship. (L to r) Tenor Matt Root, lead David Dolph, bari Chris Fenner, and bass Jon Mollison.





The Society's Bill Cody (right) is congratulated by the district board of directors on his 57th birthday as Roger Lewis helps him celebrate.

Muskegon's Henry Malmquist (left) and Jim Duff (right) check out the CDs and tapes at the Barbershop Shop. (The man in the middle is unidentified.)



Fall Convention '99



Quartet UPSTAGE SOUND in one of its last performances as district champion singing at the Quartet Champions Association show on Friday night. (L to r) Tenor Raleigh Bloch, lead Gene Hanover, bass Kerry Foley, and bari Ed Fritzen.

Quartet PRIZM sings at the chorditorium on Saturday night. (From left) Tenor Jay Smits, lead Curt Struyk, bass Tom Wheeler, and bari Dale Mattis.



Silver Domes, Shades of Gray seniors champs

Two winners were named at the Pioneer District Senior Quartet contest at the fall convention. With solid sound and good dynamics, the SILVER DOMES placed first and will represent the Pioneer District at the international competition at the mid-winter convention in Tucson, Ariz.

The SILVER DOMES were ineligible to be district senior champion, having won the title in 1997. Their combined age is 274. Two of the 'DOMES, lead Russ Seely and tenor John Wearing, were members of the 4-FITS, the 1965 district champion. The other 'DOMES are bari Gene Bulka and bass John Wade.

Placing second was SHADES OF GRAY from Grand Rapids. They are the new district senior quartet champion. Singing together only since August, the members are Dick Weirich, Bud Kraft, Gary Branch, and Jack Sidor. Their combined age is 268. Sidor also is in CROSSTOWN CONNECTION, which competed in the regular quartet competition.

Also in the regular competition

was another senior competitor, THIRD COAST from Traverse City. Members are Al Bonney, Phil Knapp, Jim Mudgett, and Dan Decker. They placed fourth as seniors with a score equivalent to 590, and 13th in the regular contest with 621 points.

Scoring third was SPECIAL OFFER from Lansing, with James Hall, Reese Olger, Frank Richards, and Richard Kesti. Fifth was A LA MODE from Wayne with Bob Wolf, Larry Radley, Hal Reid, and Ed Compton. Sixth was JACKSON COUNTY FOUR from Hillsdale with John Brainard, Ross Sharrer, Chris Davis, and Kenneth Guernsey. This was the oldest quartet, totaling 289 years, an average of 72 1/4 years each.

All singers have to be at least 55 and the total age of the competing quartet must be at least 240.

Average age of the 24 singers in this contest was 68, and nine were over 70; they ranged in age from Bonney in THIRD COAST at 55 to Davis in THE JACKSON COUNTY FOUR at 77. ■

Harmony Marketplace on-line

From the internet

We are very proud to introduce our new Harmony Marketplace website at www.harmonymarketplace.com. We're here to make your life easier, and whether it's CDs or cassettes, songbooks, apparel, or gifts you're looking for, you'll be able to shop around the clock — at your convenience.

Our secure site enables you to use your Visa or MasterCard to order — no phone calls necessary.

Every week we'll be giving away free computer wallpaper of quartets and choruses. Click on "Free Stuff!" Every week (or so) we'll put up some new wallpaper for you to download and enjoy.

Come visit us soon. ■

Class for leads popular

By Doug Pearson,
Public Relations VP

One of the many highlights of our district fall convention was Saturday morning's session on "How to Be a Great Lead" by Society Presentation Judge David Krause. Dave showed the group videos of some of the Society's top quartets in action, then engaged participants in a lively conversation of what it takes to become a great lead.

Key qualities that came out of the discussion:

- Remember the words
- Confidence — be a take-charge guy
- Maintain pitch
- Be emotionally involved with the music
- Live up to the expectation of being the best singer
- Be a performer
- Tell the story, and actually live the story line of your song.

Based on the success of this session, those in attendance agreed that the "How To Be a Great ..." series should be continued at future district conventions. ■

Society area code changes

Effective September 25, the area code for all direct lines to headquarters in Kenosha changed from 414 to 262, although local exchanges and numbers remain unchanged. ■

Power Play: Ten years as champs

By Jim Styer, Convention PR

POWER PLAY, Pioneer District's favorite family quartet, presented a moving and memorable walk down memory lane on Friday night of the fall convention at the Quartet Champions Association show.

Opening the show in a packed hotel meeting room was UPSTAGE SOUND from Kalamazoo and South Bend, concluding their year as district quartet champs. They included three members of an earlier foursome that were known for their gangster and criminal numbers. Now, they had matured, and presented a sampling of their balanced and wide-ranging comedic and serious repertoire.

Then the Slamka family quartet musically reviewed the 10 years since they had become district champions 10 years ago this weekend.

Slides throughout the 45-minute tour de force recalled the many Slamka scenes throughout the Pioneer District and around the country, and included several Slamka family photos. Photos also depicted an earlier quartet, FAMILY FORUM, with brothers Jack and Mike Slamka and their sons, Mike and Don. That made a foursome of dads, sons, brothers, uncles, cousins, and nephews.

Kenosha staffer Ev Nau was in the audience, as he has been many times since he became a coach for POWER PLAY in 1992.

As the quartet entered the room, lead Mike Slamka pointed to the younger Mike an early-days slide on the large screen behind the stage, noting that he once had hair and

was thinner.

In the first few numbers of the night, Jason Oyler reprised his role as POWER PLAY tenor. Ken Slamka came in to sub on bass for his brother, Jack, as he had done in the past.

Then with Don as tenor, the quartet repeated the set it had done in international competition for the

enth in international competition. And again, during that song, they raised imaginary glasses in a toast to Papa John, the matriarch of the family who passed away on May 28 at age 79.

Grandpa and grandma Slamka, who had died two years earlier, were there again, on the screen in a series of memorable photos.



The POWER PLAYERS: (l to r) Lead Mike Slamka, tenor Don Slamka, tenor Jason Oyler, bass Uncle Ken Slamka, bass Jack Slamka, bari Mark Slamka, and bari Uncle Mike Slamka.

first time in 1992 in New Orleans — "My Dear Old Dad" and "The Boy I Used to Be."

The quartet sang "Rock-a-bye Baby" as photos of Mike's, Don's, and Mark's children were shown on the screen.

For one number, Uncle Mike stepped in to replace Mark, as he had done a month ago for a show in Muskegon when Mark became the father of a boy.

POWER PLAY reprised "Get Me to the Church on Time," which it sang in competition last summer in Anaheim. That set gave the quartet a fourth-place position for the finals round as it scored an over-all sev-

POWER PLAY was joined by Jason Oyler and Uncles Mike and Ken as the septet sang a tribute to grandpa and grandma, "Through the years ... we learned what love's about."

No encore was requested. None was needed. ■

*All you have to do
is give it your best.
Perfection is not
expected —
it's a quest.*

In Memory of Bill Wickstrom

1925—1999

Bill Wickstrom died on Wednesday, September 15, after a long bout with cancer. He was 74 years of age and in his 53rd year as a barbershopper.

He started in the Muskegon Chapter in 1946 and transferred to the Dearborn Chapter when he and his wife, Maureen, moved to the Detroit area in 1964. The Dearborn Chapter merged with Detroit #1, which later merged with the Oakland County Chapter, forming the Detroit-Oakland Chapter. Bill served as president of DOC in 1990 and 1991. In 1994, he was inducted into the Pioneer District Hall of Fame.

Bill had sung tenor in quartets almost continuously since starting with the PITCH BLENDS in 1946. To name a few, he was district champion with the AIRE-TONICS in 1956 and the SHARPLIFTERS in 1967. The SHARPLIFTERS competed in international competition six times; their highest finish was 11th in 1968.

More recently, Bill had been district champion at the senior quartet level: The PRESIDENT'S OWN in 1989, SENIOR CLASS in 1990, PRIME TIME in 1992, and OLD BONES in 1993 (renamed VOCAL GENTRY).

Bill had a flair for developing the stage presence skills of his chorus's and quartet's performance packages. His early days in radio provided a distinctive air to Bill's success as a master of ceremonies. He was an added attraction at numerous chapter shows.

From Tom Uicker



MY FAVORITE GIANT

It didn't take me long to realize how LARGE Bill Wickstrom was once I had a chance to get to know him. Although small in stature, his passion for life and his fellow man was Gargantuan in his commitment to anything he pursued.

As barbershoppers, we document many of our heroes' accomplishments and Bill was "one of those": Pioneer District Hall of Fame, two-time District Quartet Champion — AIRE TONICS in 1956 and SHARPLIFTERS in 1967, district officer, chapter president, founding president of Pioneer Quartet Champions Association, and on and on with his service to barbershopping.

But as busy as Bill was in his 50+ year romance with our hobby, he was equally active in a number of pursuits of which many of us were unaware. Bill served our

country twice with the U. S. Navy. First, aboard an aircraft carrier in the South Pacific during WW II. When the Korean situation developed, Bill was summoned to the Great Lakes Naval Base to train recruits.

He graduated from Northwestern University and returned to his home in Muskegon where he found employment as a radio announcer. He joined a community theater group where he met Maureen, a Houstonite who migrated to Michigan via the University of Minnesota. They celebrated their 44th wedding anniversary this year.

Bill was employed by the U.S. Department of Labor as a specialist in veteran's affairs. He later became the Michigan rep for the department and was transferred to Detroit in the '60s. That assignment, which he held until his retirement, caused him to become an involved member of ALL veteran's organizations.

Randy, Andy, and Jim are "their 3 sons" and, although they are not barbershoppers, all three are heavily involved with music in their lives, with two of them earning their livelihood in music. Their dedication to music was not only inspired by Maureen's Sweet Adeline affiliation or Bill's Barbershopping, but through the Drum & Bugle Corps in which all three became active with mom and dad transporting them "all over the map" to encourage their commitment to music. When the taxiing for the Drum & Bugle Corps ended, Wick

(Continued on page 26)

My favorite giant

(Continued from page 25)

became a gofer, salesman, and driver for Maureen, who was expressing her talents as a calligrapher at many of our state's craft shows.

And if you don't think that didn't "fill their plate," add to it their active participation in St. Dennis Catholic Church, where Bill assisted as emcee for the church's social events as well as singing in the choir with Maureen.

I'm sure Bill will probably be remembered as the little guy with the quick wit and as the "master of one liners," but to me he exemplifies the "larger than life" cliché. He was, indeed, a REAL MAN we could all look up to ... and that, my friends, is no pun! We will miss Wick in many of his capacities, but I will miss him most for his sincere ability to simply be a friend.

As an admirer, Russ Seely

Bill Wickstrom was a good friend to many people. Like so many things in life which we take for granted, I never realized how valuable his friendship was until it was no longer available, and now I must settle for the memories. Here are a few.

Although we were acquainted for years, our true friendship really began when I joined the senior quartet VOCAL GENTRY in late 1992 with Bill, Gene Harrington, and Jim Stephens. A few months later, with a substitute lead and a temporary quartet name change to OLD BONES, we were elated when we became the 1993 Pioneer Dis-

trict Senior Quartet Champs. With Bill always a "driving force," we were on our way to several years of commercial jobs, chapter shows, and district events. Bill's enthusiasm led us to compete in the Senior Quartet Contest at the International Midwinter Conventions in 1993, 1994, and 1995, where we placed 5th, 5th, and 6th, respectively. What great times we had with Bill!

As our "mike man," he kept records of his patter and jokes to avoid redundancy when doing a repeat performance for the same group. He was always the ethical professional with no exceptions.

Bill enjoyed "picking on" me as his scapegoat with fabrications about my background. I enjoyed being the offended person in those light-hearted scenarios. I would occasionally react by stating that I was the youngest and tallest member in VOCAL GENTRY. Then I'd ask the audience to guess who was the shortest and oldest as I turned my gaze toward Bill. He, of course, then appropriately became the offended party to my delight. I truly miss such great fun with him.

I would be remiss not to mention the unconditional support VOCAL GENTRY enjoyed from our spouses. Maureen Wickstrom, a long-time Sweet Adeline, was always there for Bill as he was for her during difficult times. She will always be a dear friend who, like me, can now rejoice in fond memories of this man of stature — my friend — Bill Wickstrom. He is missed.

From Bob Wisdom

Dazzling Diamonds — the GEMS of Atlanta

By Ken Gibson, Lansing Chapter

In the last issue (Oct./Nov.) of the *Troubadour*, Pioneer District members were introduced to the DAZZLING DIAMONDS and their rapid ascent from middle school choir members to Lansing Chapter contest winners and then to 1999 Rising Star Quartet Champions of Sweet Adelines International. As was noted, in addition to their scholarship prizes, the Michigan foursome (now all at Grand Ledge High School) would also be honored guests at the Sweet Adeline International contest and convention in Atlanta, Ga., in September. Their trip would be made possible in great part with funds provided by the Young Singers Foundation of SAI. The following is a brief account of their first memorable experience at the "Big Dance."

The quartet arrived in Atlanta shortly before midnight on Monday, September 20, after putting in a full day at school. Along with them for the week were the Gibsons and LaPointes (coaches/chaperones), enough luggage to put the fear of God in any cabby and, oh yes, five days of homework!

After a very short night of sleep came the usual convention routines for a quartet: get the costumes ready, rehearse, find time to eat, perform here, appear there, rehearse again, stay on schedule, get some rest — and of course, call home!

Each day flew by as they did casual performances in the hotel, restaurants, a few social events and at the Young Singers Foundation booth in the registration area. In

(Continued on page 27)

We sing ...

That they shall speak!

Young Men in Harmony (Continued from page 12)

ful presentations, that will establish the foundation to expand what the chapter and the Society can offer to the teacher.

If the chapter is committed to some of the passive support processes involved in the YMIH program, this would be the time to introduce them. Elements such as financial support, offering a school to sing on the chapter show, etc., would be a logical conclusion to this step.

5. Introduce the festival concept.

If the chapter has committed to pursuing the more proactive elements of the YMIH program, such as festivals, clinics, etc., the time to introduce that concept would be after steps 1-4 have been successfully achieved.

Seek to enroll the teachers who were excited enough about the success of the in-school visits to bring their students together in a single-day festival. This could be simply an event that would capitalize on

the previous visits in which music could be taught, vocal techniques could be reviewed, and the students would have a chance to sing in a large ensemble.

The event could culminate in a performance of the music learned during the day for the teachers, or this concept could be expanded to include a performance for the community in the evening.

The variations on this aspect of the YMIH program are many. Out of such experiences, quartets are likely to develop.

6. Teachers to HC or teachers and students to an HX or Youth Harmony Camp.

If teachers and students have already been treated professionally, been introduced to the style in their own environment, and been excited by the participation of a single day event, it is likely they will be excited about continuing that involvement in a camp or at Harmony College/Directors College. If the chapter has committed to pursuing this avenue of the YMIH program, this would be the time to introduce this possibility to them. ■

Thank You, Ladies!

For the past two years, it has been my pleasure to be your host of the Pioneer District Ladies Hospitality Room at the spring and fall conventions. Whether it was Lansing or Battle Creek, we had a great time.

However, the time has come for me to step aside. Before doing so, I must give a big **THANK YOU** to all the wonderful ladies who donated food items and door prizes. Your help was most important to our success.

For me, the best part of hosting the room was being able to meet the ladies, sit and talk over a cup of coffee, devour one of those delicious snacks, and enjoy sharing each other's craft ideas.

If you have yet to visit our room, please stop by Friday afternoon, April 28, 2000, and meet your new host, Lori Cole. You are welcome to bring your knitting, or whatever craft item you happen to be working on. The coffee will be hot and snacks will be plentiful.

Again, I thank you all for your help and fellowship!

Carole Parker



Dazzling Diamonds (Continued from page 26)

addition, they had two major appearances in front of thousands of Barbershoppers and SA in the Georgia Dome. First was the SAI Showcase Tuesday night that featured four international championship groups, including GAS HOUSE GANG.

Later, they were the opener for the quartet finals on Friday. They did a ten-minute package and wowed the audience with their

youthful style and grace, receiving a standing ovation for their efforts. What more could one ask from 14 and 15 year olds at such a prestigious event?

The entire barbershop community, both locally and now internationally, was surely very proud of these first-ever young champions.

Watch for them in your area, follow their exciting dream to someday become international champions and, most of all, continue to encourage and support vocal music education for all of the young people in your area. ■

Woodshedding Corner

Toban Dvoretzky, AHSOW President

Ways to increase quartetting

John Witmer wrote: *One problem with recruiting with the 40 (bass) - 30 (lead) - 20 (bari) - 10 percent (tenor) formula is what this does to quartet development in the chapter. If you have four times as many basses as tenors, how do you get more than a few quartets? Of course, for strictly temporary quartets such as you might need for a program night, tenors, leads, and baritones can sing with more than one quartet. However, if your chapter is one that really hopes to propagate many quartets and provide a rich quartetting experience, you need different parts in much more equal proportions.*

Many chapters are always complaining about the lack of tenors. They do have a real problem in forming more than a few quartets. If you have a more balanced — read that “equal numbers of parts” — chapter, that is less of a problem. Once you have equal numbers of parts, then it becomes essential in the chorus for the tenors, leads, and baritones to learn how to balance relationships. But you can't create more tenors and leads if you don't have them.

A regular program of authentic woodshedding is exactly the ticket. The result will be that guys will discover that they are not merely “a bari,” “a tenor,” “a lead,” or “a bass,” but a SINGER WITH AN EAR.

The “light of discovery” in men's eyes is something to behold. This goes for the guys who tap their full range of ability and potential as well as for chapter musical leaders. The feeling is virtually un-

paralleled in any other area of Barbershopping.

A chapter serious about growth (musical, membership, overall interest, participation) would do well to schedule an effective portion of its weekly meeting for authentic woodshedding. When upcoming events become pressing (e.g., show/contest preparation), such chapters will hold what's often known as an “AHSOW Corner” after regular meetings. Here, quartets or small groups can practice harmonizing by ear to melodies. The benefits of regularly doing this will carry over into other areas of the Barbershop experience.

For an effective, bargain-cost vehicle to lead your chapter toward the many benefits that authentic woodshedding provides, order AHSOW's new “Discovery Singing” Folio — a pocket-sized folio of 41 woodsheddable melodies:

Order your folio(s) from: Ed Hartley, AHSOW Manager/Treasurer, 246 Payne Road, Quilcene WA 98376-9658, U.S.A.

AHSOW members can get the folio for \$3 (U.S.) apiece. Others can get the folio for \$5 (U.S.) apiece. Checks (payable to “AHSOW”) are the preferred form of payment. Include your complete name/address/phone — typed or NEATLY printed, please — and state that \$__ is enclosed for “x” number of “Discovery Singing” woodshedding folios.

Toban Dvoretzky, President.
<http://www.ahsow.org>. ■

Anaheim Recordings Available

Cassette and CD recordings of the 1999 international convention in Anaheim are now available for order from the Harmony Marketplace.

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www.harmonymarketplace.com
- Phone: 800-876-7464, ext. 8410

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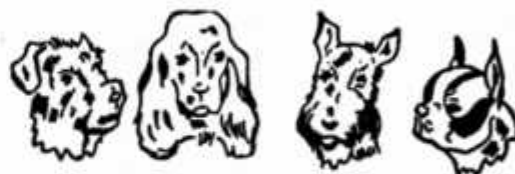
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Bulletin, PR contest deadlines near

Attention all chapter bulletin editors and PR officers: You have only a few weeks left to get your entries ready for the Pioneer District contests for bulletin editors and public relations officers. Entries must be received by Jan. 15, 2000. Send them to Jim Styer, 72, Allison Drive, Battle Creek MI 49017. You may e-mail any questions to him at jimstyer@voyager.net.

BULLETIN EDITORS

All bulletin editors who will have at least six issues this year are eligible. Eight issues are required for a Society-level award. Without competing, any editor may submit bulletins for judges' comments no matter how few issues they publish; no score will be published if so requested.

Submit three copies each of three consecutive issues. One copy of each publication date must be off-the-press; the others may be copies. (Save extra issues in case you are eligible to enter the Society-wide contest.)

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICERS

There are three categories: Promotion of one chapter activity; a year-long public relations program; and entries for evaluation and comment

only, which will not be entered in a contest.

Include biographical information on the nominee; commentary on planning, execution, and follow-up; and copies of pertinent documents (news releases, newspaper clippings, correspondence, printed programs, thank-you letters, etc.).

The PR effect does not necessarily depend on the success of the events themselves; rather, it is judged on the amount of actual PR (spreading the Gospel) that was accomplished.

JOIN PROBE

To enter the district contests, you do not have to be a member of the Society's PROBE (Public Relations Officers and Bulletin Editors), but it is encouraged. Membership is required for Society-wide contests.

You can have your chapter secretary sign you up, or you can sign yourself up by sending \$5 annual dues to: Brian Lynch, PROBE Secretary-Treasurer, 6315 Third Avenue, Kenosha WI 53143.

Membership brings you, among other things, a quarterly bulletin, *PROBEmoter*, which has news and tips for public relations officers and bulletin editors. ■

Livingston Chapter formed

Our Pioneer District has grown by one chapter as the Livingston Chapter has received its charter with 18 members.

They're lead by Chapter President Dr. Ray Jones, with Mell Coleman as their musical director, treasurer, and acting secretary.

They meet on Mondays from

7:30 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. at Brighton United Methodist Church, 400 W. Grand River (between Main Street and Brighton Lake Road) in the church's lower level.

VP of Chapter Development Ralph Leroy Jr. can be reached at rleroy@ismi.net. ■

Chapters in Action

Detroit-Oakland

By Tom Uicker

The big news is a report on our chapter's "Canada Night," held (as usual) on the first Friday of November. We had 110 people in attendance from nine chapters.

Eight mini-choruses competed for the "Old Oakland Bucket," including two each from DOC, Macomb, and Windsor, and one each from Wayne and Grosse Pointe. DOC's SONGSTERS ENSEMBLE, the defending champs, took third place. Windsor's EH CHORUS came in second. The winners were THE OCCIDENTAL FLAMENCO BEACH RESORT from Grosse Pointe.

Thanks to our judges John Wearing, Russ Seely, Earl Berry, and Larry King, with back-up judges Fred Kienitz and Doran McTaggart.

Four quartets helped to entertain the crowd: DOC's CROSSTOWN EXCHANGE, the MIX MASTERS from Windsor, the GOOD NEWS AMBASSADORS from Macomb and Motor City Metro, MCM's CITY LIGHTS QUARTET, and Grosse Pointe's SILVER DOMES. Song leaders included Steve Sutherland, Lynne Peirce, Steve Pauling, and Al Fisk.

Our DAYTIME SINGERS are starting up again after an eleven months hiatus. They plan to meet on Wednesday afternoons from 1:00-3:30 p.m. at Starr Presbyterian Church in Royal Oak. If you're interested in an afternoon group, stop by. They'd love to sing with you.

Chapters in Action

Grosse Pointe

By Nick Piccione

On December 9, we will once again perform our Christmas Show, along with the wonderful voices of the EASTPOINTE SWEET ADELINES CHORUS. They are again district champs and are headed for international competition. The Grosse Pointe War Memorial Theater provides a perfect holiday setting for our usual sell-out crowd.

In this issue, our spotlight falls on Don Willoughby. For over 10 years, Don has handled our costumes and uniforms. Somehow he makes keeping 100 men in properly fitting (almost) tuxedos, dinner jackets, satin vests, etc., look easy. (I wonder how many hundreds of formal wear have gone through his competent hands in those years!)

He seems to take in stride moving these guys from naval uniforms aboard the S. S. Lollipop ... to Roman togas at the ancient Olympics ... to outfits yet to be imagined by Russ Seely. (If you forget your ties, shirt studs, or whatever, don't worry — Don's got extras.)

For steadfastly handling such a difficult job, we give a tip of the Grosse Pointe hat to Don Willoughby and add this thought:

In contests and shows

He puts forth the clothes

Despite all the pressures and stresses.

With such an array

Of costumes we say

I hope he won't put us in dresses.

Michiana Metro

By Gene Hanover

Where is Michiana Metro? We are in the greater Niles, Michigan, area. We cover the counties of Berrien, Cass, and St. Joseph in Michigan, and St. Joseph, Elkhart, and LaPorte in Indiana. This whole area is called Michiana. That's a huge area, but we do have men from all of these counties.

Our first meeting was October 20, 1999. There were 24 men in attendance. Among them were three quartets: MOMENTS NOTICE from South Bend, Indiana, MILL CREEK YACHT CLUB from Michigan City, Indiana, and UPSTAGE SOUND, 1998 Pioneer District Quartet Champion from Kalamazoo. Most of these men have expressed an interest in joining the group.

David Cole, Pioneer District President, gave his talk about "Sing well, really well. There's nothing like it." It seemed to excite the men that were there.

We sang several songs, standards like "The Old Songs," "Keep America Singing," "My Wild Irish Rose," and several Christmas carols. It's amazing what you can do when you look at songs like these and sing the right notes. Because of the new notes we all learned something that night.

We had a great time and we are looking forward to a long future here in the Michiana Metro area. We have more than needed for our license at this time and will have delivering it to Pres. Cole by the end of October for his signature. We hope to charter at the spring convention and to be there on stage with all of the great choruses of Pioneer.

We meet every Wednesday evening from 7:00-10:00 p.m. at the

Elks Lodge, 104 N. Third St., just one block south of Main in downtown Niles. Everyone is welcome to visit anytime.

If you know of someone in the area who can sing, call Nick Stuart at 616-556-0527, or e-mail us at: lighthousechorus@hotmail.com. You can also visit us at: <http://community.mlive.com/cc/lighthousechorus>.

Flint

By Chuck Murray

The Wayne Chapter's RENAISSANCE CHORUS visited the FLINT ARROWHEAD BARBERSHOP CHORUS (FABC) in late October when they delivered "the DOC Jug." FABC used the visit as a reason to party with lots of singing, bratwursts, sauerkraut, and liquid refreshment. Their visit cost the chapter many dollars for the jug because Wayne showed up "in force."

For those who are not familiar with the FABC meeting place, we meet most Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. in the hall at the rear of the Croatian-Slovenian Home on Dort Highway, north of Court St., and next to YaYa's Chicken.

The annual Chicken Dinner fund-raiser was a success. FABC members helped serve one of the "best chicken dinners in the USA" at the Flint Masonic Temple. Baked chicken, homemade dressing, real gravy, cranberry-orange cocktail, and 50 million desserts. Chapter quartet TIME OUT! serenaded tables with melodious chords. The quartet was suitably compensated for their efforts when one lady approached them, grasped bari Doug Lynn's hands in hers, and said that she especially enjoyed "Kathlene" as it re-

(Continued on page 33)

Flint

(Continued from page 32)

minded her of her father. A tear crept slowly down her right cheek as she smiled.

FABC prepared for eight scheduled singouts, including the Genesee Valley Center, several retirement and nursing homes, and area hospitals. Chapter quartet TIME OUT! helped raise funds for the restoration of the Durand Railroad Depot at a special Christmas affair in early December.

Spring show preparations are underway. Members are busy learning new music for a special "back-to-the-future" theme show to celebrate the millennium.

Plans have been firmed up for the annual January chorus retreat to Higgins Lake for the finishing touches on the show music. Members look forward to this time for perfecting new music, pouring libations to the Gods of Music, telling rotten jokes, forgetting shaving, smoking cigars, beating Fred at cribbage, and other things men normally do at retreats!

Youth Outreach Chairperson Tony Corrie has been busy researching ways to involve youth in barbershop. A high school quartet competition is not out of the question. Chapter quartet TIME OUT! has donated youth scholarships to offset membership dues for younger members.

Grand Rapids

By Dick Williams

Well, another convention weekend is behind us and what a weekend it was. Plenty of great singing and excitement in both the quartet and chorus compe-

titions. Next spring should be just as exciting.

Compliments to the Muskegon Chapter for a great job as our hosts and a very special thanks to "big" Mike O'Donnell for making sure our chorus sang after the intermission. Thanks again, Mike.

Congratulations to our new district champions, WJBC, featuring the vocal talents of Jason, Craig, Brian, and "big daddy" Wayne. They really did a fantastic job. I thought they could have used a little more bass, though.

Congratulations, too, to PHILATOGA TOWNSHIP, who took second place, and RESOLUTION, who took third. What a great job you both did.

Here in River City, we are pretty darn proud of our own chapter quartets for the outstanding job they did. It was great to have four quartets and part of another singing Friday and also having two quartets in the finals Saturday evening.

CROSS COUNTY CONNECTION did a great job coming out of the chute first on Friday. It's tough starting off the contest, but they did a nice job. PRIZM and FOOL'S GOLD did one heck of a job Saturday evening.

Dave Kutter, one of our chapter's elite baritones, sang with three Muskegon Chapter members in the quartet, HARMONY TRANSFER.

Plenty of kudos, but there was one quartet who stole the show and the hearts of the audience, those wild and crazy guys from FOOL'S GOLD. They were just great. (Dan, just keep your darn pants on!)

We can't believe it yet, but we'll take it. Yes sir, those old guys did it. Congratulations to SHADES OF GRAY, Pioneer District Quartet Champions.

Also, congrats to the SILVER

DOMES, who will represent the Pioneer District at the senior quartet competition.

As for our chorus, all I can say is we couldn't be more proud or happy to once again be representing Pioneer at the international competition in Kansas City next July. We worked our fannies off preparing for this opportunity and Ann [Jarchow] wasn't about to let us slip up or do anything less than our best effort.

Her energy and enthusiasm is amazing and very contagious. You can't help but want to do your very best for her and yourself. Come Saturday, the day of the contest, we were very confident and ready to sing. The results proved her correct. Thanks, Ann.

A special thanks to Joel Mills for his help and encouragement along with "big daddy" Kinde for his assistance.

The choreography for our up-tune was the work of Mr. Tim Kilmartin. I wouldn't mention this, but Tim's ego is as big as he is and needs to be stroked now and then plus he's a great (?) lead and we need him in the chorus.

Our chorus is now working on our Christmas music in preparation for our Christmas show with Ann's Sweet Adeline chorus. Between the two choruses, there will be close to 150 voices on stage. We'll be doing two shows: Friday, December 10, at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, December 12, at 2:00 p.m., both at St. Cecilia Music Society Building. If interested in attending, call Jack Schneider at 616-361-6820.

Our officers for 2000: President Dale Mattis, Secretary Joe Smits, Treasurer Jack Schneider, VP Chapter Development Fritz Juhnke, VP

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Chapters in Action

Grand Rapids

(Continued from page 33)

Music & Performance Joel Mills, VP of Special Events Tom Frens. Board members-at-large are Dan Casamatta, Corey Dekker, Ralph Mueller, Don Strong, Paul Slack, and Paul Robinson.

Lansing

By Brian Dunckel

In case you have missed our news, let me first introduce our new director, Jeff Gougeon. We are thrilled to have Jeff on board and look forward to bigger and better things in the future from the chorus. He has brought some great ideas to us and we are very excited about the prospects.

In the time we were without a full-time director, we didn't sit idle. Larry Parker took his place in front of the chorus and did a great job. Add that to his many district and chapter contributions. You know what they say, "If you want something done, ask a busy person!" Thanks, Larry, for the time and effort. It was greatly appreciated.

The chapter held its annual picnic in July, and in August held a putt-putt golf outing. Both were well attended and very enjoyable. Not only good fun, but good food, good friends, and good fellowship. Oh, yeah, we sang a few songs, too!

In September, we once again answered the telephones at our local PBS station, WKAR, for their fall pledge drive and the airing of the

barbershop performance, "Can't Stop Singing."

Preparations are well underway for our third annual High School Quartet Contest. This year's event will be held on Saturday, February 12, at Chippewa Middle School in Okemos. Mark your calendars and plan to attend to support the next generation of barbershop harmony.

October's election of officers saw nearly our entire board of directors re-elected (by choice!) to the positions they held this year. I think this speaks highly of their commitment to the chapter and what we saw as a need for stability in our time of uncertainty. The election results: President Brian Dunckel, VP Chapter Development Reese Olger, VP Music & Performance Dennis Wortz, Program VP Jason Fox, and Secretary/Treasurer Larry Parker. Board members-at-large are Larry Best, Mike Cirrito, and Dave Toman. Past president is Bruce Smith.

Muskegon

By Tom Porritt

With help from friends and family, the Muskegon Chapter thoroughly enjoyed hosting the fall convention at Battle Creek. With Mike O'Donnell as chairman, along with Bob Weber, Dave Jones, Bob O'Brien, and Jim Smith handling registrations, back stage, auditorium, and the Heartspring lottery, everything moved along smoothly with few glitches. The sales at the Barbershop Shop were brisk as Henry and Mamie Malmquist as chair persons were ably assisted by Barb and Jim Duff and Diane Wittkop.

The hospitality room was a great experience. Lots of visiting quartets, food, and good fellowship! Mike

and Jan O'Donnell, Treasurer Steve Aiken and Diane Aiken, along with President John Tyler and wife, Patty, and others stocked the snacks and beverages! The leftover snacks will be put to good use at our 59th anniversary open house at Whittlow's banquet room.

Jim Smith's Heartspring crew sold all the Heartspring lottery tickets. Marty Bomers, a 40-year-plus member, led chapter members at three church singouts this summer. He also lead the chapter members who made it to the Sunday morning church service at Battle Creek that featured chapter Secretary Charles Kitchka as the principal speaker. The chapter was appreciative of the many favorable comments.

Roger Lewis and the Pioneer officers were generally pleased with the way the conference went. The Pioneer officers were also very helpful in answering chapter member's questions.

Small chapters should not hesitate to host a convention, as friends and wives can make it a memorable occasion! The district has reason to be proud of the fine quartets and choruses that participated. The wives of chapter members deserve much credit for their participation and support. Special thanks to those who made special food items and to Patty Tyler, who organized the group.

During the summer months, many chapter members showed up to man our chapter float in parades at the Oceana County Asparagus Festival, Muskegon Summer Celebration, and Fremont Baby Food Festival, and survived the rain at the Grand Haven Coast Guard Festival. The chapter's sound system and Bob Weber's generator escaped the

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rain with no damage.

The chapter also sponsored high school singers to the Harmony Explosion Camp for the fourth year. Tim Hall, age eleven, and son of bass Barry Hall, joined the chapter this summer and sang on our September show and at the fall contest. Way to go, Tim! It's the chapter's first father-and-son combination since the Wingett family in the 1980s.



Muskegon Chapter Program Chairman Bob O'Brien pins a chapter badge on Tim Hall as Tim's Dad, bass Barry Hall beams proudly.

Our thanks and accolades go to the PATCH CHORDS and POWER PLAY, who put on dazzling performances at our annual show "How the West was Sung" at the Frauenthal Theater on September 16, 1999. Our audience was responsive and enthusiastic.

Traverse City

By Elbert Ford

Greetings to harmony lovers everywhere! We survived the convention and chorus competition — still trying to make sense out of finishing in eighth place. One reason might be that we had a presentation package this time. Not only did we offer more of an opportunity to be judged, in the departure from just acting as display window mannequins, but it seemed to destroy

our sound as well. We can see it will take some work and maybe a few contests to bring everything back to the CCC level of excellence.

We are presently learning a package Christmas show from the Society, which we plan to perform at various schools in TC and also a show at the Leelanau Sands Casino. We are also getting the music for our June show in order, along with learning tapes for each song. We have a teaching quartet present each song. We then give each guy a voice-predominate learning tape for practice at home. Seems like a well-thought-out plan to me — let's hope the guys do!

Congratulations to the FOUR-MAN FISHIN' TACKLE CHOIR for their victory in the Bush League Contest in Gaylord. Even though we can only claim the bass, Neil Nugent, they seem as if they are a chapter quartet and have helped us out on some sing-outs.

Plans are in place to conduct our Barbershop Bucks auction soon. What! You've never heard of BSBs? They are funny monies given out at rehearsals, performances, competitions, and for anything else the chairman deems rewardable. Then once a year, we have a ladies night where we auction off donated and purchased goodies. The only money that can be used is BSBs. It helps to have an auctioneer in your chapter, which we do — Jerry Cole.

We are set to install our 2000 board on December 17. The following men have stepped forward to serve: President Al Bonney, VP Music & Program Neil Nugent, VP Music & Performance Art Lambert, VP Charitable Giving Clyde Whipple, VP New Membership Bill Weitschat, VP Membership Services Lee Somers, VP Chapter Marketing Jeff Belanger, Secretary Chuck

Jewell, Members-At-Large John Hoyt, Treasurer Hank Johnson, Randy Mercier, and Jim Mudgett. Also on the board, automatically, is the past president. Once again, it will be Maurie Allen!

Sitting in on board meetings but with no voting powers, Marty Chirgwin and Elbert Ford.

The chapter officer structure has been revolutionized and this will be our first year at having a board this large, but we want to serve not only the Society better, but the chapter and community as well.

Keep us in mind if you're up this way, Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church on Airport Access Road, near Munson Avenue.

Holland

By Art Lane

Guest quartet wins contest

A brand new quartet from Zeeland High School beat out six chapter quartets in a singing contest held by our chapter in September.

The FOURTISSIMOS won first place in their first-ever appearance in barbershop singing. The quartet put on a sidesplitting "Old MacDonald" routine that brought cheers from seasoned barbershoppers.

The four young men are Josh and Jon Zoerhof, John Siehling, and Geoff Haney. Director of choral music at the school is Tim Oonk, son of Jack W. Oonk.

New quartet big hit at pumpkin fest

The second performance of the FOURTISSIMOS was a few days later at the Windmill Chorus Pumpkin Festival in Zeeland, where the students received cheers from 1,000 enthusiasts.

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Upcoming Events

1999

Dec. 10/12 Grand Rapids Show

2000

Jan. 21 Windsor Chapter's Uncle Sam Night

Feb. 18-19 Detroit-Oakland Show

March 3-4 Huron Valley Show

March 4 Lansing Show

March 11 Kalamazoo Show

March 11 Monroe North Show

April 15 Grand Rapids Show

April 28-30 District Spring Convention

May 20 Flint Show

June 9-10 Traverse City Show

June 9 Windsor Send-Off

Oct. 7 Muskegon Show

Oct. 20-22 District Fall Convention

Oct. 28 Pontiac-Waterford Show

Dec. 1-3 Grand Rapids Show

Note: All chapter show activities must be cleared through the district secretary.

Please notify:

Jack Schneider,

... Now edit NO

The average person thinks he isn't.

Some people are afraid of heights. I'm afraid of widths.

I'd like to live long enough to see a quartet who could sing the phrase, "gonna build a little home for two, or three, or four," without using their fingers as counters.

You sing with deep emotion about Mandy Lee, Evaline, Aura Lee, Daisy, Yona, Lulu, and the queen of them all, Adeline. Get real! In your entire life, you've never known a woman with any of these names.

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Holland

(Continued from page 35)

Also performing in the show were the WEST SHORE SWEET ADELIN CHORUS directed by Mike Oonk, the HOLLAND WINDMILL CHORUS directed by Myke Lucas, and the DUTCH MASTERS and GOLD STANDARD quartets. Chorus members Al Plantenga, Steve Foster, and Ken Cook surprised the audience by performing with faces painted on their stomachs.

"We're Havin' a Ball!"

The chapter invited their highly appreciated wives to a party in November, aimed at whipping up enthusiasm among members for a fund-raising effort in December. The party was entitled "We're Havin' a Ball!" It featured balloons and decorative balls.


In keeping with the theme, chefs Don and Sue Lucas created a round menu. The selections included meat balls, broc-

coli, round potato chips, and cherry tomatoes. For dessert, there were doughnut holes and round candies.

Barbershoppers honored

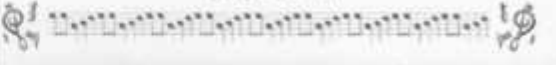
Myke Lucas was named Barber-shopper of the Month for August, Bill McAndrew for September.


Our chapter has a new quartet. BLACK RIVER. It's composed of tenor Bill McAndrew, lead Mark Andrew, bari Steve Foster, and bass James Hall. ■



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