

1999

Pioneer Troubadour

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



FEBRUARY/MARCH

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Spring Convention to move to Battle Creek

Battle Creek is spooning up a bowlful of colorful and flavorful nuggets for "A Cereal City Chord Celebration," crackling within the healthful milk of harmony.

The weekend breakfast-table entree of barbershop singing competitions will be topped with the sugar of a chorus champs' show; interspersed with the delectable spring fruits of a mass sing, a barbershop shop and afterglows; and concluded with a dessert of an uplifting Gospel service.

The spring Pioneer District convention, hosted by the Battle Creek Chapter, will be headquartered from Friday through Sunday, April 23-25 -- and for three years -- at McCamly Plaza Hotel downtown. A new

AmeriHost and the Econo Lodge near downtown, and four motels near I-94 also will house delegates and their families.

Registration deadlines are March 22 for the hotels and April 9 for the convention. Forms, with prices, are in this issue of the Troubadour, on the Pioneer Web site and on PioNet. Late convention reservations will be accepted at a higher cost. The registration desk will open at 11 a.m. Friday and 9 a.m. Satur-

day; registration will move to the school shortly before each competition.

Competitions to select quartets to represent Pioneer at the international convention this summer in Anaheim, Calif., will be at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Satur-

day; registration will move to the school shortly before each competition. bershop competition numbers to some super-fun 50's doo-wop, said Macomb Chapter President Dave Anderson.

Pioneer's top-ranking quartet, Power Play, will break out some new show tunes "that are really cool," Anderson added. "We are also negotiating with some other top Pioneer quartets to be on the show."

Cost is \$5 and can be submitted with convention registrations, or tickets can be purchased at the convention. Proceeds will help fund the chorus trip to Anaheim.

JOE BARBERSHOPPER CHORUS

Opening the chorus competition Saturday will be the traditional Joe Barbershopper Chorus, led by Macomb director and Power Play member Jack Slamka. Songs

will be "From the First Hello to the Last Goodbye" (with a high tag) and the polecat arrangement of "Wait 'till the Sun Shines, Nellie." It is open to all barbershoppers, whether or not they are competing in other choruses. Rehearsal will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday in the auditorium gym.

"From the First Hello" can be ordered from Society headquarters in Kenosha, publication No. 7154. Cost is 95 cents see **CONVENTION**, page 16



HERE THEY COME NOW, SAY TONY, TONY: Battle Creek chapter (and a real hep cat) prepares for their return as convention hosts.

day. District chorus competition will be at noon Saturday. All are at W.K. Kellogg Auditorium, a few blocks north of the headquarters hotel.

MACOMB'S 'VARIETY PAK'

A special "Macomb's Musical Montage" show -- subtitled "Battle Creek Variety Pak" -- will be staged at McCamly Plaza Hotel shortly after the quartet competition Friday night. Featured will be the Harmony Heritage Chorus, doing everything from pure bar-

Get the scoop on Spring Convention in this CONTEST MEGA-PACK! Coverage continues, pg. 14



Grosse Pointe Gets Religion

In the past few years the Grosse Pointe show has gone:

BANKRUPT, TO SPRING TRAINING

THE OLYMPICS, WEST WARD,

LITTLE BIT IRISH, TO JAIL

Last year when we went to Jail, most Barbershoppers thought we should have been there all along. So what happens when you are incarcerated -- You get Religion

Featuring: Turning Point, Untitled and a Gospel Group

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A View From The Top

David Cole, President

A toast on a snowy day



Sitting by the fireside, watching embers softly glow, I look outside and what I see, is snow, and snow, and then more snow. It's hard to imag-

ine the warming spring days which will soon bring back the song birds and blossoms which rekindle our spirits for yet another year while you are looking outside at 24 inches of newly fallen snow. But this is the kind of foresight which we must all have to prepare ourselves for another year of successful barber-shopping.

As I write this article I must keep in mind that it will be published shortly following another successful Valentines Singout Weekend. Hard to imagine. But like clothing retailers, we must think about the spring convention in February, and our patriotic songs for Memorial Day in March, and International Convention preparations shortly thereafter. And so on, and so on ...

Let's not forget about our Harmony Round-up in the middle of May, where our quartets and choruses, and individuals can get such wonderful coaching by the likes of "Marquis" and other talented individuals. Mixed into this formula for a successful year are our spring and fall shows, spring and fall conventions, monthly and weekly singouts, and the

see **COLE**, page 10

What are we about? Music and Performance, of course!

By Russ Seely, Music & Performance Vice President



When we were fortunate to "hire" Darryl Flinn as our Executive Director, I can still hear his initial words of wisdom when he stated, "gentlemen, we

MUST improve our performances if we plan on increasing public support of our wonderful heritage." I'm sure you all agree that a mediocre or just plain bad performance steers more people away than you can imagine, while the superior ones (performances) attract prospects and help to keep us alive and growing. Part of the Music & Performance duties is to offer programs that will, hopefully, assist you in making each presentation a joy, not only for your audience, but to you

as you hone your God-given talent.

On the weekend of May 14-16, we plan on providing you with the type of instruction that will lead you to quality presentations. We will return to the campus of Michigan State University where an all star faculty, including the talent and unmistakable sound of ACOUSTIX, will provide you with the tools necessary to improve those performances beginning with **GOOD SINGING!**

Our appeal to your chapter leadership team at our recent COTS was that each chapter should try to send at least 10% of their members to the District Harmony Round-up. That should not be a tough job. Rarely, following a weekend at our past Round-ups, do we hear responses that urge us to change any-

see **RUSS**, page 11

Number One with a Bulletin

Chad Sanders

Troubadour editor

Yes, this is the February/March issue of the *Troub*. If we're lucky, some of you actually got it in March. Which is why I've got to give this job up. I can't hack it.

It used to be, I'd just pull an all-nighter to crank an issue out. This year, I've been pulling all-nighters on other stuff, so even the wee hours haven't been available for *Troub*. I took a sick day today to get this done. Don't tell my boss.

I apologize hugely to Jim Styer and the folks at Battle Creek, who've been waiting for this issue to happen. I should have quit sooner... the Giant Convention Preview Issue was a bad one on which to fall apart. Speaking of Jim, the Battle Creek Chamber of Commerce owes him big-time, for all the free work he's been doing for them in promoting their fair city.

Now, a short reflection: I'm happy with what I was able to do with the *Troub*, bummed I couldn't do more. When I look at the first issue I did, where I say it'll mail two weeks after the deadline, I wince.

This issue has two cool things I hope continue. First, we started a new feature: Quartet Corner (p.21). This is a great way to let members know what's going on with our district's quartets (and it gets our quartets some nice coverage). Also, there's a wedding announcement from Proud Dad Ken Gibson (p. 11). That's the kind of community, hometown stuff the *Troub* should be about.

Wayne Chapter's Gary Simon is *so* the right person to take over this job. He's got a ton of great ideas, is really fired up, and I can't wait to see how he takes the *Troub* into the next century (whoah). And I know he'll do a better job of getting this rag out to the membership.

Now, for a big thank-you. Everyone I've come into contact with in the district has been so phenomenally supportive of my work for the past two years. It's been appreciated... and probably part of the reason I didn't cash it in sooner. The kind notes, emails and comments were unexpected, and welcome. Apart from the guy/gal who said I "failed miserably" (letters, this ish... he/she makes a good point, albeit inaccurately), this tour of duty been a hugely positive experience. Thank you.

Here's the Pitch

Raleigh Bloch, Executive & Member Services VP

Challenges asks chapters to try something different



Hey, have you tried something different lately? *What the heck are you talking about?* I'm talking about membership recruitment, what else would I be talk-

ing about? Here's the idea. How about asking your friends or relatives??? *Are you kidding? I've been there, done that, like the old song says, "Time After Time".* I'm glad you said that, because that's the point I want to make. We've all asked our friends

This program will provide help, but your chapter has to ask for it.

and acquaintances time after time and with some success, I might add. I think you'll agree, most new members have good success in getting guests down on a guest night. That's because they are asking people we haven't asked before. Most of us have been in this society for a long time, so we've wrung that towel dry and yet when it comes to guest nights it seems like we don't have any alternatives. So the results are, we don't have many guests on guest night and our membership is not growing. *So what can we do?* Ah my friend I'm glad you asked that question, you've come to the right place. We have this magic elixir that will solve your problem. *Well what is it, what is it?* It's called "Ask People You Don't Know". *Dah, that's a great help.* Well, if we asked the people we know, who else is there? *True, but where do you*

begin? Read on, my friend, read on.

At the recent COTS your chapter officers were asked, how many of you would like to have a larger chorus? To the man they all raised their hand. They were all told about the "Chapter Challenge" program. This program will provide tons of help, but your chapter has to join or ask for it. Ask your Chapter President if your chapter is in the Chapter Challenge. In the Chapter Development class for your Chapter's VP of Development, numerous programs were discussed that will help you reach those people, out there, who would like to be a part of

your chorus, if you would just ask them. Ask your chapter President or Chapter VP of Development if your chapter has received the tons of help to recruit new members. *Well it sounds good, but how much does this help cost? Our Chapter treasury is not very big, you know?* Well, that's the beauty of this, it doesn't cost a thing. **WHAT! IT DOESN'T COST A THING???** Yes, that's right, not a thing. In fact, you can even win prizes for being a part of it. *Well, it sounds stupid not to be in the Chapter Challenge.* Hey, I'm glad you said it, not me, but you're right. Every chapter has been sent and or given the form for Chapter Challenge. All that is required is to fill it out and send it in and help will be on the way. *That's all?* Well you have to use the help when it arrives. *I knew there was a catch.*



Mailbag.

Ed note: It is the policy of the Troub (and most papers) to only run signed letters, due to accountability concerns. The following, sent with a Ft. Meyers postmark but no return address or signature, will be my first (and, coincidentally) final exception.

Dear sir:

Winning quartets and choruses should be front page news with bold headlines and large photos in the first issue of any district publication following contests. That's what it's all about!

Pioneer District members received the October/November issue of the *Troubadour* about 10 to 14 days following the contest in Lansing expecting the above. The explanation for its absence was the issue had gone to press before the convention. Publication should await contest results in the future.

Readers then expected the December/January front page to carry headlines and photos of the winners. Not so. The new champions are almost the Pioneer district's best kept secret. "Insiders," however, know the Harmony Heritage Chorus from Macomb county won the chorus competition and Upstage Sound from Kalamazoo won the quartet contest. "Fall Convention Standings" indicate where most of the quartets are from, but not the first and second place winners.

All in all, the *Troubadour* failed miserably covering the District Contest results. Too bad for the Champions.

Public Relating

Doug Pearson, Marketing & Public Relations VP

Excitement from shows can last the whole year



You love that smell of the greasepaint. And the roar of the crowd gives you goosebumps. Another opening, another show. And once again you're a key

player in a Successful Barbershop Performance.

If you've ever sung a single barbershop note, you've experienced that ultimate adrenaline rush -- that instant gratification of acceptance unique to our art form.

Too bad we can't bottle this feeling of euphoria, isn't it. But hold on. We can. Indeed, we can both bottle and uncup this vocal rapture any time and any place we want to. We can energize ourselves to our various publics in a way that positively impacts every inch of barbershop-ping.

The problem is, we frequently fail in this mission. That PR surge of excitement following a performance disappears, lying dormant until the next public outing. Perhaps it dies completely.

Internally, we usually display paramount dedication at our weekly practice sessions. Within the confines of our own chapter hall, we become energized to maximize riser time, to diligently practice precise vowel match, to encourage 100 percent attendance -- and everything else that lends itself to a good performance.

Once at home, we practice our craft through learning tapes, sheet music and personal coaching. Probably to a man, we're sold on the value of hard work and

dedication in producing a good final product. And then we sell it on stage through our contest or show numbers.

Then the applause, the plaudits, the "nice work" benefits plug in to our efforts. "Good job!," we hear. "We liked your sound."...."You've sure improved." But guys, all this hard work shouldn't end the minute we step off the risers. We're good. We have the audience in the palm of our hand. We've sold our craft on stage and it's a simple next-step in selling it to the community. Please don't let your enthusiasm fall into the footlights. We sing about our "Lida Rose" and our "Daisy Bell", but there's no room for Shrinking Violets in our barbershop repertoire.

I would hope all of you would want to be both tuned in and turned on to barbershopping 24 hours a day. Pass out chorus cards, pass out quartet cards, tell the guys at work, your friends, anyone who will listen about the beauties of harmonization. Recognize the great PR opportunities our appearances offer. Be proud of your singing gift and show it in public.

Let me offer a musical example. Their name is "Three Men and a Tenor," and chances are you've heard of them. They headlined a Grosse Pointe show not too long ago. They sing good harmony and do a fantastic comedy routine. They give credit to barbershopping for helping them on their professional journey. Before they became well-known, I remember hoisting a few with them at a neighborhood watering hole following chorus practice while they tried out a few numbers.

At any rate, these guys don't cover their talents in a bushel basket. I observed them at a recent major community event.
see **PEARSON**, page 10

Three steps to YO success

Al Bonney

Chairman, District Youth Outreach Committee

COTS 1998 was a watershed event. Not only did everyone in attendance learn to hate my name (you had to be there!), but the Diamond Girls, first place winner in Lansing's Quartet competition, blew our socks off with their poise, sophistication and rock solid chords.

The real blockbuster event, however, was Gary Plaag, MAD Youth Outreach VP who taught the YO class. Significantly less attractive than the Diamond girls, Gary filled both sections of his YO class partly because YO received significant hype throughout the weekend, but also because Gary ran such an exciting seminar. I attended both and can tell you I was fired up after each one.

Gary had several messages for us. As I promised last issue, we will use this forum as an educational tool so I will address Gary's issues one at a time in this column.

This month's topic is:

"Adopt a Philanthropic Mind-Set."

We define philanthropy as "the effort to increase the well-being of humankind, by charitable aid or donations."

Ambrose Bierce, an American author writing in *The Devil's Dictionary*, calls a Philanthropist a rich (and usually bald) old gentleman who has trained himself to grin while his conscience is picking his pocket. We many not exactly fit that illustration but a picture of this type of activity emerges anyway . . .

There is not a music educator in the country who is waiting for you to come and save his/her vocal program. To hit their radar they must see you as a legitimate benefit. Offer help that is truly philanthropic.

William Makepeace Thackeray writing in *The Newcomers* said, "What money is better bestowed than that of a
see **BONNEY**, page 11

Chapter Coaching

Doran McTaggart, DVP-CSLT

Moving ahead takes cooperation, teamwork



Your chapter's leadership team learned at COTS that cooperation and teamwork are essential to move your chapter forward. They

must work for the betterment of the chapter.

The same is true at the District level. Our District VPs cannot work in a vacuum. They must support each other's programs and become an Integrated Product Team (IPT). The collective good is the goal rather than individual empire-

building.

Your chapter coach can be your conduit to access all of the District VPs and explain their programs to you. There are many exciting things planned for 1999 that you will want to experience. Each DVP will probably write articles in the Troubadour about their goals for the year. Read them carefully.

What are these goals that your chapter coach can facilitate for you?

Events

The largest attendance at the Spring Convention in five years and the largest chorus in competition are goals. You can be a dual member with Battle Creek and sing with your own chorus and the "big" chorus wearing a Tony the Tiger T-shirt.

You can take part in the Quartet Assembly Factory and return home as a member of a new quartet. The Adopt-a-Chapter program will pair a big chapter with one who hasn't competed in many years. They can compete separately or together by dualling, sharing a hospitality room and enjoying the festivities. Other events during the year like the Bush league and the Send-off Show are also great chapter activities.

Music and Performance

An increase in the number and quality of quartets as well as a great Harmony Round-up are positive goals. A Youth Outreach program has been started and will include at least one Har-see McTAGGART, page 10

Take Note

Fred Kienitz, CDD VP



Several items within my long-range plan have now fallen into place. Thus, I can bring you all up to date as to the Chorus Director Development

(CDD) part of my CDDVP title. Never in my wildest dreams did I ever think I would be this important.

Two major activities have now been etched in stone and are in place with dates, times and locations available. These can now be published and letters will now go out to all those prospective recipients who will benefit from these workshops and classes.

First, I am happy to report that the Gaylord Chapter has agreed to host the northern chorus Directors' Workshop Intensive. (CDWI)

We will be inviting a total of five directors to participate in this workshop. These people will be selected on the basis of their position as chapter chorus directors. They will come from the Gaylord, Petoskey, Traverse City, Alpena, and St. Ste. Marie Chapters. If per chance, the front line director is unable to attend we will invite an assistant from that chapter.

The directors will participate in a workshop discussion with the trainers in the morning. After a short lunch break they will work with a volunteer chorus made up of the host-chapter personnel plus all other chapter members who wish to come along with their respective di-

rector and become a part of this workshop chorus.

This is a great experience and also exciting for the singers in that they get an idea of the time and effort involved in this training session. It is truly amazing the enthusiastic reception these front-liners exude, ("front-liner" translates also into "guinea pig" for the day).

While the guest singers are not involved with the interviews and critique sessions they can see the results of these brief sessions by the changes exhibited in the director's approach in that he or she will be in front of the chorus several times during the day.

My thanks to the Gaylord gang and Hank Hedges for making this Workshop Intensive possible.

Also, I've chosen to inform those in-see KIENITZ, page 10

Gaylord, MSU sites for upcoming workshops



Society Synopsis

Don Challman, SBM

With the belief that our Society enriches life, provides a very special place for men of diverse backgrounds, and allows us to experience the joy of self-expression, the Society board has set out an ambitious set of objectives for 1999, to ensure that these benefits will continue to flourish.

To see that members have an opportunity for satisfying their music experience in quartets or choruses or both, they can look for 12 new arrangements and a Music Premiere program (two tapes, each with six arrangements) geared to reach 1,800 subscribers. Free packets will be sent to all Chapter Music and Performance VPs by April 15. At least one music reading clinic will be provided for each district and a set of arrangements of songs for young voices (boys and girls) will be designed for use by high school music educators at no charge. Six songs for a new "Barber Pole Cat" will be published under a new name.

Harmony college is looking to attract 20 quartets, 475 students and 125 director College students. Registered quartets can expect a bulletin twice a year, including suggestions on vocal techniques, performance skills, music selection, rehearsal techniques and other educational articles.

At the District level, Society leadership is looking for a 5% increase in student attendance at HEP schools with musical support from Kenosha to participate in each district school for at least three days. It is hoped that each district will conduct at least one Top Gun School for its top quartets.

So we can continue to introduce barbershop quartet singing to young men and music educators, the Youth Outreach program will have a top priority with at least 100 clinics/demonstrations being conducted by Kenosha staff during district travel, to reach 5,000 students. In addition, at least two YO activities are

to be conducted in each district. Eight Youth Harmony or Explosion camps (at least 2.5 days in duration), at separate sites, with total participation of 600 high school students and 60 music educators will be attempted. A YO promotional videotape and resource guide, targeted at barbershoppers, is in progress with completion by the end of the year.

At the college level, we are hoping to attract at least 64 quartets to preliminary contests and to provide \$1,000.00 prize money to be awarded to the highest scoring quartet from each district that competes in its district (divisional) contest. Also, to develop a list of at least 60 published songs suitable for college quartet entrants in the MBNA American Collegiate Barbershop Quartet Contest.

To help improve the quality of our public performances, the Standing Ovation program for quartets and choruses, will continue to be implemented throughout the Society. To facilitate this attempt, a training video for use in training evaluators is underway as are plans to hold training sessions in the SOP at the district level. A directory of Society faculty, their addresses, phone numbers and areas of expertise will be developed. A similar directory of district faculty will also be published by the District Music and Performance VP. Chapter coaches will be provided with resources, information and guidance with respect to music and performance so they will be better equipped to deal with the music problems that surface in chapters with which they work.

As you can see, 1999 will be a very busy year, but exciting year. Kenosha staff and the many volunteers who make these programs work, will be putting in a great deal of energy and effort... all for the love of the hobby. Let's make their efforts worthwhile by taking initiative to experience the benefits of their labors.

In Part II, we'll touch on the remainders of the 1999 Society objectives.

Kalamazoo sings in the New Year

Raleigh Bloch

Last summer the Mall City Chorus and quartets performed a freebee at the Kalamazoo Nature Center. This was for their Maple Syrup Pancake Breakfast. The response was good. After the performance, the Director of the Kalamazoo New Years Fest came up and asked if we would be willing to perform at the 1999/2000 New Years Fest. We said yes and thought that would be the end of it. Shortly after that we were contacted and asked if we would consider performing at the 1998/1999 New Years Fest. We again said yes and were soon signing a contract to that effect.

We were excited, since this was a first for us and we were confident it would be great exposure for barbershop in our community. The program called for three performances on New Years Eve at the Civic Theater. This is in the heart of all the New Years activity and a great place to perform.

The chorus, under the direction of Gene Hanover, prepared a high-energy package utilizing the Chorus, and quartets Under New Management, SUMP-N-DFRNT, and our newly crowned District Champions, Upstage Sound. The script was rehearsed, timed and polished to eliminate "white spots". Each of the three performances had to be 45 minutes. This was to allow people to get to other shows and allow time to change props for the shows following us.

The 5:45 p.m. show was only about half full. The 7:45 and 9:45 p.m. shows were packed.

We received a standing ovation, sold annual show tickets, chorus tapes and received numerous compliments. Two
see **NEW YEAR**, pg. 8



Dear Heartspring friends...

Michael Dell

The Heartspring family has so many things to be grateful for - our new campus, new students, loving and caring staff, and to top it all, the love and support of our donors and friends. Unforgettable memories are being made every minute of the day at Heartspring. We cherish each and every one like a pot of gold snuggled in the snow. Friends like you keep the Heartspring mission alive by providing us opportunities to create life for others.

One of our fondest memories was made during the 1998 Summer Special Olympics activities. Three children took first place in softball throw events and in the 25-meter walk. Stephanie, who is quite the sports enthusiast, placed second in three different events: 25-meter wheelchair race, 30-meter wheelchair race, and the softball throw. Hats off to Stephanie!

In October, Heartspring students held a Halloween Parade around the halls of the new campus buildings. They dressed in their trick-or-treat finery and stopped in various offices to show off their costumes and pick out their favorite treat.

It's exciting seeing improvement in the students who come to Heartspring. One young man, Charlie, when he first arrived at Heartspring was exhibiting self-injurious behaviors totaling 3000 per day; now those are down to zero.

Heartspring's new Learning Center held a seminar in October. Approximately 125 attended and offered positive feedback. As a result, there were 80 calls in one day to the Learning Center from people who were requesting more information and wanting to schedule evaluations.

Daniel, from Louisiana, improved so much that he was able to transition back home in November. In gratitude for all the accomplishments they saw in Daniel,

his parents held a "thank you/goodbye" party for him before his departure. Not many dry eyes were in evidence and they were tears of joy and thankfulness for Daniel's success.

We are very grateful for our new campus. It is larger and more efficiently designed than the old one, so our staff can deliver services more effectively and provide new programs. The most recent addition is the Shaklee Institute for Improving Special Education, comprised of 12 of the top special education professionals in the world. This group is collaborating to change the way that children with disabilities are educated through innovative practices and techniques.

Many elves at Heartspring have been very busy this year creating programs and providing creative solutions to ensure that Heartspring students have the tools they need in aspiration to live a life full of peace, love, joy, and happiness. Thank you for being a part of the foundation that supports these efforts.

In wishing you the best, I share one final story to warm your heart.

Recently, one of our therapists was working with a six-year-old little boy in our community service area who has been through some very tragic times. His brother died and the little boy has been undergoing treatments for cancer. This little boy and his family have been very strong through their tragedies and religion is very important in their lives. During a recent therapy session, the therapist left the room for just a moment and when she returned, the little boy had drawn a picture on the white board.

The therapist asked him to explain the picture and this is what he said. "The house is where the family that loves me very much lives, the cloud with the halo is where my brother lives as he watches over me every day, and the heart stands for Heartspring where the people love me just as much as God does."

Kalamazoo sings in 1999

NEW YEAR, from pg. 7

days later, the president of the New Years Fest contacted us and said we were a "hit". They were impressed with the act, the professional way we performed it and the numerous comments they received about how good those barbershop guys were. They said, next years fest will be called the "Best Of The Fest". They will review the best acts of the past 5 years and ask them back for the big 2000 blast and we are one of those that they want. Seeing that most of the talent for their line up of shows comes from just about anywhere in the U.S. we felt honored and will perform again.

It shows that even a Freebee can be the lead to a very worthwhile paid performance.

THE HARMONY HOUNDS
Pedigree: Barbershoppers
CONTACT: ROGER LEWIS
Bus. (616) 979-4343 — Res. (616) 965-5714

Doug (517) 351-9587 Rich (517) 482-0365

The Dutch Chords
Music and Mirth
(517) 521-3218 Roger (517) 321-3941 Larry

Unlawful ASSEMBLY

YOU WILL LIKE OUR SINGING

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

COTS showcases District, Society's best

Are you interested in the future of our District? The future of your Chapter?...or yourself as a barbershopper?

If the answer is "Yes" to these questions, then you'll want to find out what happened at the December COTS event at Gull Lake. If you missed it, talk to someone from your chapter who was there. The weekend seminar incorporated a winning mix of education, information, good food, great fellowship and, of course, those resounding four-part chords.

As our Society emphasizes, COTS is not just for officers any more. The "O" stands for "Operations", not "Officers" as many people mistakenly think.

Our recent COTS offered something for everyone as part of your continuing education in barbershop. Headed by a crew of talented Society instructors, the general sessions addressed such topics as Youth Outreach Overview; Basics of PR and Marketing; Chapter Services - What Are They?; Chapter Challenge; Director Rehearsal Techniques; Chapter Budget Preparation; Importance of a Chapter Bulletin; Singing Valentines Program, and Conducting a New Member Orientation.

If you missed this past COTS, plan on attending our next one in December. It'll be well worth your while.



Clockwise from top left:

SUPER MARKETER: Kenosha's PR specialist Reed Sampson (right) goes over some public relations/marketing concepts during a COTS session. **CAN WE TALK?** Engaged in deep (?) conversation are COTS attendees Fred Kienitz (left) and Larry Parker. **MULTIFACETED:** The Diamond Girls captivated the audience during Saturday night's general session at COTS. They were winners of last year's highly-successful High School Barbershop Quartet Contest, sponsored by the Lansing Chapter. **SINGING LEAD:** District officers for the year were installed at a COTS general session. Front row, from left: Al Bonney, Doug Pearson, Russ Seely, Fred Kienitz, Roger Lewis and Larry Parker. Back from left: Stan Williams, Alex Willox, Jack Schneider, Doran McTaggart and President David Cole. Missing from picture is Raleigh Bloch. **PICK-UP LINES:** Even during a busy day of training, some time was needed to break out into four-part harmony.

(at left) **AT ATTENTION:** Top Society instructors kept the attention of COTS attendees during the two-day session at Gull Lake.

Take Note...**Many opportunities for improvement in 1999****KIENITZ**, from page 6

volved almost six months in advance so as to allow for those directors to clear their calendars for June 26, 1999. They will be getting a letter from me within the next few days outlining timelines and other information necessary to attend.

Mel Knight, our newest retired International Director of Music Activity and Tom Caulkins will be conducting this workshop.

I have made tentative plans to do two more "Workshop Intensive" sessions on the eastern and western side of southern Michigan the fall of '99 and spring of 2000.

The second of the aforementioned activities is a front-line director seminar at M.S.U. on May 14-16, 1999. This class will be under the auspices of the Pioneer District Chorus Director Development Program and Bill Rashleigh, an International Staff service member who will serve as Dean and guest lecturer. His musical background, directing skills and university degrees more than qualify him as an expert in both the Barbershopping field and the music community.

I will be sending letters of invitation to all chapter musical leaders and their assistants inviting them to attend this seminar or the basic directing class at the May Harmony Roundup.

Public Relating...**Future Society growth depends on individual PR****PEARSON**, from page 5

They were the featured entertainment. At a post-show reception, they were constantly "selling" in a nice way, mingling with the party-goers, passing out cards and brochures, selling CDs -- in effect, impressively working the crowd.

And that's what we have to do, literally and figuratively. Work the crowd. Don't let the applause stop after your contest or show appearances. Our commu-

Cooperation, teamwork the key**McTAGGART**, from page 6

mony Explosion Camp. A Standing Ovation Program will be initiated to improve our chorus and quartet performances. Just ask for a confidential review.

Chorus director development

There are plans for a Chorus Director's Workshop Intensive (CDWI) in the North after the Spring Convention. Hopefully there will be two new directors enrolled at the Director's College and there will be a backup director in every chapter.

Marketing and P.R.

An increase in the number of chapter bulletins and chapter reports in the *Troubadour* would be great. Many ideas for marketing your chapter are coming your way.

Charities**Prez looks to year ahead****COLE**, from page 3

list goes on, and on...

Where am I going with this dissertation you ask? It's simple. Without barbershopping you and I would not have the wonderful memories to look back upon. Nor would we have the wonderful opportunities to strut our stuff, and do what we all enjoy, entertain the masses. I've only been enjoying our

A District endowment fund will be established. More to follow.

Member Services

An increase in membership is an ongoing goal. New extension sites for chapters are constantly being explored.

Judging

During 1999 the goal is to have every chapter competing in a contest. That could be either a chorus or a quartet.

It's easy to see that this thumbnail sketch of some of the fun things that we can do looks like we have a great year ahead of us. Literature will be sent to your chapter. Your chapter coach has all of the information you'll need to enable your chapter to participate in these exciting activities.

Give him a call and put his expertise to good use.

hobby for a short period of time, I hope to enjoy it for much longer, and look forward to many more opportunities to sit back on a snow day - OK, really snowy day and ponder some enjoyable days of yesteryear.

Here's to a wonderful year of membership growth, and personal growth for everyone in Pioneer.

nities enjoy our type of vocal production. It's up to us to sell it.

Let's face it. We can't afford to be a closed society. Like other groups, we're faced with the specter of declining membership. The chapters that survive and grow will be the ones that sell themselves, whether we're talking about membership, promoting Youth Outreach, attracting good directors, sustaining good coaches or nurturing vibrant community relations.

Functionally, these are all separate areas, but they all rely on the positive image each one of us can produce.

Whatever your role in your chapter, you should tell and sell our story at least once a day -- more if you can.

So how about you? Have you met your quota today? Don't look to the guy next to you because the future of your chapter, your district and your Society depends directly on you.

Youth Outreach success comes in three simple steps

BONNEY, from page 5

schoolboy's tip? How the kindness is recalled by the recipient in after days! It blesses him that gives and him that takes." The only winner from your offering can be the Music Educator and the kids. There can be nothing in it for you! No strings! No hidden agenda! No benefit for you other than knowing you helped their music program!

Gary Plaag, after 7 year's experience in MAD working with music teachers in a variety of settings, suggested a three step process to put this mind-set to work:

1. **Inventory the resources your chapter can bring to the table**, money if you have a rich chapter, or performance venues if you have a good show. A great sounding quartet (or chorus) provides the opportunity to do demonstrations and professional music skills suggest a clinic or festival. Most schools enjoy having groups come in to perform or maybe you can simply offer manpower to help build scenery or pass out programs. You may have printers or artists or carpenters in the chapter who would be willing to donate some services. And don't forget all the resources that the Society brings to the table: Harmony Marketplace items, four part boy's music, and high grade educational opportunities to name a few. This short list might stimulate your own thinking to

double or triple the things you could make available to benefit the school's existing music program.

2. **Step two, approach the educator, armed with your new mind-set**, and find out what *they* need to enhance *their* program.

3. **The third part is the easiest - help them get what they need!** Sure, you have to have the particular resources in your inventory that support their requirements but sure as we sit here you will be able to find a fit somewhere - bank on that!

"But there's no barbershop focus!" you shout! That's the whole point, isn't it. Your YO program isn't about barbershop. It is about getting kids - and specifically boys, to do more singing. The only way you will be able to get a role in the school's music program to accomplish this is to win the trust and favor of the music teachers. If they want you in, you are in. If they don't, you are out! Better you have them want you in. What better way than build a relationship based on trust and service.

Your chapter can start building this relationship of trust and service with these simple three steps. I'd welcome discussing this if you've tried this and have comments, or if your haven't and want encouragement. Call or e-mail. Like Frasier Crane, "I'm listening!"

Harmonizers wed

David LaPointe and Kendra Gibson were wed on January 2, 1999 in Lansing. David is a former member of the DOC chapter. Kendra, daughter of Vicki and Ken Gibson (Lansing chapter), is director of the Water Wonderland Chorus of SAI in Okemos. The couple will be making their home in Lansing.

Almost 200 family members and friends braved the winter temperatures and record snowfall to attend. After the wedding, all gathered at the Hawk Hollow banquet facility for the Big Band sounds of the Couriers from Ann Arbor and the singing performances of numerous groups.

Many guests left the festivities saying "Wow! This was one of the best afterglows, er, receptions I've ever attended!"



David & Kendra LaPointe were married January 2. The harmonious couple made sure the event overflowed with music.



Music and performance is what we're about

RUSS, from page 3

thing. In future issues, we will provide you with reservation forms and data to guide you to a most rewarding weekend. As an added attraction, this year we will also stage a Saturday night show headlined by ACOUSTIX and feature various quartets, who will be students of our Round-up, and at least one chorus. At this point, we already have two chapters who have pledged their chorus to attend - Thank you Gratiot County and Traverse City! Incidentally, the cost will be under \$100, which includes room and board and materials. One helluva deal.

In another venture which the society has dubbed The Standing Ovation program, your district officers have been enlisted for the beginning of what we hope to be a continuous committee that will actually help in the polishing of your show or performance package to simply "be the best that you can be." As we assemble the cast of evaluators, we will apprise you of our availability and whether you would like to have a confidential evaluation, with meaningful and sincere recommendations of how you might make your appearances a joyful experience that prompts your audience to a standing ovation.

In closing, your chapter should consider fellows that would become a real asset to you by sponsoring him (or them) to our mega camp Harmony or Director's College in August at St. Joe, MO. Never too early to plan. In fact, if you know of an interested public educator who might be interested, college credits are offered and the society also rewards them with a very attractive reduced cost. More to follow. Enjoy your performance by perfecting them.

Cereal City among convention focal points

Cereal assembly line tours were the most popular attraction in Battle Creek until they were discontinued more than a decade ago. But now they're back, at the new Kellogg's Cereal City USA.

The state-of-the-art, interactive attraction -- which includes a simulated cereal production line -- opened last summer and has since been the top tourist destination in the city.

It also will be the focal point of some of the weekend activities as the Pioneer District spring convention returns to Battle Creek on April 23-25:

-- A breakfast for families and children is planned there at 8 a.m. Saturday. Cost is \$12 per person, including a tour. Because a minimum sign-up of 75 is required, please send advance reser-



ations with your name, address, phone and cash or check to: CCUSA Breakfast, c/o Roger Lewis, 20125 12-Mile Road, Battle Creek MI 49014. For more info, phone 616-965-5714 or e-mail RJJLewisCMC@aol.com.

-- A mass sing will be held Saturday afternoon outside CCUSA, led by Society Executive Director Darryl Flinn and other directors in the district. Prominent on the plaza is the glockenspiel, a tall cylindrical clock tower which becomes active hourly with chimes, music and animated Kellogg

characters. The mass sing will begin about a half hour after the chorus competition concludes, estimated to be around 4 p.m. It will include two special Kellogg songs by the Cereal City Chorus.

Barbershop conventioners may tour Cereal City USA any time it's open during the weekend at a reduced rate of \$5 per person. These special tour tick-



ets are to be purchased at the convention reservation desk at McCamly Plaza Hotel.

Visitors can see how cereal is made in a realistic self-guided tour, and also walk through time from the birth of cereal to the present.

This is Battle Creek? Convention site

The new Battle Creek has much more to offer barbershoppers and their families than just a new interactive cereal attraction. A great deal has changed since Pioneer District conventions were held in the city more than five years ago.

Visitors will experience a renovated headquarters hotel, a new hotel, a downtown mall reopened to traffic, new restaurants, a new family fun center and generally a new look in just about any direction.

And, to resolve confusion and make getting around easier, all of the one-way streets in the downtown area have become two-way.

The headquarters hotel downtown is McCamly Plaza Hotel, formerly named Stouffer's Battle Creek Hotel. It has 242 rooms, three suites and four hospitality suites, plus meeting and afterglow rooms on the first floor. It still is rated by AAA

as a top 4-Diamond hotel, only one of nine in Michigan. At the top, on the 16th floor, are the upscale Porter's Steakhouse, along with Porter's Cigar Bar with jazz on Friday and Saturday evenings. The Cigar Bar renovation includes soft, plush leather seats for ultimate relaxation. Valet and discount garage parking are available for guests. The hotel has its own website: www.mccamlyplazahotel.com. For information, call 616-963-7050.

The connected McCamly Place has several eateries and retail shops. Restaurants include Taco Bell; Pizza Hut; McCamly Cafe, which features Starbucks coffee and Ben and Jerry's ice cream; and the Jungle, with a relaxed casual menu. But the Jungle does get loud in late evening with youth rock music.

Opening in time for the convention will be a new AmeriHost Hotel at VanBuren and Tompkins streets, just one

block north of downtown Michigan Avenue and a block west of W.K. Kellogg Auditorium, the competition site.

Convention sites are close to one another, with McCamly plaza Hotel a block south of downtown and the auditorium a block north of downtown.

Another convention hotel, the Econo Lodge, is downtown and several others are three miles south on Beckley Road near I-94.

Once known as the Michigan Mall, Michigan Avenue downtown has been opened again to traffic and parking, making it more accessible. Two new restaurants have opened downtown -- Arcadia Brewing Co., which serves pizza and several types of Battle Creek-brewed beer, and 34West, with a wood-burning grill and Southwest American menu. The very popular Clara's on the River (a spin-off of Clara's in Lansing), with a huge menu,

Exec. director to take active role in convention

The Barbershop Harmony Society's representative at the spring Pioneer District convention will be our organization's top staffer, Executive Director Darryl Flinn.

But he will not be merely an observer at the convention when it returns to Battle Creek on April 23-25. He will take an active role:

-- Flinn will direct the second song as Battle Creek's Cereal City Chorus plans to place on stage one of the largest-ever competition choruses in the district.

-- He will be among the directors at a mass sing later Saturday afternoon at Kellogg's Cereal City USA.

-- He will participate in the district officers' meeting at 9 a.m. Friday and will report on the state of the Society to

the House of Delegates meeting at 2 p.m. Friday.

A barbershopper for 40 years, Flinn is an accomplished quartet singer and chorus director, with three district championships and seven international contest appearances. For more than 20 years, he directed the Hall of Fame Chorus in Canton, Ohio.

His expertise is in great demand as a coach of top choruses and quartets. He regularly serves as a faculty member at schools and Harmony College, a week-long school that brings together more than 700 barbershoppers annually.

He is also a certified judge for barbershop singing contests. Flinn completes his third year as Society executive director on March 1. As chief administrative officer of our 33,000-member nonprofit organization headquar-

tered in Kenosha, Wis., he supervises operation of a 40-person staff and administers an annual budget of \$5.2 million.

Among several offices over many years, Flinn was the Society's international president in 1987. He has also served as president of Harmony Foundation, a philanthropic arm of the Society. And he chaired the Future II and Vision 2001 committees, which mapped out long-range strategies for the organization.

For more than 30 years, he was a district manager for State Farm Insurance in Stark County, Ohio, where he built and managed more than 30 agencies. His many accreditations include the presidency of the National Association of Life Underwriters, and presidency of the General Agents and Managers Association.

Darryl and his wife, Meredith, reside in Kenosha.



Flinn

ports a new look since its last contest

remains open in the old train station along the tracks just south of the auditorium. And there's still the traditional Italian Roma Cafe downtown. Reservations are recommended at Clara's and 34West.

Several franchise restaurants are open on Beckley Road, just south of I-94, including Bill Knapp's, Bob Evans, Cracker Barrel, Denny's Don Pablo's, Fazoli's, Firehouse Creme and Corn, Mancino's, Old Country Buffet and Steak 'n Shake. Lakeview Square mall has added Applebee's. Others in town include Finleys, Hot 'n Now, Hungry Howie's, Long John Silver's, Red Lobster and Ryan's Steak House.

For those who have time to break away from convention activities, there's the new Full Blast, created from ideas offered by community youth and built by the city. Just across the street from McCamly Plaza Hotel, it includes 150,000 square

feet of year-around fun for the family. Features include a health-club gym, a "Wild Room" with laser tag, a teen night club, a food court, an Internet cafe, three full-size gyms, an indoor water park with two water slides, and a three-story indoor playground with slides and climbing nets. There is an admission charge. The Website is www.fullblast.org. Phone 616-966-3667.

This brightly colored architectural award-winner is just one of many new sights downtown. Also new downtown are the Kellogg Co. headquarters, the full-block Kellogg Foundation with a unique Underground Railroad sculpture, and a new Kellogg Co. research facility.

South of downtown is Binder Park Zoo, which is expanding to add a major African venue this summer. Call 616-979-1351.

The new McCamly Plaza hotel



Sing with pioneer district's largest-ever chorus

Jim Styer, convention PR,
and Roger Lewis, convention chair

You now have a chance to sing in the Pioneer District's largest-ever chorus.

At the same time, you can sing in three different choruses in one afternoon -- and no one else has ever done that before.

So, appropriately, the convention theme is "A Cereal City Chord Celebration."

By becoming dual members of the host Battle Creek Chapter, all 1,300 barbershoppers in the district can overflow the risers and fill the stage from side to side and even down to the apron at the judges' table in the huge Cereal City Chorus as the spring convention returns to Battle Creek on April 23-25.

Further, you also can compete with your own chorus and sing with the Joe Barbershopper Chorus -- three in one day.

Not only that, but also -- with a year-long dual membership -- you can sing with Battle Creek next fall and likely win as members of the "most improved chorus." Last fall, the Cereal City Chorus with 14 men on stage placed last at 15th.

Convention headquarters will be at McCamly Plaza Hotel downtown and all competitions will be held at W.K. Kellogg Auditorium, two blocks to the north.

To activate your Battle Creek dual membership and sing in the huge chorus, fill out the form in this Troubadour (next page) and mail it in with \$20. That consists of the \$9 chapter dual-membership fee and \$11 for a unique "Tony Loves Barbershop" T-shirt. This short-sleeve white T-shirt will include a colorful picture of Kellogg Co's Tony the Tiger mascot, and will be the chorus uniform for the competition. Many of you saw this T-shirt worn by Sue Lewis as she accompanied Tony at the fall convention in Lansing. The T-shirts will be distributed at the chorus rehearsal.

Dual members of the Battle Creek chapter also will receive periodic copies



TONY LOVES BARBERSHOP: Folks who dual enroll with Battle Creek chorus can not only take the stage with two choruses for convention, but will also receive limited edition "Tony Loves Barbershop" T-Shirts (right). They may even get a chance to meet Tony himself (left, with handler Sue Lewis).

of a special chapter bulletin, will be invited to a special summer party, will be able to join the successful eight-year-old Cereal City Christmas Chorus, may sing on Battle Creek's spring show in 2000 and purchase reduced-price tickets, and will be welcomed at all Battle Creek chapter meetings and other activities.

The songs to be sung in competition by the Cereal City Chorus will be from the Barber Polecat repertoire that all barbershoppers already know. The first song, "Wait 'Till the Sun Shines, Nellie," will be led by several different directors in the district, including Cereal City Chorus Director Ed Fritzen ... and Tony the Tiger! The second song, "Sweet and Lovely," will be directed by Society Executive Director Darryl Flinn, the Society's representative at the spring convention.

To make it as convenient as possible for as many barbershoppers as possible, the Cereal City Chorus rehearsal will be at 9:30 a.m. Saturday in the W.K. Kellogg gym, and will last no longer than an hour. The Cereal City Chorus will sing last in competition, which begins at noon.

Rehearsal for the Joe Barbershopper Chorus, the mike testers at noon, will be at 10:30 a.m. at the school gym. This also will last a maximum of an hour. It will be directed will be Jack Slamka, director of Macomb's Harmony Heritage Chorus, which will represent the Pioneer District at the international convention

this summer in Anaheim, Calif.

The gym also will be the location of chorus photos, to be taken before each chorus goes on stage. Photo orders will be taken there, at \$6 for 10x8, \$9.50 for 14x8, to be paid at the gym. Because of the possible large number of those who may want pictures of the large Cereal City Chorus (14x8 may be required because of chorus size), it is recommended that singing dual members in each home chapter prepare a list of names, address and consolidate payments for orders in advance to be presented at the morning rehearsal.

Immediately after the Cereal City Chorus performance, "Tony Loves Barbershop" T-shirts also are to be available to other conventioners for \$15 at the auditorium and later at the Barber-shop Shop.

The idea for a huge, dual-membership chorus originated last spring in the Dixie District, when nearly 200 barbershoppers sang with the Fire Brigade Chorus of Roswell, Ga. Regular chorus membership was 60. The chorus placed fourth in competition.



DUAL MEMBERSHIP WITH BATTLE CREEK

I wish to join the Battle Creek (MI) Chapter as a dual member and sing with the Cereal City Chorus at spring 1999 convention.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

HOME CHAPTER _____

MEMBERSHIP NUMBER _____ VOICE PART _____

PHONE (____) _____ E-MAIL _____

SIGNATURE _____

I would like this size "Tony Loves Barbershop" T-shirt:

(Check one) S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ XXL ___

_____ Enclosed is \$9 for dual-membership fee and \$11 for the T-shirt for a total of \$20.

Enclose check to Battle Creek Chapter, SPEBSQSA

or bill to credit card: Visa ___ Master Card ___

Card number _____ Expires _____

Mail to:

Jack Eagles, 507 Alton, Battle Creek MI 49017
(Phone for more information: 616-965-0173)

Spring Convention Schedule

FRIDAY, April 23

9 a.m. • District board meeting, McCamly Plaza Hotel.

11 a.m. • Registration begins, McCamly Plaza Hotel lobby.

Noon • Barbershop Shop opens, McCamly Plaza Hotel. Open through Saturday night at any time competitions are not in progress.

2:00 p.m. • House of Delegates meeting, McCamly Plaza Hotel.

3:30 p.m. • Ladies Hospitality Room opens, McCamly Plaza Hotel. Open when competitions are not in progress.

6:30 p.m. • Registration moves from hotel to W.K. Kellogg Auditorium.

7:30 p.m. • Quartet competition

semi-finals, W.K. Kellogg Auditorium.

Half hour after competition • Macomb show, \$5 admission, McCamly Plaza Hotel.

SATURDAY, April 24

8 a.m. • Breakfast at Kellogg's Cereal City USA, \$12 including tour. Advance reservations recommended, to Roger Lewis.

9 a.m. • Registration continues, McCamly Plaza Hotel lobby.
• Ladies Hosp. Rm. opens.

9:30 a.m. • Cereal City Chorus rehearsal with all dual members, W.K. Kellogg Auditorium gym (one hour maximum).

10:30 a.m. • Joe Barbershop Chorus rehearsal, directed by Macomb's Jack Slamka, W.K.

Kellogg Auditorium gym (one hour maximum).

11 a.m. • Registration moves from hotel to W.K. Kellogg Auditorium.

Noon • Chorus competition (Joe Barbershopper will sing first, Cereal City will sing last), W.K. Kellogg Auditorium.

Half hour after competition • Mass sing outside Kellogg's Cereal City USA. Special tour price of \$5. Ticket to be purchased at registration area.

7:30 p.m. • Quartet competition finals, W.K. Kellogg Auditorium. After competition -- Afterglows at McCamly Plaza and other hotels.

SUNDAY, April 25

9 a.m. • Gospel service, McCamly Plaza Hotel.

BC takes convention reins in big way

CONVENTION, from pg. 1 for sheet music, \$2 per part learning tape, \$6 for shipping. Delivery can take up to two weeks. It comes with the low tag; Macomb will furnish copies of the high tag at rehearsal.

Slamka recommends "that all dress up a little, with the minimum being a sports coat and dress slacks," Anderson said. "Chorus formal uniforms are welcome, too, and none would be excluded from singing for a lack of dressing up. We want to provide an opportunity for everyone to sing and at the same time we would like to have the chorus look as good as possible."

OTHER ACTIVITIES

The chorus competition will be followed by a mass sing about 4 p.m. at Kellogg's Cereal City USA, to include two special Kellogg songs by the Cereal City Chorus. Tours of the new cereal attraction will be available at a \$5 reduced rate all weekend, with tickets purchased at the convention registration desk. The facility also will be the site of a Saturday-morning breakfast and tour.

Activities at McCamly Plaza Hotel also will include a District Board meeting at 9 a.m. Friday and a House of Delegates meeting at 2 p.m. Friday. A Barbershop Shop will open at noon Friday and a ladies' hospitality room at 3:30 p.m. Friday; both will remain open through the weekend except during competitions.

Late-evening afterglows will be held by several chapters. Advance arrangements for afterglow rooms are to be made with the respective hotels.

GOSPEL SERVICE

A Gospel service featuring Kindred Spirits will conclude the convention at 9 a.m. Sunday at McCamly Plaza Hotel. The three men and three women in the a capella sextet, all active members of either SPEBSQSA or Sweet Adelines International, have more than 130 years of combined singing experience in both. Their love of barbershop harmony led them to a greater appreciation of all



A capella sextet Kindred Spirits will perform at the Sunday Gospel service.

types of a capella music; they also are members of the Contemporary A Capella Society of America.

Kindred Spirits was the guest performer at the 12th-annual Gospel Sing last July at the international convention in Atlanta and also sang there at an a cappella festival.

The group formed in 1996 to develop a variety of musical selections for area churches. It has since expanded the repertoire to include vocal jazz and swing/big band selections, as well as contemporary Christian pieces. Kindred Spirits hopes to release its first CD next fall.

Members are tenor-bari Ken and second-alto Vicki Gibson of the Lansing barbershop chapter and SAI Water Wonderland Chorus; daughter Kendra LaPointe, soprano and director of the Water Wonderland chorus; bari-bass Marv Moran of the Motor City Metro Chapter and wife Karen, first alto, of the Spirit of Detroit Chorus; and bass Dave Drouillard of the Monroe Chapter. Among other claims to fame, Ken was with an international runner-up quartet, the Vagabonds; Vicki was with international champion Front Office Four; and Dave Drouillard was in one of the versions of Pioneer District champion quartet Ivy League.

Convention chairman for the host chapter is Dick Campbell, Battle Creek Chapter president. District convention chairman is Roger Lewis of Battle Creek.

Top Ten reasons you can't miss this convention!

1. With a dual membership, you can compete in the Pioneer District's biggest-ever chorus.
2. A highly-entertaining "Macomb Musical Heritage" show will be staged on Friday night.
3. A Gospel Service featuring the Kindred Spirits will be held Sunday morning. If you haven't heard this group, you're in for a real treat.
4. You and your family can tour Kellogg's nationally-known Cereal City USA at a reduced rate.
5. You'll have the opportunity to sing in the Joe Barbershoppers chorus.
6. If your chorus is competing, you can actually sing in three different choruses on stage.
7. If you still haven't gotten enough singing (and who of us ever does?), there's the mass sing at Cereal City following chorus competition.
8. There will be a ladies' Hospitality Room that will remain open through the weekend except during competitions.
9. As in the past, you can browse and buy to your heart's content at the Barbershop Shop.
10. Feel like relaxing? Late evening afterglows will be held by several chapters.

There are many other reasons for being part of this Gala Convention. These are only 10 of them. See you in April!

You can get
there from
here... a map
of downtown,
and its
attractions



Alabama concert gives insight into outreach

Joe Serwach

Membership VP, Grosse Pointe chapter

My 11-year-old son Ed (the youngest member of the Grosse Pointe chapter) sings with Grosse Pointe as well as in a middle school group which was invited to sing with the country group Alabama at the Palace last December, a couple weeks before Christmas.

I very occasionally pop on a country song and never owned an Alabama record before, but because my boy was going to sing Christmas songs with them, I ran out and bought an Alabama tape called "41 No. 1 hits" and was impressed to see any group could have 41 No. 1 hits. Then we went out and bought a bunch of tickets. Six of us wound up going. The rehearsal started at 5:30 p.m. and the house doors weren't opening till 6:30 for the 8:00 concert so I got myself in one of the seats down front to watch my kid rehearse. After the rehearsal was over, myself, my girlfriend and daughter and I stayed in our seats as my girlfriend argued these might not be assigned seats and maybe if we stayed there long enough we'd keep the good seats and not have to go to the nose bleed section where we'd bought tickets. Unlikely, but worth a try, she thought.

So we sat there a while and at one

point this guy with a black T-shirt and a beard came out, peaking from behind the curtain, and pointed at me. While an Alabama fan would have recognized him, I thought he was a roady telling me to get out of these seats and I was avoiding leaving the theater so I looked away, pretending not to see him.

The next thing I knew, he threw something at me. I picked it up and it was a guitar pic that said "Alabama" and had a man's autograph, Randy-something. We finally got up and started looking for food, noticing country fans walking around with signs mentioning old "Randy-something," saying how much they loved him, etc.

It turned out that Randy-something was the lead singer and was the guy who'd thrown me this souvenir I assume many Alabama fans would love to have.

And when my son sang on stage with the group for a couple Christmas songs, I was very proud to see my boy grinning from ear to ear, waving to the crowd as he walked on and off stage, doing all the showman things Russ Seely teaches Grosse Pointe barbershoppers.

Then I figured that Alabama, by inviting a local school choir to sing with them, that Alabama got the families of all the kids to buy tickets. I realized that all of us parents are now fans of a group

we may have never known much about before.

Randy mentioned they do this in every town, getting the kids to sing the chorus of a couple of their songs.

And I started to think how we can apply that lesson to our society. While I don't know a lot about country music, it is at least played on the radio while barbershop is not, so it's fair to say most non-barbershoppers know very little about our music.

But what if we followed Alabama's example and invited a local school choir to sing harmony with us on some Christmas songs or some other song they might know (like "I believe" in a spring show?) Every friend or relative of theirs who came to see them sing with barbershoppers would be exposed to our art form, would possibly become interested and perhaps come to future shows, maybe even become members and if the parents don't get turned on to it, perhaps the kids will think of us many years down the road and decide to sing with us then or tell someone else about us, building our future, keeping our music alive.

Seems that's what the Youth Outreach idea is all about.

Detroit Sound Co.: Year In Review

The Detroit Sound Co. was formed in August of 1997 with the intent of gaining some competition experience at the upcoming convention. Our original tenor, Rudi Krampf, was instrumental in getting us prepared in such a short time. Imagine our excitement when, after only two months of rehearsals, we were announced as the champs! Perhaps a greater thrill was the overwhelming heartfelt congratulations we received from our friends throughout the district. We also thank our wonderful coach, Lynne Peirce (current director of the Huron Valley Chapter), for her guidance and support.

Our 1998 began slowly as Jim recovered from a minor heart attack (suffered on Christmas Day as he played basketball with his nephews) and Rudi decided to leave the quartet. Blessedly, Jim is feeling great, and we were fortunate enough to have the very talented and experienced Jeff Gougeon join our quartet.

Once we were back in the saddle, we had a very busy spring. TDSC had the opportunity to work with the incomparable Larry Ager. Wow! In just two hours, he had us singing and thinking better and left us with many concepts to incorporate. His recent passing is a terrible loss to his family and friends and the whole Society.

Our first big performance was headlining the Windsor Chapter show. Their reputation for warm hospitality is well-deserved. (Makes sense. They are south of Detroit! <g>). We also sang for them on one of their guest nights and Uncle Sam Night.

In May, TDSC was invited to participate in the Pioneer District Top Gun school at Michigan State University. (Go Green!) We were, indeed, thrilled to work with our Society Executive Director, Darryl Flinn, and all of the guys in Marquis (including our own Denny Gore).

After a relatively light summer schedule, our fall was filled with chapter visits and performances. Our first



"overnighter" was a show with the Muskegon Chapter where we shared the stage with the incredibly talented and hilarious quartet, Chordiac Arrest. Mike O'Donnell and the crew received us enthusiastically.

Other chapter visits included: Battle Creek (we taught them the Rice Krispies jingle), Milford (after the meeting, at a local watering hole, as the Red Wings were eliminating the St. Louis Blues from the playoffs, we sang Bye, Bye Blues to a delighted audience), Lansing/Grand Rapids (a road trip doubleheader that was rewarding and tiring), and Huron Valley (a night of fun and frivolity as we helped roast the infamous Jim Stephens).

Other show performances included: Rochester (hosted by my home boys as we shared the stage with the amazingly smooth Gas House Gang) and Huron Valley (we headlined at the Ark in downtown Ann Arbor with Kelly singing in three quartets as well as co-directing the chorus).

Competing at the Buckeye Invitational was another barbershop high for us. It was most enlightening to witness choruses and quartets from SPEBSQSA, Sweet Adelines, and Harmony Incorporated.

Our reign as district champs officially ended as we handed the trophies over to Upstage Sound, the 1998-99 Pioneer District Quartet Champions. (Congrats



GOOD SPORTS: The Detroit Sound Co. at two of their many gigs: Tiger Stadium (left) and The Palace (above).

to Gene and the guys!) The busy weekend began with our mike testing duties Friday night. Then, we sang with the Quartet Champions Association Chorus and headlined that show. To be singing on the same stage with the

Four "D" Minors, Firepower, and Power Play was awesome! After the show, we hosted a pizza party in our hospitality suite for the competing quartets. On Saturday, after Al conducted the Joe Barbershop Chorus (another fantastic experience), we sang our "swan songs" and thanked everybody for their loyal support. What a weekend!

TDSC ended the year by joining a variety of other musical artists in the Birmingham First Night activities. We sang three shows in City Hall on New Year's Eve and were shown on the evening news (Fox 2 Detroit). Cool!

Recent performances include the DOC Installation Dinner (with me as the Installer), a trip to the Monroe and Lansing Chapters, a visit to the Seaway Chorale (Trenton), and a dinner for an Allen Park politician. We will attempt to qualify for International (this July in California) at convention in Battle Creek, make an appearance on the Wayne Chapter shows in May, and make another appearance on the Huron Valley show in June.

TDSC looks forward to visiting you and your chapter. Feel free to contact us anytime.

Chapters in Action

Detroit-Oakland

by Tom Uicker

January came in with a bang this year as you people who are not snowbirds know. Upwards of a foot of snow landed on the Motor City on January 2 with additional snowfalls every day or two for the next two weeks. It has caused some local reporters to change the name from Motown to Snowtown.

Detroit-Oakland was one of the victims of the foul weather, canceling our first meeting for the year. It's not that we were smart enough to stay in out of the cold; the pastor of the church where we meet asked us to cancel so they could be sure to get their parking lots clear. The following week we had another storm, right at rush-hour, so our attendance was still down by half. We are saying, let's get all the storms over in January so we can have good weather and clear parking lots for our annual show.

Yes, February 19 & 20 are the dates when the Gentlemen Songsters will take you on a *Sentimental Journey* at Clarenceville High School in Livonia. This year's feature quartets are Gas House Gang, 1993 Gold Medalists, and Uptown Sound, 1998 8th-place international finalists. All seats are reserved and tickets are going fast. If you missed our ad in the last *Troubadour*, give ticket chairman Tom Uicker a call at (248)559-7082.

On January 8th we held our annual Ladies Night/Honors Banquet/Officer Installation. Twenty-eight of our members and twenty-two of their ladies braved near-blizzard conditions to show their support for our new executive board. This year, Herb Hebner takes on the task of President, with past-president

Jim Kunz moving to Music & Performance VP, Dave Montera shifting to Chapter Development VP, Doug Joppie taking over as Secretary, and Tom Uicker staying on as Treasurer. Our Members-at-large are Joe DeSantis, Harry Jessop, Russ Makowski, and Ed Snell.

Al Fisk was invited to perform the installation ceremony, and he brought along not only his lovely wife, Bonnie, but also his quartet, The Detroit Sound Company, who graced us with a few numbers. Then, before we got into the dancing, we surprised past-president Jim Kunz by naming him Barbershopper-of-the-Year.

On a sadder note, our Thursday group of Daytime Singers has decided to call it quits for a while. But our regular chapter meeting is still every Monday night at Starr Presbyterian Church in Royal Oak, on the southwest corner of Thirteen Mile and Crooks Road. If you happen to be in the neighborhood, stop by and sing a couple with us.

Macomb County


by Roy Gurney

Here we are in the dead of winter (and what a winter we're getting so far) and the work toward perfection is in full swing. We don't realistically expect to reach perfection but we'll get as close as we can by always keeping it as our goal. As I write this, we are preparing for our first monthly coaching session on Sunday afternoon with Barry Towner, director of the Scarborough, Ont. Dukes of Harmony. We truly expect this to be a very fulfilling experience.

Our show(s) on March 27 is being finalized and we will be doing at least two songs in eight parts with the East Point Sweet Adelines, who will also have their own portion of the show. The show will be billed as "Show of Champions" and will also have a number of quartets, including Power Play. It will start with a matinee at 3:00 p.m. and an evening show at 7:30. Tickets are \$12 and \$14

respectively and you can get them from any chapter member. The shows will be held at Mt. Clemens High School Auditorium and all seats will be general admission. You can save \$1 per ticket if you buy twenty or more at once, cash. Of course there will also be an afterglow but that information is not available at this time.

If you don't get the opportunity to see the show, or if you like it so well you want to see it again, we will be presenting our part of it with added quartets, at the Spring Convention in Battle Creek. Watch for schedule and information elsewhere in this issue of the "Troub" as "The Battle Creek Variety Pak". We look forward to seeing all of you there.



MARQUIS
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Cincinnati, OH 45247
(513) 923-9457

MARQUIS
INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONS 1995

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DALE PAUL

PAUL GILMAN
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Fanfare
an a cappella ensemble

Marv Moran (313) 459-4218

Bob Wisdom (810) 879-7083



Ed *Gene

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616-485-6223
uptownsound@iname.com

1998 Pioneer District Quartet Champions
A Registered Barbershop Quartet

Releigh Kerry

Chapters in Action

Lansing

by Brian Dunckel, President

The annual chapter meeting was held on December 12 at our regular meeting place, the Dewitt Township Hall. A pot-luck dinner was followed by the installation of officers for 1999 by District Treasurer, "The Honorable" Stan Williams. "Judge" Williams held court, and with spoon in hand (the treasurer wouldn't approve the purchase of a gavel) charged the following with a myriad of offenses as well as their duties for the new year: Brian Dunckel, President; Richard Kesti, Vice President for Chapter Development; Shawn Smith, Vice President for Music and Performance; Jason Fox, Vice President for Programming; Larry Parker, Secretary/Treasurer; Bruce Smith, Immediate Past President; Larry Best, Monte Bates, and Mike Cirrito, Board Members at Large. Entertainment was provided by the Patch Chords and Gallery. Guests had their musical knowledge tested by Monte Bates, who was joined by his wife Sandra and together they made ding-a-lings out of all of us as they turned the crowd into a huge hand bell choir. Since both Bates and his wife retired, they have traveled to senior centers and nursing homes and presented musical programs. Using a series of flashcards and colored bells, participants watch the cards for their bell color and then ring away to make beautiful music.

The evening also saw the presentation of the Past President's Pin to Bruce

Smith, and the President's Key Man Award was given to Paul Howe. The evening was topped off by naming the 1999 Barbershopper of the Year - Karel Taborsky, "Mr. T," a retired shop teacher, has for many years coordinated the work efforts of the chapter in the design and construction of the necessary props, staging, scenery, and storage equipment for the chapter. He has graciously opened his home workshop to the chapter in all of those endeavors. Although he's cut back a bit in the area of performance, he remains an active chapter member, greeting members as he takes



Fits him to a 'T': Lansing chapter member Karel "Mt. T." Taborsky received Barbershopper of the Year honors.

the attendance each week, passing out the evening's agenda, and assisting guests. "T", we again say thanks and congratulations!

Preparations for our annual show on March 13 are well under way. Tickets (\$15 and \$12) can be obtained by calling (517) 372-SING or 1-800-WHARTON. 1998 International Senior Quartet Champions, Jurassic Larks, and FIREPOWER! (1995 Pioneer District Champs) will perform along with chapter quartets and the Capitol City Chordsmen as they present a musical tribute to our country's most celebrated waterway in Roll On, Mississippi, Roll On!

Grosse Pointe

by Nick Piccione

Our hectic December schedule is over...the Christmas Show was an early sell-out with the afterglow at the Jefferson Yacht Club a big success. The Caroling Pub Crawl netted a new record \$2,062, all of which will be donated to the Holly Ear Institute of St. John's Hospital.

The chapter is busy preparing for our spring show. In last year's show, "Grosse Pointe Goes to Jail," we followed our intrepid hero (Mike Sullivan) into incarceration and eventual freedom. It is our hope he will now find salvation in "Grosse Pointe Gets Religion." If you haven't seen a Grosse Pointe show, you don't know what you're missing... they're not your typical barbershop show. It takes place on Saturday, April 10, with both afternoon and evening performances. For ticket info, contact Al Cole at (810) 779-3635.

Since we are in between contests and shows, this would be a good time to honor one of those jobs performed by unsung heroes. It takes a certain kind of person to be "Keeper of the Mug"...the kind who:

will buy, refrigerate, and serve about 4,000 cans of beer and pop each year and have them ready for every gathering, will pile up the trunk of his car with all those stale empties in order to take them back for the substantial Michigan refund.

will provide pretzels, chips, and assorted snacks free of charge at every meeting.

feels that "the rewards are great because you work with such a fun group of guys."

That last quote came from the current Keeper of the Mug, Chuck Wingard. He follows in the unselfish footsteps of recent holders of that office, Frank Fortier and Bob Farrington.

Chuck has received a special recognition award for his efforts. He feels such awards should be named the "Leroy Lenhardt Award for Meritorious Service" in honor of our late long time Treasurer who devoted so much time to the chapter. The next time we have a refreshment at a chapter meeting perhaps a toast will be in order:

Here's to old Chuck and Bob and Frank

Who provide refreshments we drank.
Like Leroy before,
They make up the core
Of many we also should thank.

'Quartet Corner' to showcase district acts

As our President David Cole has emphasized many times, quartets are the glue that helps hold our District together. And our Pioneer District is lucky enough to have more than 75 registered quartets telling and selling our exciting barbershop story.

To help you get to know these quartets better, we are starting a Quartet Corner column, beginning with this edition of the Troubadour. Any active, registered quartet is sincerely encour-

age to send us an article on who you are, where you sing, how you got started and any other interesting material you think our readers would enjoy. Your story is important to us, so we want to hear from you! Please limit your article to no more than 400 words.

We're kicking off this column with an article on the Lansing area's Patch Chords quartet.

By Doug Pearson

On a sultry August evening close to 25 years ago, four aspiring quartetters huddled in a corner of the Olds Hotel across from the Capitol during a 15-minute Lansing chapter break.

We had never sung together before as a quartet, but thought we'd try our hand at some chestnuts. During the middle of "Down Our Way," Lansing chorus director Ken Gibson of Vagabonds fame paused to listen for a minute, then went on his way.

As the chorus stood to wind up our practice session with "Keep America Singing," Ken took a couple of steps forward, and said: "Fellas, I heard four guys at the break who sounded real good. I know this may seem a little different, but I'd like to have them come up front and sing our closing song."

Well, that caught our fledgling foursome by surprise, but up front we trotted, sang "Keep America Singing," and were greeted with what seemed to us like a never-ending round of applause.

That's all it took -- kind words and encouragement from a District and Society icon, plus warm response from our chapter friends. Bill McCurdy, Jack Oliver, Don Horton and myself chatted enthusiastically into the night about forming a real quartet. And the Patch Chords were born on that memorable day in 1974.

Fast-forward to 1999, and the Patch Chords are busy entertaining audiences throughout the Midwest. In fact, since its start, the quartet has racked up more than 720 performances in six states and Canada; 102 communities alone in Michigan have heard the quartet's brand of mirthful music. 1998 was a banner year for the Patch Chords: a total of 42 performances, including a wedding, a funeral, Police Chaplains Association meeting and a Rural Firefighters Association banquet.

Quartet members are Rich Harlow, Roger Cahaney, Larry Best and myself. We're all members of the Lansing chapter. If we have one common goal as a quartet it's to entertain. When we're hired to do a job, we want to make sure the audience goes away with a smile on its face, a joke in its memory bank and hopefully a song (one of ours) in its heart.

In addition to injecting liberal doses of comedy into our routine, we also strive to sing well. We've finished as District finalists and have won the coveted first-place Gaboon at the Bush League contest.

During our years of harmony, we've experienced some tense times that only live performances can bring about. On our way to a performance at a State Eagles Convention in Kalamazoo, we forgot to turn west on I-94 off of I-69, and almost ended up in Indiana. Fortu-



nately we were only about 10 minutes late. At one performance, I managed to forget my uniform. We ended up doing a "trio" job once because our lead got sick (the show must go on, you know). I went blank on a "Wagon Wheels" solo and out of desperation threw in words that have never appeared in a dictionary (I hear about that from time to time).

Through the past quarter-century, the Patch Chords have stored some super memories. And we hope we'll still be blending four-part harmony 25 years from now.

A mixed
a cappella
sextet

Kindred Spirits



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Ken Gibson
(517) 351-8056
Kennygibson@aol.com

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Mark Wilson
Jeff Marks

Jamie Carey
James Hawkins

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333 N. Waverly Road, Easton Rapids, MI 48827

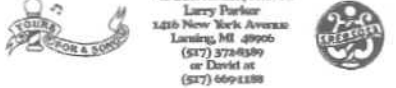
Art Cardy - Tenor
David Hundt - Lead

Larry Wise - Bass
Larry Parker - Baritone

GALLERY

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For information, contact:
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1999 PIONEER DISTRICT SPRING CONVENTION
 APRIL 23 - 25, 1999

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- All spaces must be filled out completely - type or print. clearly.
- Hotels require a credit card guarantee.
- All acknowledgments will be sent to the individual whose name and address appear below.
- Confirmation will be sent directly to you by your assigned hotel.
- Any changes in reservations must be made directly to the hotel after confirmation is received. **Do not send any room deposits to the Housing Bureau.**
- Reservation requests must be received no later than March 22, 1999. Room requests will not be accepted after this date.

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 34 W. Jackson St., Suite 5A
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1998 PIONEER DISTRICT SPRING CONVENTION
APRIL 23-25, 1999
BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN

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COMPETING CHORUS? YES ___ NO ___ CHORUS NAME _____

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EARLY REGISTRATION: \$16.00 PER PERSON

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

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Stan Williams, Treasurer

421 Franklin Street

Leslie, MI 49251

NOTE: All event passes will be at the registration desk in the McCamly Plaza (Headquarters). Single-event tickets can be purchased at the convention desk or W. K. Kellogg Auditorium: Friday \$10.00; Saturday Noon \$10.00; Saturday Evening \$10.00. Children 12 and under are Free.

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

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

District convention facilities are handicap accessible. Please indicate any special requirements you need to fully participate.

