

Pioneer Troubadour

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



June/July 1999

Inside

H. S. Quartet Contest	9
Macomb QQQ	11
Spring Convention	15
Harmony Round-Up	21

Power Play sets family scene while Lansing steams to title

by Jim Styer,
Pioneer District Convention
Public Relations

Setting the scene, the quartet musically paints a picture of a father singing to a slumbering baby, introducing its version of "Rock-A-Bye Baby."

It's vintage POWER PLAY.

They were the winners of the Pioneer District quartet contest at this year's spring competition held on April 23-24 in Battle Creek, hosted by the Battle Creek Chapter.

Then the foursome tells of "Little Lady Make-Believe," a small girl in dress-up clothes. "You could never love the doll you hold as much as I love you," the quartet sings. "Dream your little dreams and may they come true."

These and many of the quartet's other numbers, including three of the four that were sung in spring competition, were provided by Society arranger Tom Gentry.

With themes of family and love, POWER PLAY continues to improve, if district scores are an indication.

In international pre-lims, the Slamka family quartet scored 1904 two years ago, 1983 last year, and 2016 this spring. This will be the third consecutive year that POWER PLAY represents the Pioneer District in international competition,



POWER PLAY: (clockwise from left) Mark Slamka, Mike Slamka, Jack Slamka, and Don Slamka.

this time in Anaheim, Calif. The quartet placed 11th last year at international and 10th in 1997.

The Slamka foursome from the Macomb and Hillsdale chapters is comprised of tenor Don, lead Michael, baritone Mark, and bass (daddy) Jack. They were 1989 district champs and also previously competed internationally in 1990-94.

In this spring's contest, POWER

PLAY was consistent, scoring 1008 in the semi-finals and 1008 in the finals. Scores were very close in all of the three judging categories (music, presentation, and singing) and category scores varied by only nine points (163 to 172) among all four songs in the two competition rounds.

Joining POWER PLAY as Pioneer representatives at the international

(Continued on page 15)



Pioneer Troubadour

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



Editor: Gary Simon, 6530 Paul Revere Lane, Canton, MI 48187-3054
734-981-6342 (R) 810-578-3844 (B) 734-844-7427 (F) E-mail: GSimon1@wwnet.net

PRESIDENT

David A. Cole
604 W. John Beers, Box 63
Stevensville, MI 49127
616-429-6559 (R) 616-982-4045 (B)
DCole1@Juno.com

SOCIETY BOARD MEMBER

Donald Challman
916 Tanglewood
Shoreview, MN 55126
612-484-9738 (R) 612-293-8880 (B)
BdChallman@aol.com

CONTEST & JUDGING VP

Joel Mills
6617 Vintage Drive
Hudsonville, MI 49426
616-662-1770 (R) 616-532-7744 (B)
JMills@voyager.net

CHORUS DIR. DEVELOPMENT VP

Fred Kienitz
2292 Golden Pond
Fenton, MI 48430
810-750-8259 (R)
Fritzki@mindspring.com

MARKETING/PUBLIC RELATIONS VP

Doug Pearson
169 Lexington
East Lansing, MI 48823
517-351-9587 (R) 517-886-1699 (B)
DPearson8@juno.com

SECRETARY

Jack F. Schneider
1311 Northlawn Street NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49505
616-361-6820 (R)
JSchnei472@aol.com

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Larry L. Parker
1416 New York Avenue
Lansing, MI 48906-4538
517-372-8389 (R)
LParker437@aol.com

MEMBER SERVICES VP

Raleigh Bloch
2033 Wild Cherry Lane
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
616-375-6849 (R) 616-375-6849 (B)
RBloch@compuserve.com

EVENTS VP

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

CHAPTER SUPPORT/LEADERSHIP VP

Doran McTaggart
890 Buckingham
Windsor, ON N8S 2C8
Canada
519-948-0637 (R)

MUSIC & PERFORMANCE VP

Russell Seely
7626 Barnsbury
West Bloomfield, MI 48324
810-363-8977 (R) 313-896-5650 (B)
Sas4fits@aol.com

TREASURER

R. Stanley Williams
421 Franklin St.
Leslie, MI 49251
517-589-5586 (R) 517-322-5996 (B)
RWilliams@voyager.net

TROUBADOUR PUBLISHING INFORMATION

Published bimonthly in February, April, June, August, October, and December. Copy deadline: 5th of the month prior to the month of publication. The *Troubadour* is published by the authority of the Pioneer District Association of the Chapters of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc. All articles not by-lined are by the editor and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the members or officers of the district. Space will be made available for opposing views relevant to the issue. Nothing will be published that is in violation of the Society's Code of Ethics.

Subscription rate for non-members: \$6.00 annually, \$1.50 for single copy. Remit to editor.

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

Submission Information

Next Copy Deadline July 5, 1999

E-mail: GSimon1@wwnet.net

Fax: 734-844-7427

Phone: 734-981-6342 (R)
810-578-3944 (B)

There are four methods of submitting information for the *Troubadour*, listed in order of preference:

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

Troubadour Advertising Copy Size ■ Rates

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

Troubadour pages are standard 8-1/2 x 11 inches with 1/2-inch margins. Full-page copy is 7-1/2 x 10 inches.

Ad sizes available:

Full page (75 sq. inches)	\$100
2/3 page (50 sq. inches)	\$75
1/2 page (37-1/2 sq. inches)	\$65
1/3 page (25 sq. inches)	\$50
1/6 page (12-1/2 sq. inches)	\$40
Quartet-size card	\$13
Quartet-size card (annual)	\$55

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

A View From The Top

David Cole, President

Spring convention provides many winners, memories!



I was delighted to see yet another successful convention for Pioneer. Having had many conversations with other district presidents, you should be very proud of

the effort that your Pioneer convention team puts into each convention. Headed by VP of Events Roger Lewis, it is comforting to know that everything will be handled — even the little last minute glitches.

Congratulations also go out to Roger for his recent nomination as Executive Vice President of the Executive Committee of our Society. This puts Roger in line for the presidency following Chuck Watson's term in office. Congratulations, Roger!

This convention featured the renewed venue of Battle Creek's McCamly Place and the Western Michigan Auditorium. Memories of years past went rushing through my mind as I walked into that auditorium for the first time since our last convention here six years ago.

New memories were created as we watched POWER PLAY score big points, and Lansing claim the district chorus title. We also enjoyed PRIVATELY FUNDED, our college quartet champions. Back at the hotel, we enjoyed Macomb County's afterglow package that included chapter quartets, and also POWER

PLAY and CHICAGO NEWS.

Your district board managed to conduct some business during the busy weekend, which highlighted:

1. Approval for three non-member directors to attend Harmony College with a 50% sponsorship from the district; and 2. Reaffirmation of inclusion of the show package for the fall district quartet competition.

A few surprises crept into the chorus and quartet competition as several contestants were pleasantly surprised with their respective finishes. Congratulations to Kalamazoo and Holland for their showings, as well as UPSTAGE SOUND for the runner-up finish. Hats off to the Sault Ste. Marie chapter for attending the convention for the first time in many years. It was a long drive, but chapter director Don Bazeley reports that everyone was excited about the weekend, and plans to return.

Speaking of Don Bazeley, he was introduced at the House of Delegates meeting on Friday afternoon as the new district Executive Vice President. Don will take over the leadership roll following the end of my term at the end of this year. Please wish Don well the next time you see him.

Finally, thanks to Battle Creek for hosting the convention. The "Tony the Tiger" theme was great fun, and I for one enjoyed the opportunity to sing for Darryl Flinn, our Executive Director of the Society. ■

Election of District Officers

President
Secretary
Treasurer
Vice President of Member Services
Vice President of Chapter Support & Leadership Training
Vice President of Chorus Director Development
Vice President of Contest & Judging
Vice President of Events
Vice President of Marketing & Public Relations
Vice President of Music and Performance
Vice President of Youth Outreach

Notice of Nomination Procedures

The election of the district officers listed above takes place each year at the Fall District Convention. The new District By-Laws, which have been in effect since January 1, 1997, require that all nominations of persons for district office be reviewed by and be acceptable to the appropriate Society committee. This procedure must be followed for nominations anticipated to be made from the floor at the fall House of Delegates Meeting as well as for nominations by the District Nominating Committee.

Therefore, nomination from the floor at the fall House of Delegates Meeting of any person to fill a district office must be preceded by submission of the potential nominee's written permission, resume, and credentials to the District Nominating Committee by June 1, 1999, for forwarding to the appropriate Society committee for review

(Continued on page 32)

Society Synopsis

Don Challman, Society Board Member

The 1999 experience (Part III)



Having dealt with the Society's goals regarding music and membership in the last two issues, this article will deal with the subject of "image" — chapter and Society.

Beginning at the chapter level, we all know that audiences are becoming more sophisticated in their viewing of vocal and visual performances. As a result, our public performances MUST be of reasonable quality. Society President Ed Waesche has stressed that we no longer can count on being admired simply because we are "local." Our style won't replace anything, but need to be brought to a level to be recognized in the same light as country, western, jazz, blues, etc.

We need to perform who we are ... Barbershoppers. We are becoming too willing to adopt, or better yet, force our style into other styles. Sometimes it works; usually it doesn't. Overly complex stuff can be done by few; we do new and young Barbershoppers a disservice by not directing them to what they can handle.

President Ed mentioned in an earlier publication that 30 percent of our chapters sing at the mid "C" level. Yet, a great number of those singing below a "C" level accept performance opportunities, resulting in a good deal of public exposure. Is poor quality singing the

barbershop "image" we wish to create? This type of exposure definitely has a negative effect on recruitment into our hobby.

Last fall, 380 choruses competed in district level contests ... of 800 Society chapters. At what level do you think that the majority of the non-competitors — those not qualifying for district — scored or would have scored?

How to fix this problem. Try Standing Ovation, a program through your district's Music & Performance VP. He will provide you with a qualified person who will give you a confidential evaluation of your show package ... how to improve, etc., and provide you with the support necessary to improve.

On the Society side of things, efforts are underway to broaden relationships with media sources that will result in effective public relations. Specifically, use of the Society web page for non-members to request further information about SPEBSQSA is being encouraged, with a goal of 25 visits/requests per month. A chapter and quartet locator function is being maintained on the web site to enhance geographic search functions. The barbershop events calendar and show dates on the web site are being updated monthly.

Plans are underway to develop stronger ties and promotional efforts with National Flag Day Found-

(Continued on page 28)

We get letters ...

From Executive Director Darryl Flinn

Hello Pioneer Barbershoppers,

I am writing this note as I travel to the Sunshine District for the last quartet pre-lim contest of the qualifying season.

Meredith and I had a fabulous time at your spring event in Battle Creek. We felt warmly welcomed and the hospitality was just splendid.

Congratulations to the Lansing Chapter as new Pioneer District Chorus Champions, and to Power Play, who showed us a brilliant quartet performance as they won the right to represent the great Pioneer District at Anaheim. Every best wish to Macomb County as they take on the challenge of Anaheim.

Special thanks to Dave and Lori Cole, and the leadership team, for hosting such a terrific weekend. The business of barbershopping is being well cared for in Pioneer.

Lastly, may I say a big thanks to my *ole' fren's* Roger and Sue Lewis, who pulled out all of the stops to care for our fun and comfort ... and who invited me to actually direct a song in the chorus contest.

It was a great weekend; can't wait for my next visit.

Best personal regards to all,
Darryl

**Need info. from Kenosha?
Want to order from Harmony
Marketplace?**

***They're only a toll-free call
away:***

1-800-876-SING

Here's the Pitch

Raleigh Bloch, Executive & Member Services VP

You want me to expose myself?



Hi there. Well here we are again. So what would you like to hear this time? *Well you've told me about all the things our chapter can do to increase our membership, but what can I do personally?*

Hmmmm, that's a good question. Well first of all you need to recognize that I'm not an expert on this stuff. I'm just a Joe Barber-shopper like you, but let's think this over together. *OK, but where do we begin?* Well, if we want to attract new members, they have to know about us, right? *Dub.* Well then we've got to expose ourselves.

You want me to expose myself? I'll get arrested. I don't think that is going to get us more members and, if it does, I don't think they are the kind we're looking for. No, I don't mean that kind of exposure. I mean we need to be out there active in the community, doing other things besides barbershop. That way we will meet others that we can attract to barbershop.

OK, I see your point, but shouldn't we also show off our hobby? Yes, yes, yes. *But that's not something I can do by myself.* True. But when you go to see other activities in your community, do you like things that are done

poorly? *Are you kidding? I get turned off by poorly performed sports, a bad sermon, or some dumb painting.* Well there you are. *There I'm what?* Your chorus or quartet performance in the community.

Oh I get it, but we were talking about what I can do — not what the chorus or my quartet can do. You can do a lot to help your chorus by practicing your barbershop art form. Making sure you know the words and notes can go along way to making that community exposure something beneficial to our hobby. *I agree, but it's not just words and notes that make a good performance. We need to be off our heels and actively involved in the performance, matching word sounds, singing with emotion. People enjoy it better. It's not singing, it's the performance.*

You're right there — who wants to join a group that performs poorly? Most people want to be a part of something that is really good and that they can be proud of. *Well that gives me something to work on. I think this has been helpful.* I agree, but don't forget that all important thing we can each do separately. *What's that?* Ask for the sale. *I get it. In others words, invite someone down to be a part of something good. BARBERSHOPPING!* Hey, we did pretty good on this. ■

Youth Outreach

by Al Bonney

Dr. Greg Lyne, Society Director of Music Education and Services wrote an article not long ago entitled "Introducing Barbershop Music To Music Educators." In this article, he speaks about many of the questions our chapters have before approaching local music teachers at either the jr. high, high school or college levels. As a music educator himself and the husband of a music teacher, Dr. Lyne knows something about this subject. This column lifts freely from this article with his permission. If you would like to have the whole article I will be happy to send it to you.

Dr. Lyne begins ...

In recent years, we've witnessed an increasing number of teachers coming to us with questions about barbershop music, the Society, Harmony Explosion Camps, attending Harmony College, forming quartets in the schools and much more.

This is a most promising time to introduce music educators to barbershop singing. We've seen some success stories wherein a school choral program is markedly enhanced when some barbershop singing is a part of the curriculum. We also have learned that young men (and women) DO love to sing barbershop.

Music teachers are busy people - concerts, festivals, programs, workshops, in-service meetings, faculty responsibilities, and classroom management expectations, to say nothing of rehearsal schedules. If music teachers fear that we are pushing something on them, or that they'll have to assume even more responsibilities, they will not respond favorably.

(Continued on page 26)

Sing ... for life!

Public Relating

Doug Pearson, Marketing & Public Relations VP

Make your annual show bigger than ever



So you have your chapter show coming up. Or maybe you just finished yours and you're looking forward to an even better one next year. If you're like me,

you've attended — and participated in — a number of these yearly extravaganzas. A common thread that connects all of these productions is **MARKETING.**

There's no question that if you produce a quality production, your annual show can become the single best marketing tool to attract new members and other outside bookings throughout the year. Here are a few time-tested tips for your next show passed down from ACOUSTIX singer/marketer extraordinaire Todd Wilson:

- Approach local radio stations to run Public Service Announcements (PSAs) to promote your show, or play a cut from a CD of your headline quartet. Buying ads from these stations will increase the likelihood of them running your PSAs.
- Get one of more of the local papers to do a story about the show with photos, profiling the local chapter or the headliner group that will be on the show.
- Approach one or more local TV stations to become a sponsor for your annual show. This contact should be made at least six months prior to the show. Having one of the local stations as one of the

sponsors adds credibility to your event and increases your odds of getting a PSA on the air.

- Make sure you have on your mailing list the name of every Barbershopper, Sweet Adeline, and Harmony Inc. member with a 60-mile radius.
- Do regular mailings that request forwarding information to help keep your mailing list current. It costs about 50 cents each time you receive a new address notice, but that is certainly cheaper than re-sending mailings to bad addresses over and over again.
- Offer a door prize(s) at every show to gather names for your mailing list or to seek potential members.
- Place an ad in your district publication (in our case, the *Troubadour*) or the *Harmonizer* to promote your show.
- Ask your headliner act to provide you with names from their mailing list (if they have such a list) in your region of the country. With their permission, add these names to your list for future events as well as to attract new patrons.
- Start a sponsorship/patron fund raising program. Utilize both individuals and businesses. Develop a benefits package, price it, and promote it effectively.

On the subject of marketing, Todd also emphasizes business cards as an important tool for success. "The PR job is everyone's," he says. "Everyone should carry

(Continued on page 28)

Editorial

Bits and pieces

Random thoughts at midnight ...

How cordial and supportive the Pioneer District leadership has been as I get comfortable in this job. They submit their articles without prodding and on time. Thanks, guys.

Several district barbershoppers have contacted me about wrong addresses on their *Troubadour* mailings. As much as I'd like to help, the mailing list comes straight from Kenosha. If this is a problem, let your chapter secretary know; he can contact Kenosha and have their records updated.

Chapter presidents: I'd like to expand the *Chapters in Action* column in future *Troubs*. If your chapter isn't currently submitting articles regularly, why not ask one of your members to write a couple of paragraphs about your chapter happenings. Let all of us in the district know your chapter is alive and kicking!

Although Russ Seely seemed pleased with the turn-out at Harmony Round-Up 1999 at MSU, I wondered why more Pioneer District barbershoppers don't take advantage of this annual opportunity to hone their singing and/or directing skills. To be coached by the best the Society has to offer, along with classes in sight reading, woodshedding, tag singing — all of this (and more) for only \$99!

Lastly, I've moved the submission deadline for the *Troub* to the 5th of the month instead of the 15th. The intent is to get this into your hands on a more-timely basis.

Keep in touch.

Gary

Chapter Coaching

Doran McTaggart, DVP-CSLT



Are you a potential leader? As a Barber-shopper are you ready to volunteer your services to your chapter? Are you prepared to do

your part to move your chapter forward? I hope so! Some say that this is just -a hobby, and I joined to sing, not work.

The truth of the matter is that a lot of work must be done so everyone can enjoy singing. Someone must open the door of the meeting hall, set up the chairs and risers, make coffee, type out the meeting night format, prepare music, get guest books and other materials ready, collect dues and other monies, record minutes, requisition materials, store uniforms, arrange transportation, sell tickets and program ads, and the list goes on.

Somebody must step forward and agree to do some of these jobs at the chapter level. Successful completion of these chores will catch the eyes of the nominating committee. A board member-at-large is a good training ground for future chapter leaders. It's a chance to get your feet wet in administration. Helping to make decisions at the chapter level is a rewarding experience. Many newer and younger members get to this position and then say "NO" when asked to serve as a VP or president. Thanks but no thanks. Now the process of officer training starts all over again.

The result is that we end up re-

cycling our officers at the chapter level. After chapter president, then what? The district nominating committee constantly looks for chapter leaders to step up the ladder to serve at a higher level. A few accept, but most refuse a district position of responsibility. The result is the same again. We end up recycling our officers at the district level, too.

Past district presidents O'Donnell, Lewis, Seely, and McTaggart are district vice presidents. Past International President Gillespie is our COTS coordinator. Past division VP's Anderson and Fritzen are chapter coaches, and Bazely will be next year's district president. Past DP Berry is also a chapter coach.

At the Society level, many past district presidents, Society board members, and Society presidents are involved in the CSLT program. I believe that when a person becomes a member of an organization, he has a responsibility to help it grow and prosper. When the opportunity for a leadership role presents itself, step forward and grab it, and do the best you can.

Since I am responsible for leadership training, I plead that you will consider taking a job of responsibility in your chapter and district. People before us preserved this wonderful singing hobby of ours by accepting these offices and contributing their talents to keep our Society alive and well. You, too, have an opportunity to serve at various levels and contribute to keeping our Society viable for future genera-

(Continued on page 28)

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

You're **excited.**
The **whole chorus**
is excited.

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

Not yet you can't

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

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

E-mail it.

Snail mail-it on a floppy.

Fax it.

FedEx it.

Western Union it.

Pony Express it.

However you get it there,

**You Must
submit It!**

Because,
face it ...

If you want your horn
tooted, you'd better
be the one

blowin'

Pioneer Troubadour

Take Note

Fred Kienitz, CDD VP



It is now official. The third Pioneer Chorus Director's Workshop Intensive (CDWI) is now in place and will become a reality on Saturday, June 26, 1999, at Gaylord, Michigan. That's the big day when the upper part of our district which includes the Sault (Canada), Traverse City, Petoskey, Alpena, and Gaylord chapters will be having their directors gathering for a fun but hectic day of Chorus Director's Workshop Intensive. And let me say that this fun-filled session is indeed "intensive."

"How intensive?" you ask. What a great question and now I cannot resist the opportunity to tell you the answer. (When you write your own articles, you can add the cute little lead-in questions and get away with it.) The entire session, which runs about seven to eight hours, is a great experience for directors in that they can choose areas they feel need to be worked on, changed, or advised by experts as to what concepts or ideas might, and in most cases will, improve their directing ability.

But still another important aspect of this program is that these directors need a chorus to direct (usually pole cat stuff). Thus, I am extending an invitation to members of all the chapters involved to feel free and welcome to come to the First United Methodist Church at 11:00 a.m. and serve as a member of the official SPEBSQSA GUINEA PIG CHORUS of Greater Northern

Michigan and one foreign chapter.

In interviewing these volunteers in the past, I have found that they really have a blast because they are, in a round-about way, in on what is happening and are thus able to hear the changes inside the chorus. It's really a great day for all and especially for those chorus members because they are going back home with a feeling that they were in on and participated in a great new experience that they know will help their chapter performances in the future.

IF YOU NEED MORE DETAILS, FEEL FREE TO CALL (810) 750-8259 OR E-MAIL:

fritzki@mindspring.com.

One final thing I would like to share with all Pioneer chapters. If your ensemble needs an outsider for coaching, singing techniques, better vocal production, timing, pace, forward motion, intensity, or emotional impact in selling your product (songs) to the public, call me and I will see that you get help from me or a member of my CDD staff.

There are eight of us going to seed if you don't use our services. And it would really be a shame if your chapter chorus doesn't improve for the lack of a single phone call.

One final tidbit for all you ARM-WAVERS out there. We now have a program in place by our Society to certify directors. I have sent all of my front-liners a copy of this brochure; there are tons of items of study skills listed

(Continued on page 28)

Art Lane wins district PR award

by Jim Styer

Primarily because of his work on — and promotion of — two major chapter projects, Art Lane of Holland has been named Pioneer District Public Relations Officer of the Year. Lane has been entered as the district's representative in the Society's PR competition. Winners will be announced at the international convention in July in Anaheim, Calif.

The nomination was kept a secret from Lane until he received the award at the spring convention in Battle Creek. He was nominated by fellow chapter member James Hall, who prepared the entry along with other chapter members. Hall said, "Besides our busy schedule of local performances and activities, our chapter also completed a singing tour of the Netherlands and purchased the Park Theater in downtown Holland, making it an extraordinary year." Hall added, "These projects were successful largely due to Art's Herculean efforts, and they symbolize how indispensable he is to us in so many ways."

In another tribute, chapter historian Dale Bekker said, "With his familiarity in dealing with newspaper people, and with his friendly persuasiveness in dealing with radio and TV people, we now have a relationship with these people that could be envied by any PR firm in the state."

Much of Lane's written material appeared in the *Holland Sentinel*, *Grand Rapids Press*, the chapter's

(Continued on page 29)

Lansing Chapter boasts another success

Top singing turned GLITTER into Gold at the Second Annual Youth Harmony Barbershop Quartet competition held in Okemos. The successful activity was sponsored by the Lansing Chapter and its district champion chorus, the CAPITOL CITY CHORDSMEN.

The winning quartet - GLITTER - featured four finely-tuned females from Holt High School. Each member of GLITTER received a \$500 scholarship for advanced schooling or training. In addition, Holt High School receives \$500 from the Lansing Chapter for its vocal music program.

The event brought together six competing male and female quartets from mid-Michigan. Its purpose is to help promote vocal music and the art of four-part barbershop singing in the schools. Also performing and presenting the awards at the competition were the new Pioneer District College Quartet Champions, PRIVATELY FUNDED, from Hillsdale College.



First place high School quartet GLITTER (front row) with Pioneer District College Champion quartet PRIVATELY FUNDED.

"The Lansing chapter is proud to boast of an important 'first' by becoming the initial Pioneer District chapter last year to sponsor a high school barbershop quartet contest," said Contest Coordinator Dennis Wortz. "With our Society's empha-

sis on Youth Outreach, we hope other Pioneer chapters will undertake similar contests."

GLITTER will be invited to perform next March as part of the Lansing Chapter's annual show at Michigan State's Wharton Center. ■

Convention thoughts while shaving

By Doug Pearson
Marketing & Public Relations VP

♦ Departing director Jamie Carey and my good buddies in the Lansing chorus performed magnificently in capturing the district crown with a triple-E performance: Excellence in singing, Entertainment, and Enthusiasm. Hope to see you back in the barbershop ranks soon, Jamie. Don't leave your many talents on a shelf!

♦ Putting together both a JOE BARBERSHOP CHORUS and a dual-

member CEREAL CITY CHORUS was a nifty idea. Singing participation should be the name of the game in our hobby, and this was a good way of accomplishing it.

♦ Hank Hedges and his Gaylord crew did a super job of promoting the upcoming Bush League weekend during the convention. If you haven't been a part of this vocal Utopia, then by all means make your plans now. It's a wonderful way to spend a weekend.

♦ All of us in the district were saddened to hear of the passing of "Papa John" Slamka, patriarch of the musical Slamka family and member of the Macomb County

Chapter. In talking to son Jack and Papa John's POWER PLAY grandsons at the district convention, it was easy to see the close bond of the three generations of barbershop singers. "Harmony in the family was very important to him in more ways than one," said one of the younger Slamkas. "He always made sure we were all getting along with each other."

♦ Holland's Art Lane has been named Pioneer District Public Relations Officer of the Year, and it couldn't have happened to a nicer guy. If you want to know the value

(Continued on page 31)



Power Play is going west to search for "gold" in California! Cassettes of "The Best Times" (previously sold out) are now available! Along with our recordings, we now offer "Power Play" T-shirts and sport bottles!



<i>Cassettes</i>	<i>Price</i>	<i>Qty</i>	<i>Total</i>
A Musical Scrapbook	\$10.00		
The Best Times	\$10.00		

<i>Compact Discs</i>	<i>Price</i>	<i>Qty</i>	<i>Total</i>
A Musical Scrapbook	\$15.00		
The Best Times	\$15.00		

<i>Other Merchandise</i>	<i>Size</i>	<i>Price</i>	<i>Qty</i>	<i>Total</i>
Power Play "Team Slamka" T-Shirt		\$14.00		
Power Play Sport Bottle		\$6.00		
			Subtotal	

T-Shirts are available in M, L, XL, XXL, and XXXL

Shipping Information

Please specify Name and Address here:

Shipping & Handling:

<i>If order totals:</i>	<i>Add:</i>
Up to \$15.00	\$ 2.50
\$15.01 to \$25.00	\$ 3.50
\$25.01 to \$50.00	\$ 4.50
\$50.01 to \$75.00	\$ 5.25
Over \$75.00	\$ 6.00
Shipping	
Total Sale	

Please send check or money order in U. S. funds to:

Power Play
 1582 Hillcrest Ct.
 St. Clair MI 48079

Macomb Chapter's Quarter Quartet Quontest

by Roy Gurney

On Friday evening, May 7, eight quartets competed for the big prize. The "quontest" was a close one with all things considered: sound, interpretation, stage presence, arrangement, costume, and time. (We still use the categories we're most familiar with).

There's nothing like an old-fashioned novice quartet contest. And when you've got a judging panel the caliber of quartet WJBC (with wacky Wayne Kinde), how can you miss?

Add to that a delicious spaghetti dinner prepared and served by the

best of our own Heritage Belles: Pat Anderson, Karen Schroeder, Sharon Gurney, and Peggy Darling. It was great!

If you're not acquainted with WJBC, the quartet consists of bass Wayne Kinde, tenor Jason Oylar, bari Brian Kaufman, and lead Craig Pollard. We missed them at our district prelims because they had a schedule conflict and had to compete in the Cardinal District.

Eight quartets competed with a song, a tag, and a spoken part, all limited to three minutes. At least five chapters represented southeast Michigan and Canada.

"... and the winner is 2 NU 2 NO!" This up-and-coming foursome consists of lead Rick Schaefer, bass Bob Wisdom, bari Joe Queen, and tenor Robb Smith. They wowed the audience and the judges, and earned the right to keep the QQQ Trophy until next May when they can defend their crown or pass it on to the new champs.

Good food, good entertainment, and fun and prizes for everyone added up to a very enjoyable evening. We have room for more, so make plans to join us next year and see if you can walk off with the trophy. ■



Master of ceremonies Floyd McDaniel (center) presents the QQQ Trophy to quartet 2 NU 2 NO.

The judges, quartet WJBC, carefully analyze the performance of one of the contestants as Derrick Deakins (left) acts as timer.



PioNet hits milestone, district web site expanded

PioNet, the Pioneer District's e-mail list, has achieved another milestone. Subscribers reached 200 in early May — 15 percent of the 1,300 barbershoppers in the district. That's a gain of 14 subscribers in April, and is 57 more than the 143 subscribers a year earlier.

PioNet started with about 30 subscribers in February 1997. Twenty-nine chapters are represented, all but the newest one, Allegan. The greatest number of subscribers per chapter are 24 from Lansing, 21 from Grand Rapids and 18 from Grosse Pointe.

Included on PioNet are virtually all district officers, committee chairmen and judges. About 10 subscribers are from six other districts, including some former Pioneer District barbershoppers.

HOW TO SIGN UP

To sign up (there is no charge), simply send a message with your name and chapter to list operator Jim Styer. His e-mail address is jimstyer@voyager.net. Feel free to send along the name of your quartet, offices you hold, and other barbershop background; Styer will use this to introduce you to other PioNetters.

PioNet is an automated mailing list. Any mail you send to the PioNet address is automatically sent to all subscribers. Traffic is relatively low, averaging about four messages per day.

PioNet has become a major news source of what's happening in the district. It's not a competitor with the bi-monthly district newsletter, the *Troubadour*, but rather supplements the *Troub* with information that's timely between *Troub* issues.

Included are complete competition scores and stories about what happened at district conventions, the latest information available on upcoming conventions, registration forms for conventions and other district activities, news on events such as Harmony Round-Up and Windsor's meatless spaghetti night, announcements of chapter shows (sometimes including cut-rate tickets for PioNet subscribers only) and quartet appearances. This is just an indication of the many things you can learn by being a PioNet subscriber.

Coming in July on PioNet will be news of Pioneer interest from the international convention in Anaheim.

EXPRESS YOUR OPINIONS

PioNet also is used to share ideas and express your opinions on issues. Some of the recent discussion items have been the planned test of quartet show packages at next fall's convention and the question of whether convention sites should be rotated to more locations. On PioNet, you can ask questions, get answers, bring up your concerns and praises, and generally get involved in e-mail chats about anything that affects your Pioneer barbershop life.

If you know of any other Pioneer barbershoppers with e-mail, especially in the new Allegan chapter, have them e-mail Styer so they also can sign up.

WEB SITE EXTENSIVE

The Pioneer District also has its own Web site. Its address is <http://www.harmonize.com/Pioneer/pio.htm>

The extensive site includes more-

permanent information of Pioneer interest, including a long-term calendar; rosters of officers, chapters and quartets; information on when every chapter meets, maps of every chapter meeting location, links to many chapter and quartet web sites, information about Heartspring and SingAmerica service projects and links to several Society web sites.

A large set of Pioneer convention pages includes registration forms, convention schedule, maps of the convention city, links to other convention city web sites, even weather forecasts for the convention city, and an archive of past contest scores and stories about past conventions and competitions.

The Web site has been in operation for more than two years. Webmaster is Steve Sutherland of the Detroit-Oakland Chapter. ■

Grosse Pointe chorus winner of Plateau VI Award

Oops! A mistake was made at the spring convention. The Lansing CAPITOL CITY CHORDSMEN were announced as winners of the Plateau VI Award. This is incorrect! **The rightful winner of the award is the Grosse Pointe LAKESHORE CHORUS.**

By winning the district crown, Lansing is ineligible for other awards (Article XVII, three of the Pioneer District By-Laws).

Please join with me in congratulating Musical Director Steve Pauling and the LAKESHORE CHORUS on competing and winning this award.

Larry Parker, Immediate Past District President

Bulletin editors honored

Gary Simon of the Wayne Chapter has been named Pioneer District Bulletin Editor of the Year for his work on *The Chordinator* in 1998. The award was presented at the district's spring convention in Battle Creek.

A month before the award was announced, Simon was named editor of the district's bulletin, *The Troubadour*.

Simon also placed first in the Pioneer contest in 1996 and 1997 and last year placed fifth in the Society-wide bulletin contest. His score this year is in the same range and he again could place high in the Society contest.

Placing second was Art Lane of Holland, editor of *The Windmill Blade*. He is also entered along with Simon in the Society contest. Lane has consistently placed among the top three bulletin editors in the district during the past several years. Lane also won the district's public relations award this spring.

Winners of the Society contest will be announced at the international convention in July in Anaheim, Calif.

Also judged for score at the district level was Elbert Ford, editor of *The Chorister* in the Traverse City Chapter. Because he had published seven monthly issues, below the minimum requirement of eight, he was not eligible for an award. But his scores indicate that he will be a strong competitor if he enters the contest next year. He placed second in the Content category.

The other two judging categories are Grammar and Style, and Layout and Reproduction. Judges are bulletin editors and former edi-



Jim Styer (left) congratulates Gary Simon on his first place editor's award.

tors in other districts who have gone through a judges' training program. The judges not only score the bulletins, but also provide each editor with a detailed report and suggestions for bulletin improvement.

CONTEST RULES CHANGED

All bulletin editors in the district are eligible for the contest. For next year, the minimum number of issues published to be eligible for a Pioneer District award will be reduced to six. Eight published issues still are required for a Society-level award. All editors, however, may submit bulletins for comment no matter how many or how few issues they publish.

To enter, save and submit three copies each of three consecutive bulletins by January 15, 2000, to Jim Styer, District Contest Coordinator. ■

Off the wall

Five out of four people have trouble with fractions.

A day without sunshine is like, well, night.

Everyone has a photographic memory. It's just that some don't have film.

Woodshedding Corner

Welcome to new AHSOW member in PIO!

by Toban Dvoretzky

The Ancient Harmonious Society of Woodshedders, Inc., is pleased to announce the induction of a fine new member from the Pioneer District. This gentleman qualified for AHSOW during auditioning opportunities at the recent Pioneer District Spring Convention: Lee Derksen of Kalamazoo. Please be sure to extend your congratulations to Lee on his abilities to harmonize by ear without reference to familiar Barbershop arrangements.

AHSOW offers Barbershoppers the chance to utilize a broader spectrum of their musical abilities. When introduced to authentic woodshedding, men routinely discover that they are not merely "a tenor" or "a bari" or "a bass" or "a lead," but rather a BARBERSHOP MUSICIAN WITH AN EAR. Just think how your chapter's member retention and overall level of interest will rise when YOUR members discover the same about themselves. A regular program of authentic woodshedding is just the ticket, and AHSOW can help.

Please refer to <http://www.ahsow.org> for more information. Contact me or visit the AHSOW web site for a prompt referral to your AHSOW district representative.

There's everything wonderful about singing a few in the way that O.C. Cash and the boys did 61 years ago. Your next large-scale op-

(Continued on page 29)

In Memory of Gordy Washburn

It was a pleasant November evening in the fall of 1964. The Lansing Chapter meeting was about to officially start at the Moose Lodge on Grand River Ave. in what is now known as "Old Town." I was an 18-year-old college freshman and had been attending Lansing Chapter meetings for just a few weeks.

About 8:30 p.m., after an hour or so of gang singing and pick-up quartets, four gentlemen came through the door and signed in. They kindly acknowledged the whoops, cheers, and smiles of those present. Gene Johnson, my new friend and future mentor, leaned over and said, "You're in for a treat Tonight!"

This was my first experience hearing the 1951 Michigan District (later renamed Pioneer District) Champion MERRI-MEN quartet with baritone Gordy Washburn. If I hadn't really been bitten by now, I sure was that night!

Their music was fresh and exciting as they rendered selections like "Muskrat Ramble," "They Didn't Believe Me," and "Cecilia" among many others. In the years to follow, I came to realize that their innovative arrangements and professional stage shows would make them one of the most popular headliners in the Midwest.

Gordy Washburn was their baritone. He was a slick, charismatic fellow, sporting the always-familiar crewcut. He was a most clever and capable singer (as most baritones are) with an equally impressive delivery on the microphone!

Doug Stephens, bass of the MERRI-MEN said it best when he conveyed the following:

"Gordy was born and raised in



MERRI-MEN quartet: (clockwise from left) lead Dale Bullock, bass Doug Stevens, tenor Howard Hawkins, and bari Gordy Washburn.

Lansing, employed by GM for 35-plus years, and was father to six children with wife Ilene.

"Along with Howard Hawkins (tenor), Dale Bullock (lead) and me, we met with John Hill in January of 1951. We were hoping to find the makings of a barbershop quartet.

"After that first gathering, we thought we had something — and I guess we did! We won the district contest that fall and placed as high as fourteenth in the 1956 international contest in Minneapolis. Gordy was a natural on stage, with clever ad libs and great stories.

"After an absence from the quartet (when we both served in Korea), we reunited the foursome to complete a great twenty-year career singing together. We retired in January of 1971."

I never sang with Gordy or new him as a close personal friend.

However, it was my good fortune to have shared the stage on three occasions with him and this most talented quartet.

He and the MERRI-MEN will forever be a part of our great Pioneer District heritage. May their wonderful music and celebrated performances be remembered always and continue to be a blessing to us all!

Gordy Washburn left us in March of this year at age 70.

Contributed by Ken Gibson

Power Play, Capitol City Chorus win at Battle Creek

(Continued from page 1)

convention in July will be the Macomb Chapter's HARMONY HERITAGE CHORUS, directed by Jack Slamka.

Placing second through fifth in the spring quartet competition were UPSTAGE SOUND, 1998 district champion; THE DETROIT SOUND COMPANY, 1997 district champ; GALLERY of the Lansing Chapter; and MACH 1 of the Battle Creek Chapter, a reincarnation of the FOUR-D MINORS, the district champs in 1972. The spread in scores among these four was just 53 points.

The only college quartet entrant was PRIVATELY FUNDED from Hillsdale College. The foursome placed second in the district college contest last spring.

Introducing the quartet finals, emcee Doran McTaggart of the Windsor Chapter directed the combined Windsor and Sault Ste. Marie chapter choruses in the singing of the Canadian national anthem. "We have the entire Pioneer contingent from Canada here," McTaggart quipped. He challenged the U.S.

barbershoppers in the Pioneer District to do the same for their anthem.

LANSING WINS CHORUS CONTEST

The new district chorus champion, succeeding Macomb's HARMONY HERITAGE CHORUS, is Lansing's CAPITOL CITY CHORUS. Lansing previously was district champ in 1996. This time, the chorus won with a reprise of the lively riverboat package that gave it a strong second place finish last fall in the chorus pre-lims. The CAPITOL CITY CHORUS, performing for the final time under director Jamie Carey, was the largest competition chorus on stage, with 59 men. That still was well below the approximately 80 men, including many from Macomb, who sang in the JOE BARBERSHOPPER CHORUS under Macomb director Jack Slamka.

Following Lansing among the top five were Kalamazoo's MALL CITY CHORUS, Holland's WINDMILL CHORUS, Traverse City's CHERRY CAPITAL CHORUS, and Detroit-Oakland's GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS.

Battle Creek, which invited dual memberships in an attempt to give barbershoppers a chance to compete in a "huge" chorus, placed 48 men on stage and placed sixth. Last fall, the CEREAL CITY CHORUS with 14 men placed 15th and last. While not reaching its goal, Battle Creek did give several singers, such as Hillsdale Chapter members, the opportunity to complete in a larger chorus than they had before.

Also among those participating were members of quartet CHICAGO NEWS, 1981 international champs, who performed in several other venues during the weekend convention. Leading the Polecat songs "Wait 'Til the Sun Shines, Nellie" and "Sweet and Lovely" were Ed Fritzen, CEREAL CITY CHORUS director, and Darryl Flinn, Society Executive Director.

Chorus plateau winners were Battle Creek, Huron Valley, Holland, Kalamazoo, and Grosse Pointe. Plateaus are based on chapter membership as of the end of last year. (No other chapter was in Battle Creek's plateau.) ■


Art Cardy - Tenor
David Hundt - Lead

Larry Wise - Bass
Larry Parker - Baritone

GALLERY

An Entertaining Barbershop Quartet

For information, contact:
Larry Parker
1440 New York Avenue
Lansing, MI 48906
(517) 378-8380
or David at
(517) 669-1288



Fanfare

an a cappella ensemble

Marv Moran
(313) 459-4218

Bob Wisdom
(810) 879-7083

Doug
(517) 351-9587

Rich
(517) 482-0365



The Patch Chords

Music and Mirth

(517) 521-3218
Roger

(517) 321-3941
Larry



THE HARMONY HOUNDS

Pedigree: Barbershoppers

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

Ed

Gene

Upstage Sound

PO Box 322
Bridgman MI 49206
616-465-6223

Raleigh

Kerry

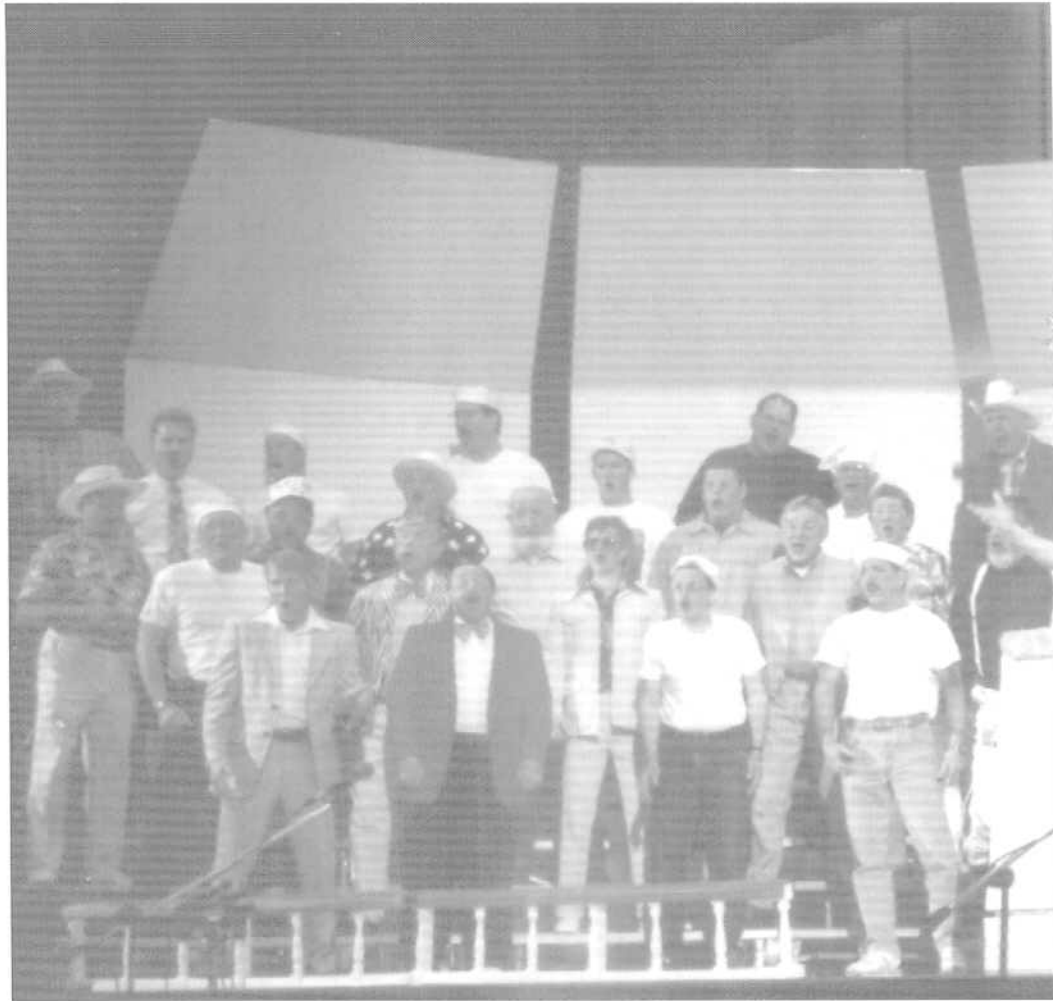


The Detroit Sound Co.

616-981-9288



Society Executive Director Darryl Flinn (above) addresses the Pioneer District's House of Delegates. (Right) Lansing Chapter's Musical Director Jamie Carey leads the CAPITOL CITY CHORUS to the district championship.



(Above) District Golden Anniversary Chairman Don Funk (left) congratulates Bob Marshall (center) of the DOC Chapter and Fred Kienitz of the Flint Chapter on achieving 50 years in the Society. (Right) Ed Fritzen directs Battle Creek's CEREAL CITY CHORUS in Saturday afternoon's competition.





Pioneer District Spring



Don Funk
 OOC Chap-
 tieving 50
 tie Creek's
 etition.



(
 C
 in



Pioneer District Spring Convention '99



(Above) Jim Styer (left) presents the Holland Chapter's Art Lane with the first place award in the district's 1998 PR contest.



Doran McTaggart directs the combined Sault Ste. Marie's NORTHLAND CHORUS and Windsor Chapter's SUN PARLOUR CHORUS in the singing of "Oh, Canada."



Tony the Tiger hugs Ron Mell of host chapter Battle Creek outside Kellogg's Cereal City, USA complex.

A new quartet in the making? Robb Smith, Rick Schaefer, Bob Wisdom, and Joe Queen sing "A Foggy Day" in the McCamly Plaza Hotel's lounge.





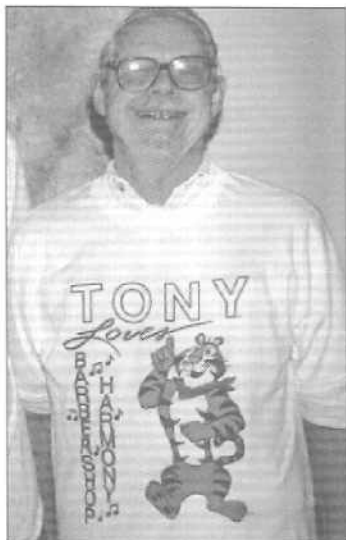
Society Executive Director Darryl Flinn listens as the SILVERDOMES (tenor John Wearing, lead Russ Seely, bass John Wade, and bari Gene Bulka) harmonize at a Friday night hospitality room.

(Right) THE PATCH CHORDS sing a Western parody called "Dingo" at a hospitality room on Saturday night. (l to r) Doug Pearson, Rich Harlow, Roger Cahaney, and Larry Best.



(Below) Jack Slamka directs the Macomb Chapter's HARMONY HERITAGE CHORUS at their Friday night show. The chorus will represent the Pioneer District at this year's international convention & competition in Anaheim. (Photo by Sandra Pastor)





“Tony Loves Barbershop Harmony”

T-SHIRTS FOR SALE

Hanes pre-shrunk 50/50
 Sizes L, XL, XXL, & XXXL

\$15 per shirt, plus \$3 S&H per order
Send name, address, quantity, size(s) to:
Jack Eagles, 507 Alton, Battle Creek MI 49017-3213
 Checks payable to “Battle Creek Chapter, SPEBSQSA”

Sweet Adelines Wanted

To reminisce about *The Charmonizers (1959)*
Utica-Rochester Chapter (1960)
Macomb County Chapter (1973)
 & *Great Lakes Chorus (1979)*

Reunite with us for an evening. Celebrate Great Lakes’ history and our 40th anniversary, August 20 at Gino’s Surf restaurant in Harrison Township, Michigan. Tickets \$25 per Person. All four-part harmony friends and family invited Dinner, DJ, dancing, and (surprise!) **barbershop music!**

Our show: October 23 at the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, Clinton Township
 Tickets for both events: Louise Dimattia (810) 566-5965; Info.: Linda May (810) 790-0008

The Alpena Chapter Presents Its **25th Anniversary Show Celebration**

Featuring



The Huron Shore Chorus

And the Alpena Chapter Quartets
 With Special Guest Performance By

Chordiac Arrest



Alpena High School Auditorium – Saturday, September 18, 1999 – 7:30 PM
 Mark your calendars now! Details to follow in the next issue of the *Troubadour!*

Harmony Round-Up 1999**It's the performance that counts**

by Music & Performance VP Russ Seely

"Youse guys is OK!" Borrowing this line from Damon Runyon seemed like a "natural" for me to express my many thanks to you Pioneers out there who enabled your district to have a memorable Harmony Round-Up at good old MSU. You may remember that by the time our spring convention rolled around, we were virtually without publicity for our annual event that was only a few weeks away.

Well, by hook or by crook, we begged, pleaded, and made a nuisance of ourselves by mail, public announcements, the Pionet, and any way possible, along with the *Troub's* last-minute appeal. You know what? IT WORKED! By lunch time on Saturday, May 15, 125 plus (including staff) seemed to be having the time of their respective lives chowin' down and talkin'/singin' BARBERSHOP.

No less than 11 quartets signed up to be analyzed and coached by an all-star cast that included 1990 gold-medal quartet ACOUSTIX, Ev Nau and Bill Rashleigh from our Kenosha staff, former staff member and certified character Dave LaBar, former Pioneer great and current Dixie District President Thom Hine, and Ontario's Barry Towner. Jim Stephens, Al Fisk, and Fred Kienitz from our Pioneer District completed this outstanding round-up staff. These superb talents were called upon to also conduct general sessions for the at-large registrants as well as coach Gratiot County Chapter's MIDSTATESMEN CHORUS and assist in our chorus director's seminar.

After a long and tedious sched-

ule that we were able to conduct under one roof (Holmes Dormitory), we were all treated to a concert by ACOUSTIX at the Conrad facility. Quartet UPSTAGE SOUND, who also served as "guinea pigs" in Ev Nau's discussion of the performance package also opened the



Music & Performance VP Russ Seely opens the Round-Up by leading the attendees in singing "The Old Songs."

evening show with a performance befitting a champion which, of course, they are! Three of our front-line directors were in attendance and since Gratiot County's MIDSTATESMEN CHORUS director Jeff Rayburn was performing in his community's rendition of "Music Man" (with Mark Wilson and Jeff's brother Dave), we supplemented the chorus with a number of voices, and directors Chris Miller, Marty Chirgwin, and Lynne Peirce delivered fine performances as each conducted one song before we brought on ACOUSTIX.

ACOUSTIX vocal performance was flawless, and even though some of us purists probably hungered for more Barbershop, you must confess

that it is hard to top them when it comes to ability to perform such difficult arrangements to perfection. The general concensus was that they are also gold-medal coaches as well.

All in all, it was awfully close to a perfect weekend that some pretty great Barbershoppers helped to almost achieve our 10 percent goal of 130 Pioneers. Amazingly, guys from two new chapters were in attendance as well as the director and two others from Livingston County who were granted a license at the Saturday night concert. It was very rewarding in spite of a lot of busy work for my bride and my staff with practically no glitches.

Since we have no qualms about reprinting contest score sheets, old Seely would like to use some of the *Troub's* space to thank the following:

Gratiot County's Dick Anderson, Bob Dennett, Bob Strejc, Will Wilson, Jim Hall, Harley Hinkley, Ken Klumpp, Ken Smith, Joel Todd, Justin Todd, Al Bey, Mike Moyer, Barry George, 12-year-old Andy Theil, Mark Wilson, and Jeff and Dave Rayburn; Grosse Pointe Chapter's John Mullen, Laird Geyer, Jim Grogan, Joe Serwach and son Eddie, Dale Petroskey, Mike Sullivan, Chuck Wingard, along with John Wade and John Wearing of the SILVERDOMES.

DOC's Harry Jessup, Jim Dugan, Tom Uicker, and Bill Essmann with John Nolte and chapter-sponsored quartet FORTUNE SMILES (Bill Helke, Ron Vedder, Todd Bredin, and Bill Reed); Windsor Chapter's Bud Leonard along with Dan Bezaire and Rob Grimmel, whose quartet BORDER CROSSING joined with Macomb Chapter's Matt Tipton and Roy Gurney; Macomb also sent Milt Darling as well as PROTÉGÉ —

(Continued on page 22)



ACOUSTIX's Joel Rutherford coaches the MIDSTATESMEN CHORUS directed by Jeff Rayburn at Harmony Round-Up 1999.

(Seely continued from page 21)

Roger Anderson, Steve Charleston, Tim Prahl, and Mike Pepperman; Huron Valley Chapter's Tom and Lynne Peirce; Battle Creek Chapter's Rog Lewis (who has an even larger tale to tell. Ask him.); Wayne Chapter's party included Rick Wy-rabkiewicz, Bob Taylor, as well as the *Troub's* editor, Gary Simon.

Kalamazoo Chapter's personnel were headed by district champs UPSTAGE SOUND with Doyle Lyles; John Tyler repped the Muskegon Chapter; last-minute Flint entries were Bob Rammert and Guy His-song; Traverse City Chapter's delegation of Marty Chirgwin, John Meyers, Elbert Ford, and Mr. Bassman, Neil Nugent; a duet from Rochester Chapter, Don Reddy and Carl Hasselwander; special stars to Lee Derksen and Ron Saunders of newly formed Allegan County Chapter; Hillsdale County Chapter's quartet that included messrs. Harold Baker, Gene Taphouse, Paul Eberhard, and Rolla Johnson —called, naturally, HILLSDALE SERENADERS.

Impressive with their three reps, Mell Coleman, Ted Dumbauld, and Ralph Leroy, Jr., was the "just licensed" Livingston County Chapter; Lansing Chapter's commuters Richard Kesti, Reese Olger, Larry

Parker (this past district prez was also an almost-always-dependable airport pick-up and go-fer ... just kidding, Lar'), Wayne Spaulding, with Tim Duman and Rob Halsey (bari of 1/2 TON OF SOUND) staying the weekend, while the remaining quartet guys — Don Ferry, Dave Fitzpatrick, and Shawn Smith — commuted.

Benton Harbor Chapter's commuters Roger Valentine and Milt Zoschke; Pontiac-Waterford Chapter's contingency led by Big Chief himself, Chris Miller, supported by Harold Lanning, Bill Holmes, and John McDowell; Alpena Chapter's quartet CHORD ORDER, lead by Ted Johnson and the rest of his quartet consisting of Bill Martin, Karl Heideman, and old pal, former Lansing member Gene Johnson; Motor City Metro's MY 3 FRIENDS were there, too — Jack Frucci, Paul Lammers, Levon King, and Wayne Pitchford — and new SILVER-DOME, Gene Bulka.

I've saved "MY HEROES" for my final thanks. They are, of course, the two quartets who traveled all the way from the Canadian "Soo" to be with us. They were lead by the Pioneer District's latest hall of fame inductee, Don Bazely, with his TAKE IV pals, Tom Lehman, Robert

Shami, and Al Murray. They were joined by the ULTRAPHONICS — Barry Clark, Wes Triplett, Bill Webb, and Alan Carscadden. That octet comprises 20 percent of their chapter, which really speaks for the northern enthusiasm. Merci beaucoup, eh!

If I missed a name, I apologize. But let me know and I'll make sure you break out in ink next issue.

As if it weren't a hectic time, Bill Rashleigh was representing our Society at numerous schools in Michigan prior to the round-up: Holland (thanks, Bill McAndrew), Muskegon (thanks, John Tyler), Flint (kisses to Joan Kienitz), Petoskey (thanks, Tracy Ulrich), and a teacher's conference in Kalamazoo, arranged by Raleigh Bloch and ably assisted by his champ quartet, UPSTAGE SOUND.

Time to swish my tired feet in good old Union Lake and hoping that ALL of you consider accepting YOUR DISTRICT'S assistance in making all of your performances command a STANDING OVATION! ■



Dixie District President Thom Hine (above) instructs a class in vocal technique. (Above right) Society Staff Music Specialist Bill Rashleigh explains proper breath management.



HURON VALLEY HARMONIZERS musical director Lynne Peirce strives to improve her technique under the watchful eye of coach Barry Towner (center) as Fred Kienitz (seated) observes.

The Pioneer District's Jim Stephens teaching music sight reading.



Harmony Round-Up 1999



(Above) Rick Middaugh of quartet ACOUSTIX coaches quartet 1/2 TON OF SOUND: Bass Dave Fitzpatrick, lead Dan Ferry, tenor Shawn Smith, and bari Rob Halsey. (Above right) Society staff member Ev Nau explains the quartet performance package that the Society is testing at the district level. (Right) Al Fisk teaches a tag to an attentive audience.



Russ Seely coaches woodshedding to (l to r) tenor Harley Hinkley, lead Ken Klumpp, bass Bob Strejc, and bari Barry George.



BIG CHIEF CHORUS musical director Chris Miller (above) demonstrates his newly enhanced directing skills leading the **MID-STATEMEN CHORUS** at Harmony Round-Up's Saturday night show. (Left) Pioneer District Champion quartet **UPSTAGE SOUND** entertain the crowd at the show: (l to r) tenor Raleigh Bloch, lead Gene Hanover, bass Kerry Foley, and bari Ed Fritzen.

1990 gold medal quartet **ACOUSTIX** performs an outstanding one-hour set at the Saturday night show. (L to r) Tenor Todd Wilson, lead Rick Middaugh, bass Joel Rutherford, and bari Jason January.



Bonney (Continued from page 5)

To alert music teachers to our interest in supporting singing in the schools in general, and supporting the activities of the local music programs, begin attending junior high and high school choral activities in your vicinity. Become visible at their music theatre productions, at festivals and at concerts. After the performance, tell the teacher you enjoyed the concert and that you appreciate the performers' work. Let the teacher know that you value music and its importance in young people's lives.

It is likely that the music teacher will ask you about your enthusiasm for singing and your musical interests. This would be a good time to mention barbershopping. Tell the teacher about the Society, your chapter, or quartet. Also, inform the teacher of our Society's mission statement. It tells what we're about, and should really appeal to music educators, as our mission is the same as theirs.

Then, when the teacher does indicate an interest in our style, here are some good ways you might consider to provide an effective introduction to our style:

1. Send the name and address of the teacher to the Society, Attention Youth Outreach, and we will send a complimentary packet of materials to the teacher, including some music suitable for young men's voices.

2. Invite the school's singing group to perform on your chapter show.
3. Provide complimentary tickets for the teacher and students to attend your chapter show.
4. Offer to assist as ushers, etc, at a school choral activity.
5. Invite the teacher and students to attend an open house at your chapter meeting
6. Add the teacher's name to your chapter mailing list.
7. Provide a scholarship for a teacher to attend district Harmony Round-up, Harmony College, or Director's College.
8. Provide music and music learning tapes for the teacher and students.
9. Provide scholarship for the teacher and a quartet of students to attend a Harmony Explosion camp.
10. Provide a subscription to the Music Premier Series.
11. Sponsor a quartet in the MBNA America College Quartet Contest.

Sometimes the teacher will extend an invitation for you, your quartet, or your chorus to give a demonstration of barbershop music to the students. Whatever you do, make that demonstration of the HIGHEST quality.

Here are some ways to put your best foot forward if such an invitation comes your way:

1. Make certain your spokesman speaks the language of music with the teacher and students. Notify the Society office of the invitation. We may be able to provide a clinician from the music department staff to help.
2. Notify your District VP of Music or the District Youth Outreach Chairman of your invitation and ask them to help provide a capable clinician to make an effective presentation.
3. Contact a quartet that sings WELL to assist with the presentation. Make sure you are showing off our very best.
4. Make certain the presentation is well timed and well rehearsed and allow some time for questions. All presentations must be professional and musically excellent.
5. The Society office has an outline that has been used for over 50 presentations. It is available on request to you.

Today is an exciting time for us. We have the real possibility of creating an awareness of the joys of barbershop music to youth and to music educators across America. It is important that we recognize that there are many effective ways to get the word out. You can be helpful in these efforts. With your help we can do a great deal to "Keep The Whole World Singing ... forever." ■

Wayne	Jason
WJBC	
Brian	Craig
<i>Contact Craig: 248-474-1485</i>	



THE HARMONY HOUNDS
Pedigree: Barbershoppers

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

Chapters in Action

Benton Harbor- St. Joseph

A New Beginning

By Earl Krieger

It's been a long dry spell since the *Troubadour* has received a situation/progress report from the Benton Harbor-St. Joseph Chapter. Rest assured we are alive and well ... although not quite as well as we could be. We are presently without a director, a condition we sincerely hope will be remedied in the near future. Meanwhile, Steve Lake and Darrell Stiner are taking turns up front. Nick Stuart will be coaching us on breath/voice/vowel control, physical expression, and choreography.

Our chapter scheduled a dinner meeting on March 14 at the Pebblewood Country Club in Bridgman for the installation of officers. The occasion was well attended by members and their spouses. The food was good, the fellowship and camaraderie even better, and a good time was had by all. We were even invited to sing for a private birthday party of 30 people in progress at the time. Our installation of officers was conducted by Pioneer District President David Cole.

The election results: President, Milt Zoschke; VP of Chapter Development, Steve Lake; VP of Music & Performance, Darrell Stiner, Secretary, Vern Tollas; and Treasurer, Dan Drazen.

We are currently a chorus of 23 members. The Benton Harbor-St.

Joseph Chapter has received the Silver Chapter Challenge Award for 1998 for recruitment (five) and also the Platinum Award for retention. This also included a \$100.00 gift certificate for Harmony Marketplace and also a Chapter Challenge lapel pin for each of us.

We meet weekly on Monday evenings at 7:30 p.m. in the lower level of the Fairplain Presbyterian Church, 210 West Napier Ave., Benton Harbor. The number of members attending the weekly meetings varies with the season, but when good health prevails and vacations are not a factor, we can expect as many as 14 to 16 singers. Numerically we are a small chapter, but our hearts are big. We do look forward to our weekly rehearsals. It's not just the blending of our voices that we enjoy, but also the genuine pleasure of singing together and being there for one another. Hey, isn't that what it's all about? Our chorus has had several "sing-out" dates so far this year; the most recent at the Whitcomb Tower Retirement Residence in St. Joseph. One of our goals is to be able to schedule more frequent "sing-outs" this spring and summer. "Sing-outs" are good; they require a more disciplined approach to the music and the individual rewards for a good performance are more than worth the effort. We need to do more of it!

The FRUITBELT CHORUS has been around for a long time and has experienced a glorious past; we fully intend to continue to be a notable presence in this community in the foreseeable future. We are currently in the process of developing a new program, now in its infancy, but hopefully will mature into a product that will be noticed! Darrell Stiner (VP of Music & Performance) has asked each of us to submit the titles of two of our favorite songs. From

these selections, he will develop a one-hour repertoire of songs that each member is capable of performing well. He is also going to form at least one quartet to flesh out this new program. Darrell is going to call this effort "A New Beginning" ... and it might be just that! We do need to get the FRUITBELT CHORUS moving again!

Eleven of our members attended the spring convention in Battle Creek: Steve Lake, John Strunk, Nick Stuart, Ed Wesner, Milt Zoschke, Earl Krieger, and their spouses. Also attending were Gus Reeves, Jim Schauer, Roger Valentine, Charlie Shine, and Dave Mohr. Five of our group were privileged to perform with the 80-member JOE BARBERSHOPPER CHORUS!

Under the able direction of Jack Slamka, the JOE BARBERSHOPPER CHORUS opened the chorus competition with their renditions of "Wait 'Til the Sun Shines, Nellie" and "From the First Hello to the Last Goodbye." Their performance was very well received by a capacity crowd at the W. K. Kellogg Auditorium. (And what a "kick" it was for us guys from a small chapter to sing with an 80-member group!)

This issue of the *Troubadour* will, no doubt, record in detail the exciting events that took place at McCamly Plaza Hotel and W. K. Kellogg Auditorium. But I would be remiss if I didn't comment on what an upbeat experience it was for us to be involved with, and to witness the mass concentration of Barbershop talent that comprised this spring's Pioneer District convention! It was "Grrreat!"

That's about all for now ... I didn't intend to write a book! Meanwhile ... *It's great to be a Barbershopper!*

Challman (continued from page 4)

dation/Pause for the Pledge with a goal of 150 chapters participating in Flag Day events. A Society press kit is now available on the web site for use by outside media sources. Effort continues to build on our "image" among music professionals through two SPEBSQSA ads in MENC and two ads in choral journals.

Another Society goal for 1999 is to provide greater access to radio and video audiences. In that regard, there is beginning development of a "mostly Barbershop" radio show to be offered in syndication in 2000.

Singing Valentines has been a boon to chapters throughout the Society. This year's goal is to handle 200 referrals through the national referral center for Singing Valentines. In addition, Singing Valentines will be publicized in national media through purchase of North American Precis Service, which delivers camera-ready copy

to newspaper, radio, and TV with a goal of 100 newspaper stories in 1999.

Society board action

The Society board of directors met in Toronto on April 14-16 in conjunction with the Ontario District prelims. Some of the action taken:

- AISQC medalists and champion's name is now held in perpetuity.
- Dick Van Dyke will be the honorary member in Anaheim.
- A Society committee for Young Men In Harmony (YMIH) will be established by the year 2000. Districts will have until 2001 to make their appointment of a VPYMIH.
- Multi-year dues plan was adopted: one year, zero percent reduction in dues; three years, five percent reduction; five years, ten percent reduction; eight years, 15 percent reduction. Effective December 31, 1999. ■

Pearson (continued from page 6)

chapter/chorus business cards. These can be reproduced by professional printers or printed on an inkjet or laser jet printer." Todd continues, "Every member should carry around his own personalized chorus business cards with the contact info on the front and perhaps a picture of the chorus on the back. These should be handed out like candy to all potential clients or members."

Personally, I like his comment about the PR job belonging to everyone. How true. If we're going to make our chapters, our district and our Society flourish, we all need to know that every one of us is a PR and a marketing ambassador. ■

McTaggart (continued from page 7)

tions to enjoy. Good leaders can begin by saying a simple, "YES!"

Your chapter coach can assist you as you begin your leadership adventure. Let your nominating committee know that you want to be involved. Those of you who would be interested in learning more about the chapter coach program and how you can be a part of it. Talk to your chapter coach; he's only a phone call away.

Barbershopping takes on a new dimension when you become one of its leaders. ■

Kienitz (continued from page 8)

toward the completion of a certification. As of this time, we at Pioneer have only one student (i.e., front-line director) enrolled for an ultimate certification.

These classes are taught at Harmony College and, at first look, the numbers can be quite overwhelming. However, it is possible for a current director to test out of a great number of these study areas, i.e., music theory or introduction to directing.


If you have an interest in this, please contact me, or better yet, Dr. Greg Lyne at International Headquarters - (800) 876-SING.

Next time we meet, give me a wave in 3/4 time.

Yours for a pitchpipe and a song, Fred. ■

DON MICHAEL

MARK JACK



**POWER
PLAY**

A Sound Advantage

Contact: Michael Slamka
(810) 326-0620
E-Mail: LIVE4SHOP@AOL.COM



Chapters in Action

Grosse Pointe

by Nick Piccione

Spring has sprung and the usual events of the season are in full bloom.

The 16th annual golf outing will take place on May 25, 26, and 27 at Gull Lake, Mich. Golfers will tee off at different courses each of the three days (Gull Lake West, Stonehenge, and Bedford Valley). Ap-

Styer (continued from page 8)

monthly *Windmill Blade* — of which Lane is editor — and the district's *Troubadour* newsletter.

Lane helped organize the 10-day trip to the Netherlands in September, during which the chorus joined in three shows with Dutch chapters. He also helped schedule performances there, was key in developing a chapter tour of the country, organized publicity for trip fundraisers, provided five pages of chapter information for a Netherlands show program, produced a special "international edition" of *The Windmill Blade* while in the Netherlands and created extensive follow-up publicity for the chapter after the trip.

Lane also was heavily involved in the chapter's purchase of the theater. It is being used as a new chapter home and will turn it into a performing arts center for use by the community. Lane developed a plan to announce the theater's purchase, wrote a history of the theater, created a draft of a brochure to be used by a theater marketing committee, made a presentation to the local historical society and is a

proximately 35 chapter members will gather for dinner the first and second nights at the Oak Room of the Gull Lake Café, where the local gentry will be treated to the strains of the old songs (whether they want to or not).

We had a jug night delivery to Windsor, Ontario, on May 10. As always, the Windsor Chapter poured forth with good Canadian hospitality, laughs, and harmony.

Our spring show was a resounding success thanks, in good measure, to hard working Show Chairman Dale Barber. The ever-fertile mind of Russ Seely brought

key member of the theater PR committee.

In addition, Lane was responsible for virtually all of the internal and external public relations of the chapter for various other events throughout the year.

As bulletin editor, Lane placed second this year in the district Bulletin Editor of the Year contest. He has consistently scored in the top three, and had the highest grammar and style scores for three consecutive years.

Lane, 68, sings bass in the WINDMILL CHORUS and in a quartet, FOUR BUCKS A CHORD. He was chapter Barbershopper of the Year for 1997. He joined the chapter in 1990, after retiring from 21 years as a weekly newspaper editor in Saugatuck. He also had been a writer or editor for two papers in Illinois.

All chapter public relations officers are eligible for the district PR award. Entries consist of a portfolio of the member's PR and marketing activity during the year. They are to be submitted by Jan. 15, 2000, to Jim Styer, district PR award coordinator. ■

forth yet another musical comedy. Our heroes were persuaded to mend their ways in the year's production, "Grosse Pointe Gets Religion." Some of the songs may have been a bit unusual with a "gospel" twinge, but the harmony was strictly Barbershop and the vintage Seely humor was abundant!

Our local Grosse Pointe community has asked us to bring this one home to the Grosse Pointe War Memorial Theater. A slightly abbreviated version will be performed there on September 9. The magnificent talents of our guest quartet, POWER PLAY, will certainly receive a warm reception in this Barbershop-oriented community. Our chapter and the EASTPOINTE SWEET ADELINES present a Christmas show each year in this same theater to sold-out houses.

Our good community acceptance leads me to conclude with this thought:

*In places both uptown and down,
We perform in hopes of renown.
But it's nice to be rated,
Also, appreciated,
Right back here in our own home town.*

Woodshedding Corner (continued from page 13)

portunity to woodshed will be at the SPEBSQSA International Convention in Anaheim, Calif. Visit the AHSOW room there!

ANCIENT HARMONIOUS SOCIETY OF WOODSHEDDERS, INC.

Toban Dvoretzky, President
14531 Ella Blvd., #3806
Houston TX 77014-2558
<http://www.ahsow.org>
TBone@selec.net

Chapters in Action

Flint

by Chuck Murray

Flint Chapter started 1999 with their wheels spinning on the pavement. A new roster of chapter officers was installed, and they were "chompin'" at the bit to get started. New President Ed Wracan called for a planning meeting where a group of our guys outlined major events for 1999, and developed a Year-At-A-Glance chorus calendar, which now adorns many refrigerators in Genesee County.

Other officers include Ron Gillies as Treasurer, Guy Hissong as Secretary, John Noteware as Music VP and Co-Director, Fred Kienitz as Co-Director, Don Wills as VP Chapter Development along with Harry Gramer, Paul Smith as PR Officer, Chuck Murray as Quartet Activity Chair and Bulletin Editor, Jack Stevens as Past President, and Dave Smith/Don Hall as Members at Large.

Speaking of quartets, Flint had Larry Parker's quartet, GALLERY from Lansing, visit us early this year. Special thanks to Art Cardy-Tenor, David Hundt-Lead, Larry Wise-Bass, and Larry Parker-Bari for sharing their talents with and stimulating quartetting in the Flint Chapter.

Our chorus is under the direction of co-directors John Noteware and Fred Kienitz. (And you thought kindergarten was tough, got your knuckles whacked, etc.!) This "Dynamic Duo" are leading Flint along the route to significant improvement during 1999. We are fortunate to have such leadership in

our Music Team, and the members are rallying behind them. (It's a safer position to assume!)

Flint had a super weekend retreat into Northern Michigan to prepare for their spring show. Tags were sung long into the night, libations were poured to the Gods, and a great time was had by all who attended. We had a singout at the Chief Shopnagon Hotel in Grayling on Friday night, and entertained BBS shoppers from Gaylord and surrounding area. The hotel appreciated our songs and opened their doors of hospitality to the hungry BBS shoppers. Kienitz vowed to get even with Hissong ... something between losing a cribbage game and writing 8-page articles for the *Troub.*

Flint helped "Grandpa" clean out his attic for their spring show. The two-performance show was a "success" in the words of President Ed Wracan. Many thanks to all who helped, including Doran McTaggart as master of ceremonies, and guest quartets RUMORS and TAKE FOUR.

The Membership Team put together a successful May Open House on the Tuesday following the show. Guest quartets, B-NATURAL and TIME OUT! shared the joy of quartetting. Tags were sung into the wee hours. The Membership Team discussed Youth Outreach, and how we can use our high school contacts to plant some seeds for the future of barbershopping. Thanks to Lansing's Jamie Carey for showing us a way to reach youth, involve them in our shows, etc.

After the spring show, Flint Chapter had a busy singout schedule, including Crossroads Village, the Genesee Belle Riverboat, Dead Creek Saloon in Frankenmuth, Bald Eagle Lake

pontoon float trip, several senior centers, etc. Many Flint members visited the Caboto Club in Windsor for the annual Send-Off dinner. (Some actually found meat in their spaghetti sauce!)

It's Great to be a Barbershopper!

Lansing

by President Brian Dunckel

"Ring Out the Bells in Dixieland," we're "Sittin' On Top of the World" after repeating as Pioneer District Champions! Thanks again to Joel Mills, our coach for the past few years, and a final "Thank You" to our director Jamie Carey — we couldn't have done it without you. You have taken our chorus to heights it has never seen before. Our best to you in your "retirement."

Our second annual Youth Harmony Quartet Contest was held on Saturday, May 1. We welcomed the Pioneer District College Quartet Champions, Privately Funded, from Hillsdale College as our mike testers. Seven quartets from five high schools competed for an enthusiastic audience and panel of judges that included Pioneer District's own Mike O'Connell, and chapter member and long-time quartet man Bob Fox.

Pioneer District Immediate Past President Larry Parker acted as the contest administrator, and when the scores were totaled, quartet GLITTER from Holt High School was crowned as champions.

Five hundred dollars was donated to the high school's music program, and quartet members tenor Jessica Esper, lead Jennifer Warncke, bass Priscilla Greathouse, and baritone Amber Montie each received a five-hundred-dollar scholarship for their post high

Chapters in Action

Lansing continued

school education.

Singing "Cuddle Up a Little Closer" in their red silk pajamas while clutching white teddy bears, the girls gave a truly championship performance!

Thanks to Dennis Wertz and Shawn Smith who coordinated this wonderful event this year — great job, guys!

Wayne

by Gary Simon

Our annual show was a hit from a performance point of view. Bob Taylor again wrote an outstanding script, the student actors from Divine Child High School were excellent, drama coach Karen Pritchard made it come together smoothly and professionally, guest quartets THE DETROIT SOUND COMPANY and SHARPER IMAGE were among the best, and our RENAISSANCE CHORUS sang with great energy.

For the first time, we had two shows on one day — a 3:00 p.m. matinee and an 8:00 p.m. evening performance. The format seemed to work well, although switching our show date from March to May didn't go over as we had hoped.

At the afterglow, Immediate Past President Jerry Beamish presented current Chapter President Bob Wolf with the chapter's Albert J. Fricker Memorial Barbershopper of the Year Award for 1998. Bob's outstanding contributions to the chapter and Barbershopping are many: he has served as chapter sec-



Walt Quick (left) congratulates Bob Wolf for earning the Wayne Chapter's Barbershopper of the Year Award for 1998.

retary-treasurer (three terms), this year's annual show chairman, sings in two quartets — the list goes on.

Although we've just finished our 1999 annual show, we're already starting to plan our 2000 show — considering themes, securing top-notch quartets, and selecting a venue.

June will be a particularly busy month for us: DOC's Jug Night, Windsor Send-Off, and three community performances.

We rehearse each Tuesday evening at 7:30 at Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail (1/2 mile east of Newburgh Road), Livonia. If you're in the area, stop in and bust a chord with us. "We'll leave the light on for you!" ■

Thoughts (Continued from page 9)

of a good public relations program, just talk to Art. Fellow chapter member Jim Hall did a beautiful job of putting together the nomination.

♦ Sometimes I think we take the many talents within our district for granted. Case in point is the always effervescent Doran McTaggart. A good emcee can make or break a show. If there's anyone better than Doran, I'd like to know who it is.

♦ The return of the Convention to Battle Creek was a media success. We scored impressively with some solid hits, thanks to the major league efforts of convention PR veteran Jim Styer. ■

MARQUIS
1995 International Champions
5738 Saddleridge Dr
Cincinnati, Oh 45247
(513) 923-9457

RANDY JAY
DATE PAUL

PAUL GILMAN
5738 Saddleridge Drive
Cincinnati, OH 45247
513-923-9457

Society offers free Barbergraphics

Looking for a better image for your chapter or quartet? Need a little sparkle for your chapter newsletter? Then you'll love *Barbergraphics*, a collection of line art and barbershop stock photography on CD-ROM.

Barbergraphics includes:

- SPEBSQSA official logos.
- Logos of various programs.
- Quartet line art.

More than 40 stock photographs of quartets and choruses in action, handy for show fliers or other materials to promote barbershop outside of the Society.

To get a free copy, call Harmony Marketplace at 800-876-7464, and ask for stock no. 22040. Note: this is a special stock no. for the freebies. Once the free supply is gone, it's gone. After that, it's \$15 plus \$6 shipping and handling.

Election (Continued from page 3)

and acceptance. Nomination from the floor of any person for any district office will be disallowed if this procedure has not been followed.

Additionally, nomination from the floor of any individual whose name has been submitted to the appropriate Society committee and who has been found not qualified will not be disallowed, but the nomination from the floor must be accompanied by the Society committee's reasons for disapproval and its recommendations, if any, as to what steps can be taken to make the proposed candidate acceptable to the Society committee.

**SPEBSQSA, Inc.
Pioneer District
Laws and Regulations
Committee
February 15, 1999**

Upcoming Events

1999

June 4-5	Traverse City Show
June 11	Windsor Send-Off
June 13	Huron Valley Show
Sept. 18	Alpena Show
Sept. 24-25	Gaylord Bush League
Oct. 9	Gratiot County Show
Oct. 15-16	District Fall Convention
Dec. 3-5	Grand Rapids Show

2000

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
March 25	Grand Rapids Show

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

Please notify:

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

Wayne Chapter, SPEBSQSA, Inc.
8315 Hillcrest Blvd
Westland MI 48185-1763

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
LIVONIA, MI
PERMIT NO. 1034



*****AUTO**3-DIGIT 481 S2 P4
STEPHEN SUTHERLAND
46827 BARTLETT DR
CANTON MI 48187-1521

Postmaster: Dated material — Please RUSH!

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

TDSC hits WJR and Clarkston

By Al Fisk

Greetings, fellow Wing-nuts (that's hockey fans, for you nort spews challenged).

Well, THE DETROIT SOUND CO. had a great time singing on the "Albom in the Afternoon" radio show earlier today (May 11) at WJR (760) in Detroit. We were ushered to the 22nd floor of the Fisher Building (great view of the city!) where a number of individual studios are in constant use (news, sports, editing, interviews, morning DJ, drive time DJs, etc.).

Oddly enough, there really isn't a lot of spare room up there. Thus, between "gigs," we were constantly in somebody's way as people rushed to and fro. We sang in a square around (huh?) four mikes that were only a couple feet away from Rachel Nevada and Kenny Brown.

We could have used the headphones while we sang, but we felt more comfortable just singing without them. Three times an hour (between 3:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.), as they came out of commercials,

the producer told us to "hit it."

Then, after a few seconds while we were already singing, they came back on the air and kept us on line for a little bit. They told us to do about 45 seconds of which about 30 would be aired "live."

We picked the back section of a number of our repertoire and even added some appropriate words like "Albom in the Afternoon," or "Ken and Rachel are fine," or "WJ, WJR."

After leaving JR, we headed up to the Clarkston chapter meeting/ladies night/guest night/quartet parade/bash. A huge and enthusiastic crowd greeted us at the United Methodist Church. I'm guessing about 100 people (many non-barbershopping guys and lots of ladies) who were treated to many fine quartets like B NATURAL and SUNNYSIDE.

Lyle Howard is the driving force behind this new chapter and the evening's festivities. His strong PR work resulted in a terrific audience.

All in all, a busy day, but also very rewarding. ■