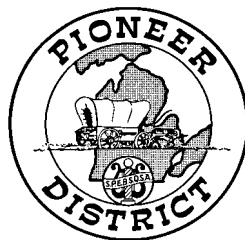


Pioneer Troubadour

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



Aug/Sept 2000

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Pioneer Power! Power Play medals in KC



By Staff Writer Jim Styer

POWER PLAY, already a bright star in the Pioneer District, has a new aura — the glow of international bronze medals.

From now on and forever, the Slamka family foursome, from the Macomb and Hillsdale chapters, will be known as a medalist quartet.

After more than a decade of competing, POWER PLAY scored fifth in International competition in July in Kansas City.

But, even though Team Slamka now has entered a rarified group,

the quartetters are still unassuming and personable. Of course, Dad/Uncle Jack wouldn't allow otherwise.

As they made the rounds of the hospitality rooms after their victory, they received greetings with graciousness and hugs with humility.

And after not only receiving — but also giving — many hugs, they surely had to have the makeup stains cleaned from their white coats. They were as appreciative of their fans as their fans were of

(Continued on page 18)

Great Lakes Chorus 19th at International

By Staff Writer Jim Styer

The GREAT LAKES CHORUS brought home from International competition in Kansas City both a 19th place and a permanent director.

Just before going on stage in Kansas City in July, Grand Rapids President Dale Mattis announced that Jamie Carey will continue as permanent musical director. Jamie, who directed Lansing's CAPITOL CITY CHORUS until last year, had stepped in temporarily after Ann Jarchow resigned.

During this short period, Dale told the PioNet e-mail list, "Jamie convinced us that he really does possess the those 'extra' qualities that we have come to expect of our front-line director. With his renewed commitment to us, and ours to him, you can expect even better scores in future contests."

It was Jamie's first experience directing a chorus at the International level. He was drawing on his expertise as a former quartet member (FIREPOWER!), knew what was needed, and was pressing the chorus to do its best. But he also was animated, was having fun, and had

(Continued on page 19)



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1. Submit article and photos/artwork via e-mail. **(Preferred)**
2. Mail file(s) on floppy disk.
3. Fax typed copy.
4. Mail typed article and scanner-ready artwork.

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To subscribe to the PioNet at no cost, e-mail your name and chapter name to JimStyer@home.com.

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Roger Lewis re-elected

Roger Lewis of Battle Creek has been re-elected as Society executive vice-president. His term will continue through 2001.

Re-elected Society president was Chuck Watson of the Cardinal District (Indiana and Kentucky).

The positions were voted on by the Society Board at its meeting at the International Convention in Kansas City in July.

Roger, 62, a 40-year Barber-shopper, previously was Pioneer District events vice-president and head of the Society's Events Committee, which is responsible for site selection and management of two conventions per year.

He continues to be active in his Battle Creek chapter. He has held all chapter offices and several district and Society positions. A lead and baritone, he has been a member of the comedic HARMONY HOUNDS for 39 years, one of the 10 oldest quartets in the Society.

Roger is a backup to the Society president, a liaison to district presidents, and a member of the Society Board Management Council. ■

Peirce, Waters selected for Directors College

In a random drawing in Kenosha, Lynne Peirce of Huron Valley Chapter and Roger Waters of Petoskey Chapter were awarded full-tuition scholarships to Directors College in St. Joseph, Missouri, July 30 to August 5.

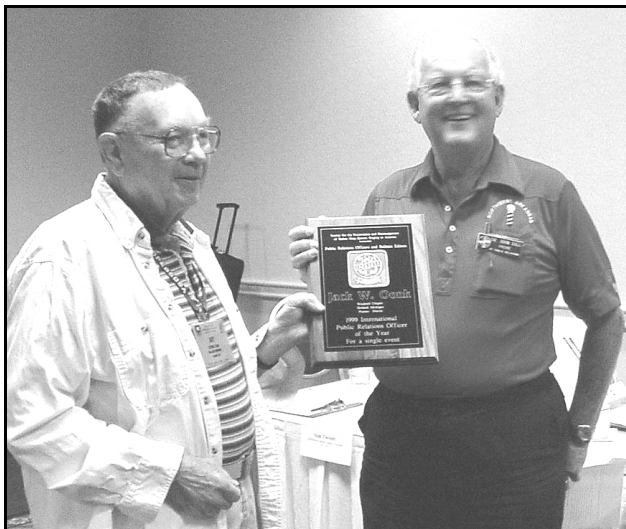
The week-long event helps front-line musical directors strengthen their skills and share their experiences.

Pioneer's Jack W. Oonk wins International PR award

By Staff Writer Jim Styer

Jack W. Oonk of Holland has been named the Society's International Public Relations Officer of The Year for promotion of a single event. He was nominated by Art Lane, who won the same award last year.

This is believed to be the first time the award has been presented to two different men in the same chapter.



John Sugg, PROBE VP for PR (right), presents the International PR award at the Society's convention in July. Receiving the award on behalf of Jack C. Oonk of Holland is Art Lane, also of Holland, who nominated Jack. (PROBE photo by Buddy Myers)

A 50-year Society member, Jack conceived and supervised a multifaceted "Preservation Through Performance" program to raise funds to develop the Park Theatre downtown — which the chapter had previously purchased — as a performance center for the whole community.

The international awards were announced at the Society conven-

tion in Kansas City. Art was there to accept the award in Jack's name. The awards are sponsored by PROBE, Public Relations Officers and Bulletin Editors, a self-supporting membership organization within the Society.

Other entries from the Pioneer District were Paul Smith of Flint, who received an honorable mention, and Darrell Richmond of Huron Valley. They were in a separate PR category, promoting their chapters through multiple activities in 1999.

The winner in that category was Dick Nykos, public relations officer of the Indianapolis Chapter.

Jack, 70, a newspaper and marketing retiree, developed a seven-page "manifesto" to make the theater a center where "great music of the past will be preserved through performance, from opera to vaudeville to Barbershop." The effort culminated in a major community dinner

show at the theater, featuring varied types of talent from throughout the community. By the end of 1999, more than \$40,000 was raised.

With part of that being used as seed money, a professional fundraiser was hired this year to help reach a goal that has been doubled to \$1 million. ■

Jim Styer elected to PROBE Hall of Honor

Jim Styer of Battle Creek was inducted into the Society's PROBE Hall of Honor at the International Convention in Kansas City. This is the highest honor that can be conferred on a member of PROBE, the volunteer-membership organization of Public Relations Officers and Bulletin Editors. The Hall of Honor recognizes "members who have made unique contributions to the organization, well beyond the normal duties for performing a PROBE-related function for his chapter or district."

Two other Pioneer Barbershoppers were previous inductees — the late Robert McDermott of Detroit-Oakland in 1992 and Roger Morris of Milford in 1996.

"Sometimes there are well-deserving people long overdue for nomination who simply have been overlooked because nobody took the time to nominate them," said nominator Grant Carson of Dallas, a former PROBE officer. "Jim has been a credit to PROBE in both public relations and Barbershop journalism."

The nomination was supported by Doug Pearson of Lansing, Pioneer District marketing VP, who wrote, "In our ever-changing musical hobby, Jim is a constant who carries well-earned credentials."

A retired journalist, Jim, 59, has been a Barbershopper for 16 years and a PROBE member nearly as long.

He was PR vice president of PROBE in 1991-93, while it was facing a budget crunch and potential

dissolution. He was involved with Bob McDermott and others in reorganizing PROBE and making it self-supporting. He also revived and restructured the International PR competition, which had been discarded for four years, and was a "PROBEmoter" writer.



Jim Styer of Battle Creek (left) is inducted into the PROBE Hall of Honor by Dick Teeters of St. Paul, Minn., chairman of the award selection committee. (PROBE photo by Buddy Myers)

He has been district convention PR chairman for 13 years, coordinator of district PROBE bulletin and PR contests for five years, and a *Troubadour* writer for 14 years.

He is founder and operator of PioNet, the district e-mail list, which has grown in three years from 30 subscribers to more than 300, nearly 25 percent of the district's membership.

For the Society's 50th anniversary, Jim organized a district convention celebration around a 50-foot "world's longest cake."

On the district's 50th anniversary in 1990, he coordinated a convention celebration that included a 63-foot display of 1,000 greeting cards from around the world. The guest that weekend was Betty Cash, daughter of Society founder O. C. Cash.

Jim also was district communications officer for five years, during which he offered one-on-one help to bulletin editors and held several regional PR seminars.

While chapter president, he spent a year organizing a SingAmerica week in Battle Creek in 1994. With a \$15,000 Kellogg Foundation grant, this developed into a pilot program for the Society's then-new SingAmerica/SingCanada service project.

Society staffers Gary Stamm and Jim DeBusman spent a week in town teaching and sharing information on a *cappella* singing with teachers, students, diverse choruses, and the community at large.

Also for the chapter, Jim has been PR officer for 14 years and a board member for nine years. He was bulletin editor for four years and membership VP.

For five years, he produced, directed, and sometimes shot video for a weekly half-hour Barbershop show on local cable TV, plus several specials.

He initiated and coordinated two regional PBS specials. He arranged for the chapter chorus and Sweet Adelines to be backup singers for the Andy Williams Christmas show

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A View From The Top

Don Bazely, President

Int'l Convention was awesome; why so few Pioneer people there?



Don Bazely

The 62nd Annual Convention and Competition is history, but the memories will linger on. I am sure that there will be a multitude of articles

from other Barbershoppers who were there, so I will just touch on the various events that, to me, were the highlights.

Without doubt, the high point in the whole week was when, at the end of the quartet finals, it was announced that POWER PLAY earned fifth place! They demonstrated their incomparable ability to sing from the heart

Take time to congratulate them. The competition was awesome, and just to place in the top ten was a huge achievement.

POWER PLAY, we are so proud of you.

The GREAT LAKES CHORUS sang very well and we need to tell them how much we appreciate them. I would love to have been on the risers with them.

The Harmony Jamboree is always a source of great pleasure for me. It is an event that I will never willingly miss. There were choruses and/or quartets from Holland, New Zealand, Britain, Sweden, and — get this — JAPAN. Sixteen men

from Tokyo, the TOKYO BARBERS, removed another geographical barrier to Barbershop harmony. The crowd loved them wherever they sang.

Besides the overseas performers, there were choruses and quartets from our own Society, from SAI, and from Harmony, Inc. What a great show!

The standard of performance from the college quartets seems to reach new heights every year. There is the future of our Society. At the ice cream social, they ran out of ice cream, but there was a whole lot of entertainment.

The Music Man theme dominated the evening and yours truly got a big thrill out of joining 100-120 other Barbershoppers who, at some time or other, played members of the "School Board" with their local theatre group. We sang "Lida Rose" and, according to my wife, did a very creditable job.

There seemed to be relatively few Pioneer people at the convention. Why was that? Kansas City was just down the road, figuratively speaking. Those of you who stayed home missed the chance to visit history.

The Muelbach Hotel, now part of the Marriott, has been refurbished to its original dignity. In the lobby, there is a plaque commemorating the location where O. C. Cash and Rupert Hall first met in

April, 1938, and hatched the idea of resurrecting Barbershop harmony. I could not resist a feeling of exhilaration at the sight of the plaque and a sense of gratitude to those two men who have, unwittingly, influenced so much in my life. I do hope that our Society will progress in a way that will meet with the approval of our two founders.

The Society, all 800 chapters, will be asked to sign on for a membership drive in the last 90 days of this year. Look for the slogan, **"It's As Easy As 1-2-3."**

Make a pledge, every one of you Pioneer Barbershoppers, to get behind the project. You will LOVE the results.

Every district is experiencing the same phenomenon: declining attendance at spring conventions. We need to know why and you are the only ones who know. Send me a note or e-mail me. Head your message: *Spring Convention*. You can be brutally frank!

In this issue, you will find copies of the music that will be sung by the JOE BARBERSHOP CHORUS at our fall convention. The chorus of "Story of a Rose" is the popular arrangement that we already know. The verse and tag is a John Hill composition and arrangement. To get a part-predominant learning tape, send \$5.00 to:

Don Bazely
52 The Drive
Sault Ste. Marie, ONT. P6B 1B7

I will need your name, address, and voice part, or chapters can send \$20.00 and get one set which can then be duplicated as many times as required. Let's have a 100-man chorus just like we had at the spring convention.

See you on the risers.

Don't forget Mike Slamka's slogan: **Sing from the heart ... or don't bother. ■**

Society Synopsis

Don Challman, Society Board Member

Society update: Kansas City

By now, you all know that LOL's Hilltop GREAT NORTHERN UNION finished fourth in the chorus contest (16 points behind Greg Lyne's GREAT AMERICAN CHORUS and only 183 points behind the VOCAL



Don Challman

MAJORITY). I ask my Pioneer District friends to bear with me while I take "author's liberty" and toot our horn. I say "our" because I sing with Hilltop and experienced the thrill of singing the best we have in our 14-year history. As for my LOL readers, I believe they will share my excitement.

Now on to the reason I write articles at all ... to share the business of Society President Chuck Watson, who gave us a capsule summary of the State of the Society Report (it is quite possible that the report, in its full length, may appear in an upcoming article in the *Harmonizer*). Regardless, I thought I'd pass on some of the most important points in his report.

In the area of singing and performing, our "top" level quartets and choruses continue to demonstrate that they are without equal in their ability to perform in the *a cappella* style of singing. The hobby has been blessed by the increasing availability, in music stores and through print, of CDs of our top quartets in

live (contest) performances.

On the down side, while our Society continues to provide a broad range of music education courses and workshops for arrangers, chorus directors, quartets, and individual singers, both at the Society and district levels, many members do not avail themselves of the opportunity to take part in these activities. Our people complain about the dues, but don't take advantage of what they are paying for.

As to the always-present concern regarding membership, we stood at 32,862 at the end of June, 2000, about the same as 1999's year-end numbers. The trend appears to indicate lower membership losses, which if continued will soon show a positive growth pattern.

Beginning calendar year 2000, a huge effort was begun to increase extension and create new chapters. As of June 30, 13 new charters have been granted and 69 extension sites have been visited. This compares with the yearly total in 1999 of 12 charters and nine licenses.

We continue to be an aging Society. However, recent demographics for new members indicate that 51 percent are under 50, a most positive indicator. In an added push for membership before the end of the year, all chapters will be contacted regarding what they can do to help in a final push toward membership growth in the year 2000. The basic premise is ... here are the programs ... do something ... there are

no prizes, just benefits to your chapter, community, and the Society.

The Standing Ovation program, a voluntary program for reviewing chorus and quartet performances and recommending improvements to enhance their quality, is beginning to take hold. Wouldn't it be great to have choruses perform at a division or district convention (contest) and NOT BE SCORED? They could perform and have a private evaluation session open only to themselves ... such a deal ... definitely a "win-win" situation ... if you take advantage of it. If you like the idea, contact your DVPMP (or continue to get what you've been getting).

Our future lies in the Young Men In Harmony Program. Many of our districts have held or are planning high school and Youth Outreach festivals and camps again this year. A separate Young Men In Harmony Society Committee has been created to help intensify activities in this area. Both LOL and Pioneer have YMIH VPs and can respond to individual chapter requests for information and help.

For the "bean counters," our financial position remains good. The operating budget for 2000 assumes an income of \$5,699,544. Subtracting expenses of \$2,205,629 for wages and benefits for the 48 Society employees and \$3,491,965 in operating expenses results in a direct operating gain of \$1,950. (I didn't do the math, I'm only relaying the figures from Frank S. in Kenosha ... this disclaimer will save me having to answer phone calls.)

At the last Board meeting, a Society member brought up the issue of possible "conflict of interest" on

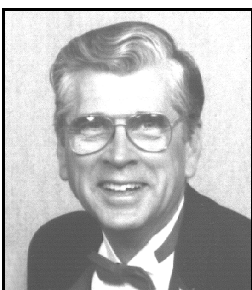
(Continued on page 24)

Here's the Pitch

Raleigh Bloch, Executive & Member Services VP

It's As Easy As 1, 2, 3

Hey, come over here. I want to tell you something.



Raleigh Bloch

What?

That was the big campaign at the International in Kansas City.

What was?

"It's As Easy As 1, 2, 3." I mean all

you had to do was walk into the headquarters hotel and you were plastered with a sticker proclaiming, "It's As Easy As 1, 2, 3." If you stood still for too long, you got more than one. Gene Hanover had them all over — in the front and on his back.

What's "As Easy As 1, 2, 3?"

Membership. The whole Society is committing to a membership drive called, "It's As Easy As 1, 2, 3."

What are the prizes?

The prizes are new members — no gimmicks, just new members. The "1, 2, 3" stands for October, November, and December. Darryl Flynn has requested that each chapter commit to having at least one membership drive during

those three months.

What are we supposed to do?

There are many proven and workable membership programs available from Kenosha or from me, your VP of membership services. All you have to do is pick one and follow it.

You mean the whole Society is going to push for more members all at the same time?

Yes! Isn't it exciting?

WOW! We could reverse the Society's downward trend in membership. Just think of the impact it will have when each chapter has a drive and picks up two or three new members.

Wouldn't it be great if your chapter picked up two or three new members?

Yeah, we lost a couple of members this year and if we lose any more, we are going to be in trouble. I guess I'd better talk it up with the guys.

Good idea. Start now and plan it out well and then work the plan.

If you need some help, just call me at 616-375-6849 or e-mail me at RBloch@compuserve.com. You can also call Ev Nau or Pat Kelly in Kenosha at 1-800-876-SING.

Let's "Share the Dream." ■



Barry Towner
Contact - Canada
1-905-473-2424

Mark Phelps
Contact - USA
1-734-427-8743

or See our Website

<http://members.xoom.com/highwaymen>

**You
4
will
score
at
Bush
League
2000
in Gaylord
9-29, 30
Contest
And
Super fun
show**

Basic music course on Internet

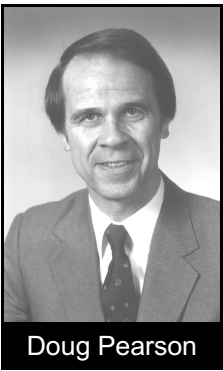
For those of you with computers and Internet access, there is a wonderful basic music course available. It has been put together by one of our Canadian brothers, Gary Ewer.

It's free and consists of 26 lessons that you can pursue at your leisure. It is called "Gary Ewer's Easy Music Theory" and can be found at: <http://www.musictheory.halifax.ns.ca/>

Public Relating

Doug Pearson, Marketing & Public Relations VP

Your chapter publication will keep you informed



Doug Pearson

Do the activities, events, and personal achievements of your chapter and its members fall into the category of “The Greatest Stories Never Told”?

If so, you’re not alone. You’re simply part of a major discord that could and should be fine tuned through better internal communications.

Good communication within a chapter generally gets its start when you turn the ignition key of your chapter bulletin — or chapter publication as I prefer to call it.

The sad fact within Pioneer is that a disturbingly high number of our chapters don’t even have such a publication. Now how’s a member going to know what’s going on without a communications system in place? Granted, there are sporadic efforts of hit-and-miss communications within non-publication chapters, but this approach doesn’t begin to take the place of a periodic publication that covers every facet of chorus activity.

Here I am sitting in Lansing, yet I feel like I’ve gained dual membership with the Holland Chapter. I know what’s going on at their meetings and I share in the positive results of their vibrant energy.

How and why does this happen? It’s really quite simple. I get their award-winning publication on a regular basis. And let me tell you, the *Windmill Blade* is packed with solid information, thanks to Editor Art Lane and his staff. In the latest edition I read, there were articles on the chapter’s famous annual tag contest; a “Many Hands Make a Fine Tulip Time Show and Glow” article; a gift being planned for the host chapter during the WINDMILL CHORUS’ visit to the Netherlands; the chapter board approving use of the theater by members; and a neat feature by Steve Foster: “On The Road With Black River to the 2000 Harmony Roundup.”

After reading their publication, I felt an immediate kinship with this chapter. If I felt this way back in Lansing, you can imagine what impact it had on its own members. A great way to build identification and allegiance to your chapter and chorus? You bet!

Shortly after my vicarious Holland visit, compliments of the *Windmill Blade*, I took an exciting jaunt to Traverse City by way of their chapter’s award-winning publication, *The Chorister*. Once again, I felt I had gained a dual membership, thanks to an abundance of pertinent information disseminated by Editor Elbert Ford and his prodigious gang of correspondents. President Al Bonney kicked off his column by recognizing the “high points and

heroes” of the chapter’s recent show. Personal recognition. You can’t beat it. What a great way to build chapter morale.

In his “Notes to You” column, Director Marty Chirgwin continued on the plaudit trail. “Congratulations, CHERRY CAPITAL CHORUS,” he wrote, “I congratulate every member who accepted the challenge by taking individual ownership and filling his space, thereby making the maximum contribution to the united efforts of the CHERRY CAPITAL CHORUS.”

Other items and articles of interest in the *Chorister* included a Quartet Corner, a Fall Convention Update, and important dates to watch. Just like Holland, Traverse City Chapter members are fortunate to be the beneficiaries of a solid publication. When you keep your members informed, you gain immeasurably in pride, chorus identification, and ultimate membership strength.

Before I flipped out my office lights, I turned to still another top district publication, the Detroit Oakland *Hi Notes*, edited by Tom Uicker. Nothing pretentious here. It’s a two-page bulletin-type format. In my estimation, its real strength is that it’s packed with current information of interest to all members and distributed on a regular basis. If DOC members don’t know what’s going on, it’s their fault. The recent issue I was looking at included articles on daytime singers, nighttime singers, team meetings, Return of the Jug, district send-off show, future performances, and a comprehensive DOC events calendar.

So how about your chapter? Do you really feel you know what’s going on? Are you informed of your chapter’s activities? Can you talk intelligently about your chapter Bar-

(Continued on page 23)

Chapter Coaching

Doran McTaggart, Chapter Support/Leadership VP

In real estate, it's location, location, . . . ; for Barbershoppers, it's plan, plan, plan



Doran McTaggart

At times all of us tend to procrastinate. I'll do it tomorrow, or the next day, or next week. As the deadline approaches,

panic takes over our calm and collected life and then we ask, "Why didn't I do this a long time ago?"

I'm writing this article in June so it will be ready for the July deadline. You probably will be reading this in August or early September. This is somewhat like your chapter making a Christmas CD. Starting in December is too late.

1. Elections

Chapter elections take place in October; start putting your slate of officers together now. A chapter board that has a mix of seasoned officers and some new blood will offer a variety of opinions and provide a learning experience for future administrators. Look at the *District Directory* and see how other chapters organize their chapter leadership. Having a person in each office will ensure that information, ideas, and other materials will be sent from Kenosha to the appropriate person in your chapter. Don't forget to include your bulletin editor, PR officer, services chairman,

Youth Outreach chairman, quartet activity chairman, and chorus director.

All of these people will receive materials too. If you don't have someone overseeing these activities, then your chapter will not be receiving mailings as they become available.

2. COTS

The most important training for your leadership team is having them attend our Pioneer District COTS on December 2-3. Information will be sent to all chapters outlining specific officer courses, forums, general sessions, and special optional courses. Your chapter will be stronger because of the knowledge that your leadership team will bring back home and put into practice. Outstanding teachers from all over the continent fly in for the weekend and share their talents with us. Your chapter deserves the best, so do insist that your leaders attend COTS, become well-trained, and move your chapter forward. Watch for the COTS package from John Gillespie regarding registration and accommodations.

3. District Convention - October 20-22

The best way to recharge your Barbershop battery is to attend the Pioneer District convention in Battle Creek on the above dates. The odds are great that if your chorus is

not singing in the contest, you won't be at the convention. Put two songs together and present them on the contest stage. Be part of the convention and enjoy the festivities. Your whole chapter will be wound up like a two-dollar watch. Your music committee will dash home to select two more songs for next year's spring contest. You say that you can't afford to win and go to the International?

Then make several mistakes and let another chorus win. Do whatever you have to do to attend the district convention. I've never heard the audience boo a contestant yet. Every group receives a warm welcome and a thunderous applause.

What are you waiting for? I'll see you in Battle Creek. ■

Sing ...
for life!

Thanks, Pioneer

By David Cole

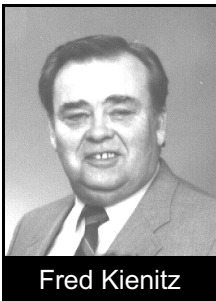
I would like to thank all of the Pioneer District members who personally congratulated me and the GREAT AMERICAN CHORUS for our third-place finish at the International Convention in Kansas City. Your support means a great deal to me.

Thanks again from the short guy in the front row.

Take Note

Fred Kienitz, Chorus Director Development VP

New manual makes good directors better



Fred Kienitz

You may recall that a couple of issues ago, I wrote to you about the new International publication titled "Directing a Bar-

bershop Chorus."

I now have the audacity to suggest that you poll your board of directors to briefly discuss this "self-help" aid to better Barbershop singing.

Why would I suggest such an approach? Because like so many chapter directors, I tend to feel that this kind of "self-help" may make me look less than capable? WRONG!

Ladies and gentlemen of the "Royal Order of Arm Waving Elitists": this should be your bible, your first source of information when answering such questions as "how," "when," "where," and "why" do we want to sing this way.

This manual is the product of basically two International staffers, Dr. Greg Lyne and Bill Rashleigh, who compiled and categorized the information herein. It also includes excerpts from other Barbershop greats such as Joe Lyles, former staffer Mel Knight, Ev Nau, Burt Szabo, Val Hicks, etc.

They also had the foresight to include the works of other vocal giants such as Madelein Marshall and Fred Waring.

Now the question arises, "Do I really need this CRUTCH to help me be a better director?" The answer is obvious. If there is NEW information to be uncovered and used to make me a better director, would it be dumb for me to use it? The answer, of course, is "no." For me to avoid this information and not use it would be the dumb thing to do.

Now to another matter! My job with the district is to offer my help and make myself available to every chapter chorus in my district. Sad to say, however, there are only five chapters that have asked for help on a multiple basis and it's amazing how much these chapters have benefited and grown musically.

Growth and learning are not commodities that will benefit any chapter chorus or quartet on a two-times-a-year basis. It's the multiple coaching sessions that prove to be most beneficial. Good singing habits come from repetition, i.e., exposure over and over until the concept becomes a part of the singer's natural musical production.

Then and only then do these newly learned skills become a part of the natural flow being produced by this singer. Remember, walking is a learned response, and we all fell down a lot before we mastered this skill.

Brothers in harmony, the same

(Continued on page 24)

Ladies Hospitality Room

By Carole Parker

Hello again, ladies. I am once again your host of the Ladies Hospitality Room. This is an early invitation to visit your room at the convention in Battle Creek, October 20-22, 2000.

For those of you who have not had the pleasure of visiting us, we are located in the Executive Board Room, left of the main entrance to the McCamly Plaza Hotel. Our hours are:

Friday 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Saturday After contest 'til 4:30 p.m.

This is your room, ladies. Please come on in and relax. Bring your craft items to work on. Swap grandchildren stories and show us the photos from your "Brag Book." Have a cup of coffee or tea and one of our delicious snacks. But most of all, share the company of others in fellowship.

Speaking of "Goodies," I am sure you have a favorite recipe, one handed down from your grandmother, mother, or favorite aunt. Why not make a batch or a platter full of them? Box or bag them up and bring 'em to the room with copies of the recipe. I think this would be neat!

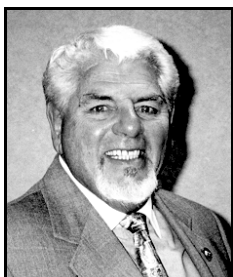
We always have great prizes to give away. Prizes are donated by several of the Pioneer District's former "First Ladies" and current district officers' wives. You must visit the Hospitality Room and register to be eligible to win a prize. The drawing will be held just before the 4:30 p.m. closing on Saturday.

(Continued on page 24)

Yours 4 A Song

Russ Seely, Music & Performance VP

What are we trying to preserve?



Russ Seely

Several times in the past, we have raised the issue of what we as a Society were doing to Encourage the Barbershop quartet since our beloved founders were so adamant about the subject that they incorporated that “E” as part of our name. Now, following the last few International conventions — especially the most recent in Kansas City — I become concerned that the “P” in our title (which stands for Preserve) also may be in jeopardy.

Following the increasing numbers of questionable offerings presented at last years’ convention, a “Blue Ribbon Committee” was appointed and charged with defining what the ingredients consist of in the so-called “Barbershop Style.” This would include the songs and their structure as well as the arrangement, which would include adherence to the author’s intended melody. The result would then determine suitability for the contest stage. Those of us who care were told that these findings would be made public ASAP!

I’m sorry to report that the committee is “not quite finished” and, when they are finished, the results

will be forwarded to the Society Board who would then, I’m sure, go back to negotiate with the C&J Committee and then ??? Sounds to me that the final version will be a watered-down statement and we’ll continue with more confusion as to what is Barbershop.

A number of songs would have been severely dealt with just a few short years ago when we awarded pluses or minuses to songs and/or arrangements considered non-contest numbers. For example, two quartets whose total scores were quite similar overall were awarded the following: quartet “A” actually scored six fewer points in the music category for presenting a grand old Barbershop ballad, “Sonny Boy,” while quartet “B” scored higher on a Frank Sinatra favorite of “One More For The Road.” Confused? Me, too!

Other performances by groups that achieved top-10 rankings had dramatic deviation from the original melody, which had most of us who thought we knew what Barbershop is just scratching our collective heads. Consequently, as your music & performance representative from Pioneer, I would be hard-pressed to give a definitive answer if asked whether such and such a song/arrangement would be suitable contest material.

Seems like only yesterday we all

worried whether we would be “dq’d” for singing the King Singers or certain Suntone’s charts. Now, I don’t think so.

Lest I leave you with a negative impression of the convention, I must report that the quality of singing continually improves. Quartets and choruses are using the ever-increasing number of qualified vocal/performance coaches and it shows. From the super finesse of the mega champs, VOCAL MAJORITY (158 strong), to the remarkable fifth-place finish by 34 talented performers from the Ontario District and to our own colorful Grand Rapids entry, ALL performed wonderfully.

Finally, I still get those goose bumps when I relive the magical moments of POWER PLAY, who earned every gram of bronze when they became Pioneer’s latest medalists. Did THEY sing Barbershop? You bet, with NO confusion about the material. Six great songs performed to excellence.

What a tear-jerking moment when our own Denny Gore, who was presenting medals with his quartet, MARQUIS, hung a bronze medal around Mike Slamka. Forgive me, Denny, but it was like the old guard passing the baton on to the young breed. Touching.

As Roger Lewis and yours truly shared hugs with PP when they left the stage, I raced to Jack “Pops” Slamka and couldn’t help but remember the night 25 years ago or so when Jack wandered into a Grosse Pointe “auditions for admission” program to find out what Barbershop was all about. I think he has demonstrated to US that he’s the one who really knows. And the lucky dog didn’t have to travel many

(Continued on page 22)

Young Men in Harmony

Al Bonney, District Chairman

The YMIH program coincides with the school year



Al Bonney

Whether your chapter is just getting started or has an established YMIH program going in your area schools, now is the time to begin laying the groundwork for your 2001 YMIH program.

Music teachers plan their year over the summer. Once it gets rolling, inserting a foot in the door can be a real trick. Successful YMIH chairmen tell us that RIGHT NOW is the time to find those music teachers and begin the dialog.

There are three things you might think about doing if you want to start a YO program:

- Review and agree on the chapter resources that you can make available to the music programs. Manpower, commercial products and services, money, skills ... they can all be helpful.
- Meet with music teachers and see what THEIR needs are.
- Find a match between your resources and their needs

May–August

Just getting started? School years begin in September and end in June. May to August is the time when the teachers are making their plans for NEXT year. If you want to be in their program in September, be in their thoughts over the

summer! With the relationships you have, now is the time to discuss:

- *Purchasing the music* they want to use in September (Barbershop or not!)
- Help them select some Barbershop selections that are suitable for their classes (we have lists just for this).
- Discuss what *role you or the chapter can play in the fall* — teaching quartets — coaching, etc.
- Don't forget the *HX camp and the Harmony College* opportunity — there is still time to sign up. These tools are wonderful relationship builders!

Already built relationships? The same list applies. This is THE time to get into the teachers planning cycle. If you ever contemplate a quartet adjudication or Barbershop festival in your area, you will need to begin the planning with the teachers involved no later than May so the dates and arrangements can get on their calendars and become part of their programs. *The fall is too late!*

September–November

Just beginning? These months are a great time to pick out one or two music teachers you know in your area and get to know them. Building relationships with area music teachers is the indisputable first step to a working YMIH program. Great opportunities exist to go to their concerts, buy their tickets, support

their music boosters, show your interest, and see if you can schedule a time to introduce your chapter's interest in supporting their program. You'll find lots of tips to get this started in the Society YMIH Resource Guide. (Stock #4074 from the Harmony Marketplace)

Already built relationships?

Certainly your program will benefit from more relationships so you could go back and build some more, but there are activities you may want to consider for the teachers you are already working with:

- *Lansing has its annual high school quartet competition*, usually in February. Call Dennis Wortz, (517) 241-7333 for entry information.
- *Locate a high school quartet your chapter can sponsor to Harmony Explosion Camp 2001* at Ball State in Muncie, Indiana. Dates TBA. They will need to work on some music beforehand, so now is a good time to get started. Call me or Bill Rashleigh in Kenosha (1-800-876-7464, x-8560) for more information or registration.
- *Locate a college quartet that might like to win some money competing in the Collegiate Quartet Contest*. Prelims are at our convention April 27-29, 2001. The winners to go International. \$1,000 prize for winning the prelim and \$4,000 for the winner at International. Call me or Jim DeBusman in Kenosha (1-800-876-7464, x-8566) for more information or registration.
- *Begin discussions with the teachers about their attending Harmony College* in St. Joseph, Missouri, July 29-August 5. The Society cuts non-member tuition in half for music educators and your chapter may want to fund some or all of the

(Continued on page 23)

Silverdomes surprise Stacey



Mitch Greenwood, a Barbershopper from the Fort Lauderdale Chapter, surprised his bride of one year, Stacey, by having the SILVERDOMES serenade her while the couple had a short layover at Detroit's Metro Airport on June 26. They were en route to celebrating their first anniversary in the Philippines.

Mitch thought a short, romantic concert in the terminal would be a neat surprise for his wife.

The timing couldn't have been more perfect. Just about the time the boarding announcement was made, enter the SILVERDOMES, who not only entertained the Greenbergs, but literally hundreds of travelers in a standing-room-only concourse. Stacey was totally and happily surprised, especially when hubby Mitch replaced lead Russ Seely to personally perform "Let Me Call You Sweetheart" to her.

Following hugs and kisses, the couple boarded their jumbo jet. Many of their fellow passengers videotaped the short, happy concert.

Yes, Virginia, seniors DO have fun ... that is, if they're Barbershoppers. ■

Pioneer District Directory update

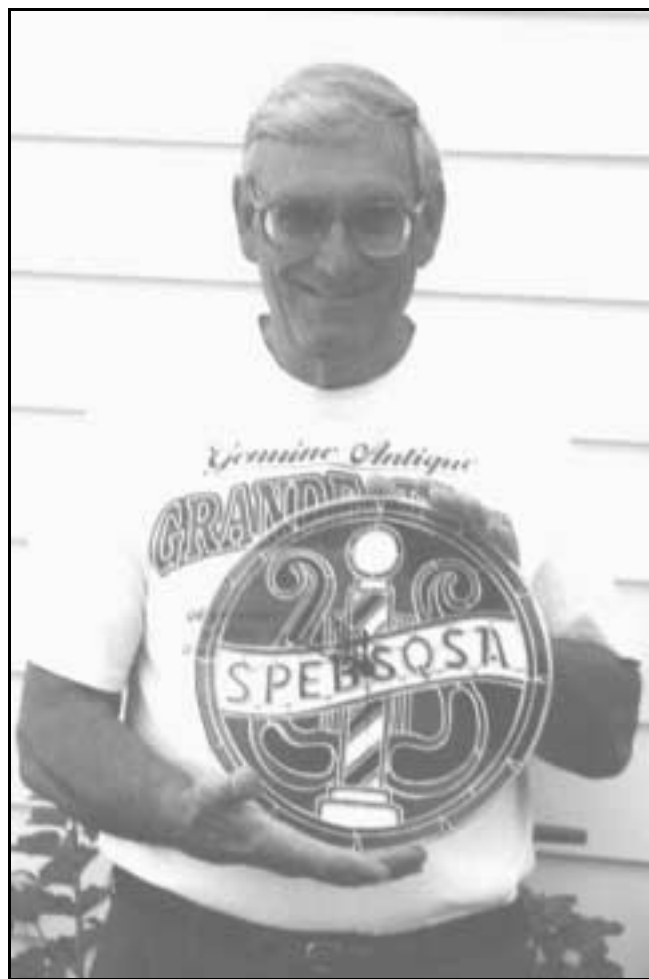
Please note the following change to the 2000 Pioneer District Directory (phone number unchanged):

New address: Al Fisk
1018 River Mist Drive
Rochester, MI 48307

Deon Moore's birthday gift: SPEBSQSA logo clock

Lu Moore was determined to outbid everyone for the stained-glass SPEBSQSA logo clock that the Detroit-Oakland Chapter had donated as a fund raiser at the Pioneer District spring convention.

When her quest was successful, she surprised her husband, Deon Moore, by presenting the clock to him on his birthday, June 18.



Deon, a Swan Valley Chapter member for 19 years, was totally surprised. "I wish you could have seen his eyes light up when he opened the box," Lu said. "I just knew it was that special one-of-a-kind birthday gift — one that could never be duplicated."

Lu and Deon married two years ago and she's now "hooked on Barbershopping."

When they married, Deon told her, "God is first and Barbershop is second." Lu added, "I guess I am lucky to be in third place ... I still get a ribbon!" ■

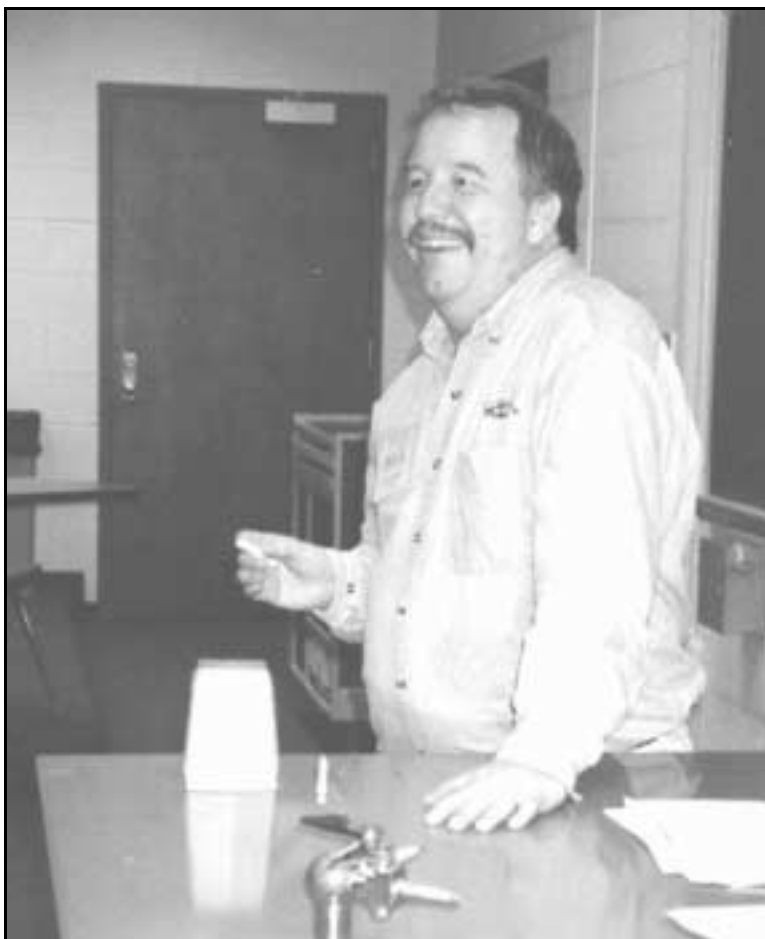
Harmony Round-Up 2000



Quartet FOREVER YOUNG: (from left) bari Jack Sidor, bass John Baker, lead Phil Johnson, and tenor Fritz Juhnke.



Quartet CHORD ORDER from the Alpena Chapter: (L to r) bari Gene Johnson, bass Karl Heidemann, lead Ted Johnson, and tenor Bill Martin.



Round-Up Chairman Russ Seely (above) checks his schedule of quartets to be coached. (Left) Kenosha's Bill Rashleigh discusses how breath management improves singing. (Below) Coaching sessions were a huge success on Saturday. Here, No ONE's PERFECT from the Lansing Chapter follows up on some coaching advice. (From left) Brian Batterbee, Pat Lind, Clayt Jones, and Gordon Lind.

Harmony
Round-Up
photos by
Doug Pearson



Detroit-Oakland Chapter's Jug Night



The "Jugs" are passed from chapter to chapter each year to raise funds for district quartets competing at International. This year's efforts raised \$902 to help defray costs for POWER PLAY to compete in Kansas City.



Quartet CROSSTOWN EXCHANGE (above right) sing "Coney Island Baby" for the Barbershop crowd. (L to r) Tenor Jim Kunz, who was also the evening's master of ceremonies, lead Don Stewart, bari Steve Sutherland, and bass Herb Hebner. TODAY'S SPECIAL (right) treat the audience to "I'll Fly Away." (From left) tenor Marv Wilson, lead Doug Joppie, bass Ed Snell, and bari Joe DeSantis.



At the end of the evening, attendees gather to enjoy their favorite hobby — singing Barbershop. (From left) Don Stewart, Gene Bulka, Jim Dugan, and Jeff Woodruff.

Windsor Send-Off



Jamie Carey leads the GREAT LAKES CHORUS in one of their International Competition songs, "May I Never Love Again" for the packed house at the Caboto Club in Windsor.

(Right) Members of the Flint, Gaylord, Grosse Pointe, Livingston, Monroe North, Motor City Metro, Pontiac-Waterford, Rochester, and Wayne chapters gather to sing a Polecat song as directed by Steve Pauling. (Below) The massed chorus, with over 300 Barbershoppers, singing one of several favorites as lead by various district directors. (Photo by Paul Howe)



Pioneer Power!

(Continued from page 1)

them.

The mood was high, the pace hectic. But they took it in easy stride, at one point quickly acceding to a request by Society PR scion Brian Lynch, who caught them in a hallway to do a short spot with a radio guy on the other end of a phone line.

Lead Mike Slamka handled it with aplomb, even though the radio announcer apparently knew very little about Barbershopping. The radio station had called after catching an audio snippet of POWER PLAY'S singing on a Society web site.

The entourage of course included also tenor Don and bari Mark and, always nearby, the wives of the four. "I have never seen them so relaxed and taking things as they come," wife/mom/Aunt Kitty was saying throughout the week.

Telling musical stories

It apparently was that relaxation that helped propel them into the ethereal medallist category. They didn't appear to be responding to the pressure of competition, but more so to the moods of the musical stories they were sharing with their audiences.

They showed true emotion in their facial expressions, their penetrating eyes, often the sweat on their brows. From the pain of loss in "For Sale, One Broken Heart" to the joy of love in "Time After Time," not only their appearance, but their voices were locked into the feelings they brought out of their songs. They were not singing mere lyrics, they were feeling them.

On the final chord of "For Sale, One Broken Heart," Mike's voice cracked. Not a lot; just enough that you knew it was his heart that was

broken.

Their first semifinal number, "Time After Time," began with "What good are words to you? They can't convey what's in my heart." And time after time, words did not fully convey the feelings the Slamkas portrayed so powerfully with their faces.

No matter how close to the stage you sat, you still felt you also had to watch the quartetters on the big TV screens, to fully see their emotive faces close up.

Many quartets end competition numbers with loud tags. POWER PLAY also did this time. But it was not loud for the sake of loudness. It was ecstatic, imbued with love. They just had to get out the emotion; and the strong tag was the way to express it.

In the wings, their long-time coach, Kenosha staffer Ev Nau, was seen raising his arm in a salute. As the Slamkas exited into the wings, Nau hugged each of them.

In the quarterfinals, they preceded "One Broken Heart" with "Get Me to the Church on Time." Harmonet reporter Steve Tremper call it "a killer pair of songs that were so perfectly set against each other." He said "For Sale, One Broken Heart" was "one of the most powerful songs I've ever heard."

In the semifinals, "Time After Time" was followed by "Eyes Medley." This, Tremper wrote, was "a stunning set," adding, "Once again in the POWER PLAY style, they left nothing backstage."

The finals set consisted of "The Little Boy" and "I Didn't Know About You/I Don't Know Why."

Presentation scores high

For all six of their competition numbers, the presentation score was higher than the music and singing scores. This probably is why POWER PLAY appealed universally

to the audience; applause came not only from Pioneer District supporters, but from throughout Kemper Arena.

Thunderous applause greeted their first appearance on stage, even before they had sung a note.

For all three rounds, POWER PLAY'S total score was 7,856, 13 points out of fourth place and 33 points from third.

The quartet placed sixth in the quarterfinals, second in the semifinals and eighth in the finals, where only 33 points separated third and eighth place.

POWER PLAY'S total score was 162 points and nearly two percentage points higher than its International score last summer when it placed sixth.

The International champion was PLATINUM from the Sunshine District, followed by MICHIGAN JAKE from Cardinal District, BSQ from Mid-Atlantic, and UPTOWN SOUND from Johnny Appleseed.

EXCALIBUR, from Land O' Lakes District, had outpointed POWER PLAY by three points when competing for score last spring on the Pioneer stage. But in International competition, EXCALIBUR placed ninth with 7,700 points, 156 behind POWER PLAY.

The international bronze medals were presented to POWER PLAY — coincidentally but appropriately — by 1995 quartet champion MARQUIS, which includes Denny Gore of Grosse Pointe.

Before the winners were announced, 1999 champion FRED sang about the current competitors. Among the lines: "And everybody loves POWER PLAY, a family reunion every day."

Gopher Peg Styer also contributed to this article.

Great Lakes Chorus

(Continued from page 1)

established a good camaraderie with the singers. They respect each other and appear to work well together.

The chorus proceeded to score 2,221 points, 85 more than in its last International contest appearance, placing 19th out of 23 choruses competing.

The new International chorus champion is the Dallas VOCAL MAJORITY, succeeding the MASTERS OF HARMONY. The VM was followed by THE NEW TRADITION, the GREAT AMERICAN CHORUS (in which Dave Cole of Pioneer sang), Hilltop, and Toronto.

The 40 men from Grand Rapids were animated and showed energy as they sang "Rainbow 'Round My Shoulder" and "May I Never Love Again," the same set that returned the district championship to them at the spring district convention.

As recommended by Mike Slamka, they displayed the mood of the selections with their facial expressions. Many were smiling through the upbeat tune. And they looked like they were following Mike's other dictum: "Have fun."

They used long sashes around their necks in many different colors to carry out the "Rainbow" theme. Holding the sashes over their heads, they formed a rainbow effect as they rocked back and forth

across the risers. Harmonet reporter Steve Tremper called this a "clever" addition.

In the second number, Steve added, "Their softs were soft and sweet, and they built steadily through the second half to a stirring conclusion at the tag. Strong stuff!"

One of the chorus rehearsals

TAGE CHORUS and Motor City Metro's CITY LIGHTS.

The GREAT LAKES CHORUS also has been district champion seven times since 1980.

Some of the men on the risers were in their 10th competition with the GREAT LAKES CHORUS. Yet, at the same time, half of the men had not competed before with the



was in part a mini pep rally. Followers in the rehearsal ballroom included POWER PLAY and Society Executive VP Roger Lewis of Battle Creek, who's also a presentation judge. Applause for the numbers was strong. Many commented on the improvement in chorus sound even in the nine short weeks since the district convention.

Grand Rapids was the first chorus competition winner in 1953 and since then has represented the Pioneer District at international more often than any other chapter chorus — three out of the past four years and 11 times in the past two decades. Other chapter choruses at International in the past decade were Macomb's HARMONY HERI-

GLC.

Among those with long experience in the chorus, Dale had previously competed internationally with the GLC eight times. "We're feeling different this time," he said. He couldn't quite define the difference, but he said it felt good.

As the rehearsal concluded, representatives of the outgoing chorus champions, the MASTERS OF HARMONY, presented the chapter with a plexiglas memento of the 2000 "Music Man" convention, engraved with the chorus name and "This is your moment."

For the GREAT LAKES CHORUS, it was a moment of bettering themselves and setting new goals for the future. ■

Quartets Champions Association

Al Fisk, Secretary

With Quartet Champions Association business running a little slow over the summer, I will feature one of our more prestigious members in a biographical spotlight. This guy is well known for his contributions to Barbershop, yet some of y'all may not really know the man very well. A logical gentleman to feature in our first bio is our current QCA President — Mr. Russ Seely. He has sent me an amazing resume that would fill all of the pages of the *Troub.* I will do my best to condense his amazing background into an appropriate article. I hope I do him justice.

Russ began his singing career as an auditioned/"paid" choirboy at the age of eight. He was "discovered" by Mark Roberts (Society treasurer and founder of the Grosse Pointe Chapter) on a Boblo Moonlight cruise in 1953. Russ has been a member of GP since '53 and has held just about every chapter office including president. He has been elected BOTY, directed the LAKESHORE CHORUS for 33 years, and won the District Chorus Championship in 1984. He has also earned 27 Man of Note Awards.

Since 1970, Russ has served on the district level in many capacities including president, Music and Performance VP (mini-HEP dean), MC, COTS, member of various

committees, etc. He established the QCA (current QCA president) and is an elected member of the Pioneer District Hall of Fame. He has also served as a Society Board Member and is currently on the board of AHSOW (representative and instructor in Woodshedding at Harmony College).

Russ firmly believes in singing in a quartet and has done so very successfully for many years. Every one of his registered quartets has qualified for International. His quartet accomplishments include district champs: 1965, 4-FITS; 1976, FOREIGN POLICY; 1978, MOTOR CITY MUSIC COMPANY — and senior champs: 1988, 4-FITS; 1996, SILVERDOMES.

Russ is married to the lovely Shirley (since 1954), and they live in West Bloomfield on Union Lake. They have three children (Russ Jr., Matt, the Barbershopper, and Jill), and four grandchildren. Russ is a graduate of Wayne State University (industrial engineering and grad work) and is the founder, past president, and current board member of Quality Bending & Threading, Inc.

Wow! We are indeed blessed to have Russ as a Pioneer Barbershopper. More importantly, he is our friend. God Bless ya, Russ, Shirley, and the entire crew! ■

Russ Seely re-elected

Grosse Pointe's Russ Seely has been elected for a three-year term to again serve on the Society's Board of Directors for AHSOW (Ancient Harmonious Society of Woodshedders).

Long active in chorus, chapter, and district activities, Russ is currently a member of the international representative SILVERDOMES senior quartet. At the district level, he is vice-president of music & performance.

AHSOW also announced the induction of two new members from the Pioneer District. Rick Anderson, Macomb County Chapter, and Derek Hatley, Grand Rapids Chapter, are the newest members of AHSOW from the Pioneer District. These gentlemen qualified for AHSOW during opportunities to audition at SPEBSQSA's 2000 International Convention in Kansas City.

Founded in 1977, AHSOW originated from the vision of Barbershoppers who remembered that SPEBSQSA began as a woodshedding organization. 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 a Barbershop musician with an ear.

The next formal opportunity to enjoy woodshedding will be at the Pioneer District's fall convention. Watch for local announcements of when and where the AHSOW room will be, and certainly find out exactly where the "beating heart of Barbershop" will be beating for you!

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

*Have you ever wanted to see
International Gold Medal Quartet Champion*

The Ritz

in person ?

*Well now you can... Wow!
Right here in Alpena, Michigan!*

*Saturday - September 16, 2000 - 7:30 pm
Stanley Beck Auditorium - Alpena High School*

27th Annual Alpena Chapter Show: It's a Wonderful Life... for Singing!
Featuring the Huron Shore Chorus, Local Alpena Chapter Quartets,
and The Ritz!

Call (517) 356-0476 for tickets - Don't miss this one!

Pioneer's Elbert Ford, Art Lane recognized by PROBE

By Staff Writer Jim Styer

Two chapter bulletin editors from Pioneer District were honored with certificates in the Society's International Bulletin Contest.

Elbert Ford of Traverse City, in his first year in competition, placed 22nd. Art Lane of Holland, a perennial competitor, placed 27th.

The honors were announced in July at the International Convention in Kansas City. Art was present to receive his award. Elbert's award will be presented at the district convention House of Delegates meeting next fall in Battle Creek.

Both were winners of the district's 1999 bulletin contest in which Elbert was first and Art placed second.

The district contest was close, with only 16 points separating the entrants. Elbert, editor of *The Chorister*, posted a total score of 1,394 and won in two judging categories: Layout and Reproduction, and Content. Art, editor of *The Windmill Blade*, outpointed Elbert in the

Grammar and Style category.

Elbert, a Barbershopper for 27 years, began editing *The Chorister* in 1998 and submitted bulletins last year for critique by the judges, but hadn't yet edited enough issues to qualify for competition.

Judges are bulletin editors and former editors in other districts who have gone through a judges' training program. The judges both score the bulletins and provide each editor with a detailed report and suggestions for improvement.

Art, a Holland Chapter member for 10 years, has consistently placed among the top three bulletin editors in the district in recent years. His district score for 1999 was his highest in three years. Art also won district and international public relations awards last year.

Content Judge Wade Dexter wrote to editors: "Editing a chapter bulletin is hard work. I've often said the only guy who works harder than the BE is the musical director. However, it can be a very gratifying job."

seven awards for education reporting.

At the *Battle Creek Enquirer* for 28 years, he was a reporter, copy editor, and TV editor. He previously worked at smaller Michigan papers for six years.

A native of the Detroit suburbs, Jim currently is a lay ministry student, church council secretary, and newsletter writer, Knights of Columbus member, computer enthusiast, and avid reader.

He and his wife, Peg, a special education teacher's aide, have been married 35 years. They have three children and two grandchildren. ■

Next year's contest

The contest is sponsored by PROBE (Public Relations Officers and Bulletin Editors), a self-supporting membership organization within the Society.

All bulletin editors in the district are eligible for the upcoming contest; they must publish at least six issues in 2000. Eight published issues are required for a Society-level award. All editors, however, also may submit bulletins for comment only, no matter how many or how few issues they publish.

Bulletin editors wishing to enter the contest must submit three copies each of any three consecutive 2000 bulletins by January 15, 2001, to District Contest Coordinator Jim Styer of Battle Creek.

Editors can join PROBE by having their chapter secretary contact Kenosha. Or they can sign up themselves by sending \$5 annual dues — a legitimate chapter expense — to Brian Lynch, PROBE Secretary-Treasurer, 6315 Harmony Lane, Kenosha WI 53143. ■

PROBE Hall of Honor

(Continued from page 4)

on tour.

His previous awards have included chapter Barbershopper of the Year, district Area Counselor of the Year, district PR Officer of the Year (twice), international PR Officer of the Year (twice), top district bulletin editor (twice), and placement as high as 10th in the International Bulletin Contest. He earned a J. C. Penney Golden Rule Award certificate of appreciation for his work on SingAmerica.

Professional honors include

Yours 4 A Song

(Continued from page 11)

miles or cross district lines to make musical magic. He simply waited 'til the boys finished their homework and started making musical history.

The many meetings in KC included a three-hour presentation by guru and former staffer Lloyd Steinkamp on the Standing Ovation Program. We'll devote the next issue to that strongly promoted program while you remember to: stand up straight, smile, and, in the words of POWER PLAY, *SING FROM THE HEART*. ■

Young Men In Harmony (Continued from page 12)

rest of the cost. Call me to see if the district will be picking up part of the cost again next year.

- *Begin discussions with the music teachers about having Bill Rasbleigh in the classroom as a guest teacher during his spring visit. Dates TBA. Bill is a VERY exciting presenter and works wonderfully with kids of all ages. Call me for more information or to get on the list. The fuse is short and sign-ups are going quickly, so don't procrastinate on this if you are interested.*

December

Christmas is a busy time for the schools. Christmas concerts, finals, vacations, and many outside activities tug at the attention of both students and teachers.

This is a good month to be a part of the support system – be a cheerleader – just tell them what a great job they are doing. Trust me – this goes a long way!

January-April

Go back to the list from earlier in the year. If you made good plans during the summer, you will have

your hands full. Congratulations! If you have more time, go build more relationships. There are lots of opportunities to build relationships before the May-to-August planning cycle starts again. The year has just begun. Early meetings with the teachers may allow you to help them:

- Schedule their choir on your show.
- Get on mailing list to buy tickets for their programs (and attend!)
- Come to a class with a quartet and sing for the kids
- Anything to get your foot in the door and show the teacher and the boys how much fun Barber-shop music can be to sing.
- Be proactive. List all the activities that were offered earlier this year (see last winter) and see which of those you can use to serve the teachers next year.

What you have already figured out is that the YMIH year goes with the school year – not with the chapter calendar. Because you are such a good planner, however, this is no longer a problem for you or your chapter.

Good Luck! ■

Public Relating (Continued from page 8)

bershopping activities with fellow members of your community?

Of course, these questions all lead to a few others: Does your chapter have an official publication? If not, why not? If you do have a publication, do you feel it's doing the job it's supposed to?

Your chapter is something you should be proud of. Don't let it be the "Greatest Story Never Told." ■

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Society update: KC

(Continued from page 6)

the part of a Society staff member. As a result, the Society Board directed Executive Director Darryl Flinn to institute a review of the Society's Personnel Policies Manual to see if it conflicts with the current practices of its employees. The slightly revised sections of the Personnel Policy Manual re: Conflict of Interest basically indicated that, when rendering services "during their own personal time," employees are free to pursue their personal interests. This precludes the use of Society funds or assets in support of such interests.

One of the real positives of the business part of the Society is when the SBMs meet face to face with the DPs (to new Barbershoppers — and old — this means the Society board members meet with the district presidents). Highlights include the following:

- Many districts have found great success and participation in spring conventions with father/son/grandson choruses.
- TOP GUN schools have been very successful during the first half of the year in several districts (SBM note: what have we in PIO

done ... I know LOL has had good turnouts at COTS).

- The use of the Internet and district Web pages for publications of newsletters and convention/contest registration has seen positive results and comments.
- Positive and significant increases in many districts' YMIH camps and YMIH quartets competing in high school and collegiate quartet contests. (What are our districts doing ... another SBM note.)

District officers are taking active roles in helping their respective "Chapters of Concern." (Are your district officers involved in this? ... another SBM note.) District presidents were concerned over the following:

- Division vice-presidents not making reports or showing activity (yet taking advantage of their free meals and rooms ... SBM comment).
- Lack of consistent, unified, and standardized training throughout the districts pertaining to the Standing Ovation Program. (Contact your district DVPMP for input or interest in getting involved ... SBM comment.)
- Measurable standards of achievement under the umbrella of the DVPs, CSLT, and CDD. (Where

do WE stand, Judd, Doug, Doran, and Fred?)

- Follow-up counseling or replacement of ineffective DVPs or committee members. (Always a sticky-wicket, but needs to be done even if "our buddies" have to go.)
- The "good old boys" syndrome hurts rather than helps.

To ensure some of the above, the Society OPs committee (they see that goals are met or progress is being made ... or why not) has recommended the following:

- A charge given to the CSLT (chapter coaches) is to develop a written reporting system for chapter coaches that shows the status of chapter coach visitation. This reporting system can also be used to measure the effectiveness of chapter coaches. This reporting system will be presented to the Operations Group at the fall Leadership Forum, and will be designed for implementation by chapter coaches in January 2001.
- A charge that the C&J Committee review the Style Examination Committee's report and present the study results and response at the November Leadership Forum Meeting.

That's it for now. ■

Take Note

(Continued from page 10)

holds true if your goal is to be the best Barbershop singer you can possibly be.

ASIDE: I have people at the International level who require periodical reports from me on a regular basis.

One such person is a great guy named Ron Knickerbocker, who is

the Society chairman in charge of the Chorus Directors' Development Program.

Ron recently wrote requesting some important information on upcoming training in the Pioneer District.

He signed his e-mail message and then dropped a quick P.S. followed by this message: "Nobody, but NOBODY, sings a ballad better than Mike Slamka. POWER PLAY was great in KC." ■

Ladies Hospitality

(Continued from page 10)

Several of us ladies have breakfast Friday at 9:00 a.m. in Porter's on the 16th floor of the McCamly Plaza Hotel. For those of you who arrive early for the convention, please, won't you join us? We would be happy to see you. Please call or e-mail me for more information. Please call (517) 372-8389, or e-mail LParker437@aol.com.

2000 PIONEER DISTRICT FALL CONVENTION**OCTOBER 20 - 22, 2000**

Information marked with a ** is
important and is used to create
your convention name badge

CONVENTION REGISTRATION****REGISTRANT NAME** _____****SPOUSE/GUEST NAME** _____**ADDRESS** _____**CITY** _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____ **PHONE** _____
(Area Code)****COMPETING QUARTET?** ☐ YES ☐ NO **QUARTET NAME** _____****COMPETING CHORUS?** ☐ YES ☐ NO **CHORUS NAME** _____****CHAPTER NAME** _____****VOICE PART:** ☐ TENOR ☐ LEAD ☐ BARITONE ☐ BASS**EARLY REGISTRATION: \$16.00 PER PERSON****LATE REGISTRATION: \$20.00 PER PERSON****EARLY REGISTRATION MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 13, 2000.****FEE FOR** _____ **PERSONS @ \$16.00/\$20.00** **TOTAL REGISTRATION FEE:** _____**QUARTET CHAMPIONSHIPS SHOW, FRIDAY NIGHT \$5.00** _____**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: PIONEER DISTRICT SPEBSQSA, INC.****OR: MASTER CARD OR VISA NUMBER** _____ **EXPIRATION DATE** _____**MAIL CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM AND FEE TO:****Stan Williams****421 Franklin Street****Leslie, Michigan 49251**

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

Each member of a competing quartet or chorus must be registered for an all-events pass. Failure to do so will disqualify the quartet or chorus from the contest.

REFUND POLICY: REGISTRATION FEES WILL BE REFUNDED TO PERSONS
CANCELING **IN WRITING** PRIOR TO THE 11:00 OPENING ON
FRIDAY.

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

Old Marquis memories came back watching Power Play make new ones

**By Denny Gore,
lead of 1995 International
quartet champion MARQUIS**

I've been mulling over the goings on of the past week, months, and indeed the past three years. Let's start with the past couple of months leading up to the International.

Back in January, the quartet decided to make this the last year for MARQUIS.

We discussed what we'd do for the AIC show. Our bari, Paul Gilman, suggested a medley of MARQUIS songs. He then began putting together a string of songs, some of which the quartet had said they'd never sing again out of respect to Randy (Chisholm).

Now those songs cried out to be sung, not only to honor Randy, but to honor and thank the many fans of the quartet. Don Grey and Paul put together the linkages between songs, and in May we gave it a try. I worked through the songs I hadn't sung and Paul made a tape of the linkages and key changes. Many things got in the way of our planned rehearsals, and the first time we tried out the medley was at the Ontario HEP school the first weekend in June. We only had Sunday morning after a long weekend of coaching and singing. Three of us were almost so hoarse that we couldn't sing, but I got enough on tape to rehearse with.

I need to mention here that the guys planned to honor me by learning one of the songs I had sung in competition — "Cobblestone Road." I was — and am — grateful for the gesture. I was also grateful that they allowed me to interpret the song as close to the way my

coach, Lyle Pilcher, had put the song together. It was a great gift to me.

As the International drew closer, our rehearsals became more difficult to schedule. Many cancellations and schedule changes required us to take a shot at the only time we could all get together — the Saturday before the International. Since we could only schedule a few hours of rehearsal time, we decided to drive and meet in Dayton at Randy's home.

In Randy's basement recreation room among his pictures, trophies, and medals, we worked through the medley and "Cobblestone Road." Jan Chisholm did one run through with us and it went well. We rehearsed for about two hours, then we had some burgers from the grill and we hit the road back home.

I hadn't told the guys until then, but my boss had told me that I might be sent to Brazil for July 5, 6, and 7. Since the trip was only a possibility, I could probably still make the trip to KC. On Monday, I was told that I was indeed going to Brazil on the 4th and would come back on the 8th. I appealed to my boss; he allowed me to come back on the night of the 6th and be booked into KC. I'd be tired, but I'd be there.

I got to KC on Friday morning, July 7, at 9:30 after flying all night. When my wife Jan met me at the airport, all she could talk about was how great POWER PLAY was doing. She said that the second-round performance was their best ever.

The first AIC show was hard, but it went well. MARQUIS got a standing ovation and that was very gratifying. We tried to rest between

shows, but there wasn't much time. The second show was even harder and more tiring, but again we got a standing ovation and it was very emotional. Jan Chisholm did a great job on both shows and held up very well under the circumstances.

On Saturday, July 8, the quartet finals contest was great. POWER PLAY sang with great emotion and feeling.

Since MARQUIS had won the International competition in 1995 (five years ago), we'd be handing out the fifth-place medals.

We went backstage; there I wished POWER PLAY good luck and crossed my fingers that I'd be able to give them a medal. When MARQUIS was introduced, we went on stage. Then the announcement came that POWER PLAY finished fifth. When I heard the call, I jumped in the air.

It was great to hang a medal around Mike's neck. I felt great for all of the guys and especially for Jack; he really deserves the honor.

Later, we hung around with the guys and watched them get used to being medallists. It brought back old memories watching POWER PLAY make new ones.

Let me say that I had hoped that I could bring MARQUIS to the Pioneer District convention or at least to a district show one more time before it's over, but it just never has worked out. I'm very proud of the quartet and of the last three years.

We have three appearances left: Bolton Landing, New York; the Johnny Appleseed District Convention in Huntington, West Virginia; and the Alexandria (Virginia) Chapter show in November. ■

2000 PIONEER DISTRICT FALL CONVENTION OCTOBER 20 - 22, 2000

HOTEL RESERVATION

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- ♦ Hotels require a credit card guarantee.
- ♦ All acknowledgements will be sent to the individual whose name and address appears below.
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- ♦ DO NOT SEND ANY ROOM DEPOSITS TO THE HOUSING BUREAU.
- ♦ Reservation requests must be received no later than September 22, 2000.
- ♦ WE WILL NOT ACCEPT ROOM REQUESTS AFTER THIS DATE.
- ♦ NO RESERVATIONS TAKEN BY PHONE

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(TWO NIGHT STAY REQUIRED)
- ♦ Battle Creek Inn
\$74.00 flat rate..... ☐
- ♦ Baymont Inn & Suites
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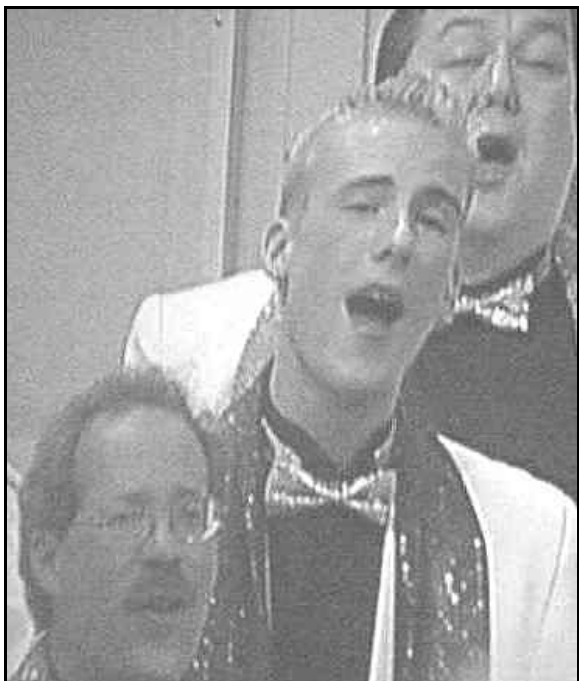
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Photos from the International



Three members of the GREAT LAKES CHORUS (above left) give it all they've got. (From lower left) Paul Slack, Brett Rigby, and Dan Casamatta. (Above and left) Members of the chorus concentrate on Director Jamie Carey's every move.

The photos of the GREAT LAKES CHORUS on this page were taken by Kalamazoo's Kurt Amundson. He used a digital camera to capture the chorus on Kemper Arena's "Big Screen."

Convention in Kansas City



(Above) The faces of Mike Slamka (left) and Jack Slamka are etched with hurt as they sing "For Sale, One Broken Heart" during the quarterfinals at the International Competition. (Copyright Miller Photography). (Above right) 1995 International champion quartet MARQUIS presents fifth-place medals to POWER PLAY. (Photo by Joe DeFelice)



Roger Lewis of Battle Creek, Society executive vice-president, pays a visit to the spot in Kansas City where the idea for a Barbershop society originated in 1938. The plaque, in the old lobby of the Muelbach Hotel, shows where SPEBSQSA founder O. C. Cash first got together with Rupert Hall one night to sing and consider the need for the Society. (Copyright Miller Photography)

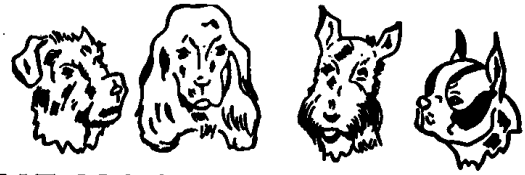
PLATINUM, from the Sunshine District, takes the gold at the 2000 International competition. (Clockwise from upper left) bass Kevin Miles, tenor Gary Lewis, lead Joe Connelly, and bari Tony DeRosa.

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Chapters in Action

Monroe North

By Chris Berry

Greetings from the Monroe North Chapter. We have remained quite active through the summer months. We had the opportunity to kick off the City of Monroe's Concert-in-the-Park series in a combined show with the Monroe Sweet Adelines.

The evening was weather perfect for an outside show. Mild temperatures and a light breeze brought out a nice crowd armed with blankets and lawn chairs. The FLORAL CITY HARMONIZERS opened the evening with several favorite songs from our last show, including "Everything's Coming Up Roses," "Consider Yourself," "How Ya' Gonna' Keep 'Em Down on the Farm," "Old Songs Are Like Old Friends," "Old Man River," and "Alexander's Ragtime Band."



The FLORAL CITY HARMONIZERS demonstrate that Barbershoppers can do the Can-Can in "How Ya Gonna Keep 'Em Down on the Farm."

We also had two of our chapter quartets perform, JUST BY CHANCE and CHORDIAL FOUR. The Monroe Sweet Adelines came out for the second half of the evening to finish out a fantastic evening of Barbershop singing.

The Monroe North Chapter continued its support this year for Holiday Camp, a local summer camp program that provides sports, arts and crafts, and other activities for children with disabilities. The chapter supports the camp twice each year by bringing in lunch for the campers and providing the dining entertainment

with Barbershop singing. This program has been a definite benefit to both the campers and the chapter members that participate each year.

On August 12, the FLORAL CITY HARMONIZERS will have a chance to honor a group of veterans at a banquet at the Monroe Golf & Country Club. This banquet is held in conjunction with the "Living History Book" tour that honors veterans from all wars and gives them an opportunity to talk about their experiences and answer questions from the public.

The "Living History Book" event runs August 12 and 13 at Custer Airport in Monroe and includes the arrival of a B-17 bomber and five fighter planes. Sorties on the B-17 are available for a fee. There are also tickets available for the banquet for \$15.00. For more information, please contact Dale Schroeder at (734) 241-5543.

We also have several performances scheduled for September including the Dundee Car Show and an appearance at the Monroe High School Vocal Concert.

The schedule is packed, but the fun still continues. The Monroe North Chapter is also gearing up for the October competition, so we'll see you there.

Alpena

By Karl Heidemann

The Alpena Chapter and its HURON SHORE CHORUS have had a busy summer. We have had performances in Alpena, St. Helen, Mackinaw City, Hale, and will be a featured chorus in the Rogers City Wind Symphony Music Festival in August. In addition, seven of our members attended Harmony Round-Up in Lansing, and seven members attended Harmony College in St. Joseph, Missouri. We've added six new members so far this year.

We are now gearing up for our big annual show on September 16. This one will be a whopper — featuring the International Quartet Champions and recording artists: THE RITZ! Wow, right here in Alpena. They have sung all over the world (this reporter had the chance to sing with them in Russia last year.) They are truly spectacular. If you ever wanted to see and hear THE RITZ in person, this is your chance.

The first half of the show will be "It's a Wonderful Life for Singing!," a modified version of the great show performed at Harmony College 1999. The second half will be a parade of quartets featuring Alpena Chapter quartets and highlighted by THE RITZ. Don't miss this one! Call Bill Martin at (517) 356-0476 for ticket information and directions.

Chapters in Action

Windsor

By Stillneed A. Reporter

The Pioneer District Send-Off Show in Windsor was another great success. Six-hundred people arrived at the Caboto Club for a Barbershop bash that is second to none. We thank all of the chapters that support this fund raiser year after year. Our International representatives really appreciate the funds this outstanding activity generates.

Our chapter has been very active putting package shows in Windsor and throughout the county. The format of featuring the SUN PARLOUR CHORUS, our chapter quartets, and an audience sing-song has been extremely successful. These presentations have been able to raise funds for Trinity United Church, Essex United Church, and the Canadian Lutheran World Relief Fund. A tip of the hat goes to BORDER CROSSING, COUNTY CONNECTION, DESPERATE MEASURES, and the MIX MASTERS, who have taken turns at sharing their talents at these performances.

The music committee has given their recommendations for possible songs for the fall contest and next year's annual show. We are looking forward to learning this new material and making it part of our repertoire.

The highlights of the summer will be the Director's Barbeque at Emeryville in July and the Koop's Pig Roast and Salmon Bake at Wheatley in August. Our quartets will be active throughout the summer at fairs, open-air concerts, sidewalk sale days, and other events that are enjoyable in the out-of-doors.

Ron McDermott, our chapter development VP, has just returned from Halifax, N.S., where he attended the 75th anniversary celebrations of the Royal Canadian Legion. Ron is the president of the Essex Branch of the Legion. I'm sure that he found some Maritimers to sing with while he was at the Atlantic coast.

Dan Bezaire, our fearless director, will once again attend the Directors College this summer at St. Joseph, Missouri. We are really fortunate that Dan continues to update his skills at this outstanding Society music school. When he shares this knowledge with us, we all benefit.

It sure is great to be a Barbershopper!

Flint

By Guy Hisson

Whew! Talk about busy. I know, summer is here. It's time for everyone to take a break. Well, it's obvious that the Flint Chapter hasn't got the word yet. We've been extremely busy with performances, including joining in with church services. In fact, this is becoming so popular now that Director John Noteware has had to put together a repertoire of church music in four-part harmony that will do us and the service proud. But what a way to go to church, eh fellows?

Well, to start off (and what a great way to start), on August 1 we will join the Sweet Adeline THUMB AREA CHORUS, directed by Chris Noteware, at the Swartz Creek Fine Arts Center. Living in Swartz Creek myself, I can tell you that this is the talk of the town. Two choruses being directed by husband and wife — now that's class and dedication.

On August 19, the Flint chorus has the honor of hosting Fred Kienitz with his Director's Workshop. Several of us Flintites have sat in on these before and talk about fun, not to mention the first-rate learning experience. So if you want some more great Barbershop fun and fellowship, please come join us on the risers.

We have our picnic and golf outing planned for August also, where the families get a chance to hear us sing (as if they never do.). It also proves to tighten the bond of friendships among the singers. And there is nothing better to watch a foursome gather on the "T" to reminisce some good old songs, while the next foursome passes the hat, of course. It's just too bad it always comes back with x-ed out balls and old used tees.

In September, we will be looking forward to Harrisville Harmony Weekend, that being the first weekend, of course. Another great way of meeting new and old friends in harmony.

On September 9 at 11:00 a.m., we will be performing for "Goodtimes In Goodrich" in Goodrich, Michigan. This festival always provides great times and great food.

Moving right along to September 12, our second open house of the year will start precisely at 7:00 p.m. Again, a great time and, yes, great food.

On September 25, we will be singing for the Flint Township Millennium Celebration located at Pirates Park on Miller Road. This will also be senior citizens day and a great crowd is expected.

There is also a handful of other unconfirmed dates for performances that we are looking forward to during

these two months.

As I stated at the beginning of this article, "Whew! I sure am glad our summer vacation is finally here."

Lansing

By Paul Howe

With only a faint "thumping" sound still reverberating through our heads, most of the Lansing Chapter have pretty well recovered from the Windsor Send-Off. It's a good thing, too, as several of our members traveled to Kansas City for the International Convention right after the send-off. We probably could have gotten back into the U.S. a lot easier, but it's a funny thing "about" customs officials, eh. At least on the job, they don't have much of a sense of humor, especially when they hear a strange accent, or "Oh, Canada" being sung in the back of the bus.

Speaking of the International Convention, this year's PioNet coverage was better than ever. I read with great admiration the exciting word pictures being painted by our on-the-spot Web reporters. And this year, something special was added. Headquarters arranged for audio streaming of selections from the competition on the Internet. Great job, guys! But when does it go "live" and with video, too?

Lansing has been busy learning new songs for the district fall convention and is preparing to sing our national anthem at the August 15 Lansing Lugnuts baseball game at Oldsmobile Park. As a warm-up to the game and to help whet our appetites for the "ballpark bratwurst," we're holding our chapter picnic July 16.

Later this fall, we'll be holding a retreat in northern Michigan to have some harmonious fellowship, some heavy duty rehearsing, lots of eating, maybe a little late night quarteting, and maybe we'll even sneak in a round of golf.

Holland

By Art Lane

Many bands and voices make good show

Lots of volunteers and many singers, working together under Show Chair Steve Foster, created a wonderful Tulip Time pre-show dinner, two performances of the show, and a great afterglow which was held, for the first time, in the friendly confines of the Park Theater.

Foster added something new to the chapter's Tulip Time extravaganza this year in the form of a 5:00 p.m.

cookout for show participants and chapter members at the theater. His son, Shawn Foster, was the chef. Shawn set up two smoker-cookers behind the theater and turned out lots of marinated pork loin which had been smoked for seven hours. He also made barbecued chicken.

Somewhat stuffed, but not too full to sing, chorus members and quartet singers put on two lively shows at Central Wesleyan Church and Holland Christian High School. The two shows ran concurrently, with the singers being bused back and forth from church to school.

The WINDMILL CHORUS, directed by Myke Lucas and Mike Oonk, closed both shows.

Following the shows, the quartets returned to the theater to sing again at the afterglow. Shawn and his staff ladled out barbecued pork sandwiches, more chicken, vegetables, and several kinds of apple cobbler.

Quartets that brought their many talents to the shows included WABASH AVENUE, the 1998 Cardinal District champion and 1999 International contestant. It is made up of bass Vince Winans, lead Paul Fernando, tenor Bryan Hughes, and baritone Aaron Hughes. Representing the Pioneer District was UPTOWN SOUND, the 1998 district champion, including tenor Raleigh Bloch, lead Gene Hanover, baritone Ed Fritzen, and bass Kerry Foley.

The DUTCH MASTERS, a longtime favorite of the Holland area, returned to the Tulip Time stage. The quartet includes tenor Fred Schutmaat, lead Butch Livense, baritone Jim Colburn, and bass Dan Doctor. The show's leadoff quartet, BLACK RIVER, is made up of tenor Bill McAndrew, lead Mark Andrew, baritone Steve Foster, and bass James Hall.

Don Lucas was master of ceremonies at the school. At the church, Grand Rapid's comedy quartet, FOOLS' GOLD, served up both music and humor in its role as master of ceremonies. The quartet includes Bill Mousel, Dan Casamatta, Mark Kettner, and Joel Mills. Joel also was master of ceremonies at the afterglow. Stage managers were Bernie Poelman and Del Doctor. Show administrators were Paul Bekker at the school and Carl Bos at the church.

Advertising for the show program was handled by Paul Bekker, with program composition by Mark Andrew. Tickets were handled by Carl Bos, and the afterglow by Bruce Rabe. Helping gather mailing list information at the church and school were Margaret Bos, Gladys and Bruce Rabe, and Millie and Paul Bekker.

(Continued on page 34)

Chapters in Action

Holland

(Continued from page 33)

Afterglow set up and clean up were done by Dale and Paul Bekker, Bruce Rabe, Perry and Cathy Melli-font, and Steve Foster.

One of the nice things about afterglows is that sometimes quartets which were not on the show turn up to sing. Our afterglow had nine quartets. We had a chance to hear again from BLACK RIVER, FOOLS' GOLD, UPSTAGE SOUND, DUTCH MASTERS, and WABASH AVENUE.

Assembled from many parts of the state for the occasion was MID-MICHIGAN MAGIC, a Sweet Adelines quartet composed of lead Jan Welsh, bass Claudia Preson, baritone Nancy Liedel, and tenor Terri Bozyk.

1998 Pioneer District senior champ, CLASS REUNION, hailing from the Holland Chapter, got together again to sing. It includes bass Del Doctor, baritone Bernie Poelman, lead Myke Lucas, and tenor Al Walters. Then Lucas, Poelman, and Walters joined with Cal Verduin and the resulting quartet was named LAKE EFFECT.

Singing last was a surprise entry, none other than GENUINE BLEND from West Michigan (including the Holland Chapter), which won the district championship in 1994 and competed internationally in 1995 and 1996. Butch Livense and Dan Doctor were on the show. Kirk Wood was there, and Mark Garlock turned up to make GENUINE BLEND's reunion complete. You would have to say you got your money's worth at that afterglow.

Theater looks larger as painting progresses

The Park Theater looks as if it has grown four feet wider since our painters turned their attention to the auditorium portion of the building. The theater is now resplendent in bone and burgundy. The north and south sides have been painted in a light tan called bone. The proscenium arch and the projection room wall are now a dark maroon called burgundy.

The painting is in preparation for shows this summer and fall. The paint job likely will serve pending a complete renovation.

New chapter receives charter

On June 8, Holland quartet BLACK RIVER drove to Al-

legan to celebrate the presentation of a charter from SPEBSQSA to the Allegan County Chapter. Lee Derksen, chorus director and music vice president of the Allegan Chapter, led the proceedings. He noted that the Allegan group has been singing informally now for less than a year and has been slowly attracting new singers. Several members, including Lee, also sing with the Kalamazoo MALL CITY CHORUS.

BLACK RIVER sang three songs and then gave way to the featured quartet, FOOLS' GOLD.

Pioneer District Membership Vice-President Gene Hanover was on hand to present the charter and give a few encouraging remarks. He charged the chapter with three simple goals: to grow in membership, to improve each week, and to have fun with this great hobby of ours.

The Allegan chorus members came forward and sang several songs. Then a combined chorus, including the two quartets, sang a selection of songs. The evening ended with about an hour of tag singing.

Benton Harbor-St. Joseph

By Earl Krieger

Gordon Kesterke achieves 50 years in SPEBSQSA

It was our recent privilege to honor one of our members in recognition of 50 continuous years of faithful service in harmony with the Benton Harbor-St. Joseph Chapter. Gordon "Stub" Kesterke was feted Monday evening, May 15, at the Zion UCC Church by his family, fellow members, former members and directors, friends, and many spouses. Stub was awarded a special engraved plaque by the Pioneer District presented to him by Chapter President Steve Lake.

All of those present enjoyed Stub's interesting background story leading up to his involvement and eventual membership in our chorus. Stub and his three brothers, Ed, Charles, and Bud, had formed a family quartet called the KESTER-KEYS. They were recruited to join the newly chartered Benton Harbor-St. Joseph Chapter by Edwin Brink, manager of the local National Tea store where the Kesterke brothers delivered milk.

The Kesterkes began meeting with our chapter in a room above the Tip-Top Cafe in St. Joseph (a popular local sandwich shop in the '30s and '40s). One of the first songs they learned was "Yona From Arizona," obtained from the Dowagiac Chapter. Another favorite back then was the "Helena Polka."

Among the highlights and fond memories of his 50-year career, Stub recalled the year 1962 in Traverse City when, under the direction of Bill Hansen, his chorus captured top honors by finishing first in the Pioneer District's chorus competition.



Gordon Kesterke (left) accepts a plaque from Chapter President Steve Lake for Gordon's 50 years of service to the Benton Harbor-St. Joseph Chapter.

Stub's final comment related to the chorus being engaged by the Berrien County Republican Party to furnish the entertainment at a series of 10 Economy Suppers. They were held locally during Dwight Eisenhower's campaign for president. The chorus was paid \$100. (The Kesterke brothers performed as IKE'S CREW CUTS at those events.)

Stub has our heartfelt thanks for singing and performing with our chorus for most of his adult life and we sincerely wish him many more years of Barbershoping with the Benton Harbor-St. Joseph Chapter.

Chorus without director once again

Our chorus is once again without a director. Nick Stuart has accepted a position with Commonwealth Edison in New York and has recently completed his relocation to that area. We will all miss him.

Steve Lake scheduled a short meeting of chapter officers after rehearsal April 24 to discuss our situation. He suggested we approach Gene Hanover to see if he would be willing to direct our chorus this spring and early summer or until we can locate another director.

A motion was made by Darrel Stiner and supported by Earl Krieger to follow Steve's suggestion. Gene has agreed to be our interim director through July ... long enough to put together a suitable performance package

that will enable us to honor all of our performance commitments for the spring-summer season.

President Steve Lake to attend Harmony College

Chapter President Steve Lake will be traveling to St. Joseph, Missouri, July 30 through August 6 to attend this summer's session of Harmony College located on the campus of Western Missouri State. We wish him a safe and fruitful journey.

Huron Valley

By Darrell Richmond

Our best guest night ever!

We recently hosted the most successful guest night that I can remember. The church dining room area was packed. A total of 42 male guests registered that night to see what was going on at Huron Valley. And a copious quantity of wives and family members was also present.

The chorus sang very well, as it usually does when there is an audience to entertain. Chapter quartets LYRIC and CHORDIOLOGY performed well. And Pioneer District Champions WJBC did their usual humorous and harmonious parody broadcast as they closed out the performance part of the program. The applause was thunderous — the audience was very energetic. The folks really enjoyed the show!

Chorus members and guests then numbered off and four groups went into classrooms to learn a tag. After about fifteen minutes, the groups returned to demonstrate the tags they had learned. Together then, we all sang the Barbershop closers. Refreshments followed, bringing our most successful guest night to an end.

New guest night process used

The success of our latest guest night was mainly due to the ideas, leadership, and energy displayed by Hal Thompson, who announced two months prior to the event that he would be looking for names of at least one potential guest from every chorus member. "Each one, bring one" was the theme.

When appeals at practice failed to produce the number of names he was looking for, Hal tenaciously contacted individual chorus members via e-mail and telephone for the name of at least one acquaintance, friend, or relative to build our guest list.

For several weeks, Hal talked up the event, and a list of 113 potential guests resulted. A month before the

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Chapters in Action

Huron Valley

(Continued from page 35)

event, invitations were mailed to all potential guests. Follow-up phone calls were recommended and people notified Hal about people who were planning to attend.

We advertised our guest night in *Independent Times*, Ann Arbor's monthly *Observer*, the weekly Milan/Saline/Dexter/Chelsea papers, and the *Ann Arbor News*. And as usual, flyers were made available for members to post at area churches and businesses.

Since our guest night, follow-up letters have been sent out to people who haven't returned, inviting them to visit us again on any Tuesday night to check us out. Follow up is very important. It appears that eight to ten new chorus members will result from our successful guest night.

We are beginning now to get our contest songs ready for the Buckeye Invitational Small Chorus Contest. Room reservations are in place. Our director is enthusiastic. We are sounding good! New chorus members have picked up on the contest songs very well. The chorus seems to be picking up on the director's enthusiasm and appears to be looking forward to working hard on presentation, so we can do the best job possible in Columbus. This makes practice very exciting!

On Saturday, November 4, we will be doing a cabaret-type show, "Side By Side," with the COUNTY CONNECTION SWEET ADELINE CHORUS. There will be a matinee and an evening show. We will be singing a couple of songs with the ladies. We had a picture taken with them recently for our show flyer. We have had two show meetings so far and plans are progressing very well.

Mark this date. The music will be great! You'll be glad you came!

Detroit-Oakland

By Tom Uicker

It's summertime and the concert series are happening all over. Detroit-Oakland's GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS performed at two in July. On July 12, we shared the stage in Royal Oak with HARMONIX from GREAT

LAKES and SPIRIT OF DETROIT choruses of Sweet Adelines International. These young ladies helped out as bride and bride's maids on our annual show last February, and it was great to be with them again. I understand they are current region champs and will represent Region 2 in International competition this fall. We wish them all the best.

On July 26, we returned to Nardin Park Methodist Church in Farmington Hills. We had the stage all to ourselves, but there was quite a variety with our chapter quartets and the SONGSTER'S ENSEMBLE and DAYTIME SINGERS VLQ'S.

The "Return of the Jug" party, held on the first Friday in June, was a tremendous success. We are always worried whether we will have a representative crowd since we are sandwiched between Memorial weekend and the Windsor Send-Off. But the 150 people in attendance tell us to continue the tradition.

Dave Anderson of Macomb Chapter gave us a glowing write-up on the PioNet; but for those who missed it, here is a synopsis: Livingston County Chapter brought one of the jugs. (Holland Chapter wasn't able to attend in person, so they had returned the other jug at the spring convention.) We had three choruses with our own GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS, Macomb's HARMONY HERITAGE CHORUS, and a massed chorus of all the other chapters.

We also had a half-dozen quartets. (I'm sorry I can't name them now.) It was topped off with district champs WJBC and international reps (now fifth-place medalists) POWER PLAY. All was held together under the capable leadership of master of ceremonies Jim Kunz.

To top it off, we were able to contribute over \$900 (collected from the 20 chapters visited by the jugs) to help our representative quartet in their quest for the gold. If you missed the party, the jugs will start traveling soon, and our chapter has agreed to host this event again next year on the first Friday in June.

We are now starting to learn songs for a new show next February. Featured quartets will be BANK STREET and FREESTYLE, seventh and twelfth place, respectively, on the international stage.

We will be competing in the district contest this fall. And we continue to work on improving vowel matching and breath support.

As you can imagine, our Monday night meetings are busy. But we are not too busy to stop and sing a couple of chestnuts with friends, old or new. So feel free to stop by Starr Presbyterian Church, on the corner of

Crooks Road and 13 Mile in Royal Oak some Monday night. "You're As Welcome As the Flowers in May."

Rochester

By George Schmidt

The chorus is hard at work learning the nine arrangements to be sung on our Silver Anniversary Show in October. Our director, Andy Brenz, has provided us with some great learning CDs that are proving to be of invaluable assistance in preparing for weekly rehearsals.

The Rochester Chapter, originally named Clinton Valley, was chartered on August 14, 1975. This year marks our 25th anniversary!

Our Singing Valentine program involved four quartets that made some 90 deliveries. The chapter members who participated had a great experience in addition to providing additional funds for charitable giving.

The HEART OF THE HILLS CHORUS was part of the Memorial Day service, which involved a parade to the



Rochester Veterans Memorial Center where they sang before a large crowd attending the official observance ceremonies.

Nine chapter members attended the International Convention in Kansas City and were proud to support and be witness to the outstanding performances of the GREAT LAKES CHORUS and POWER PLAY.

Our next scheduled performance will be singing at the Rochester Art Apples annual art fair in September.

Traverse City

By Elbert Ford

Hello to all you harmony lovers out there. After a very successful show, we have settled back to relax in our fun summer activities. We are doing some

of the fun things during our Tuesday night meetings that we sort of neglected due to getting our show together.

As of now, the only activity we have scheduled this summer is our annual Church-In-The-Park service in August. Afterward, we will gather at the Maurie Allen's residence for the now famous "Betsy's Brunch," named after his lovely wife. They provide a great spread along with even greater hospitality in their backyard, where we eat, sing, and enjoy good fellowship.

We are past the planning stages of our adventure of hosting the fall convention in Battle Creek. Al Bonney, the coordinator for our chapter, has done a super job so far in the organizational work to get us started. We are now getting the pieces in place to make it all happen.

I feel safe in promising you one of the most outstanding weekends you'll ever spend at a convention and contest. We'll be competing, too! Just be there for a harmonious time, whether your chorus comes or not.

We meet all summer, every Tuesday evening, and our doors are always open to visitors. If you find yourself up here enjoying God's country, come on over to the Presbyterian Church on Airport Access Road, just off Munson Avenue (US 31 North), at 7:00 p.m., and sing a tag or woodshed a song with us.

Gaylord

By Jim Quin

Gaylord Chapter's HARMONIE MEISTER CHORUS members are busy putting the final touches together for Bush League 2000 to be held Saturday, September 30. Each member is dedicated and committed to making this year's Bush League the best yet. It is a rather large undertaking as those of you who attended last year's afternoon of quartet competition as well as the evening show of champions know.

If you did not attend last year's Bush League, the HARMONIE MEISTERS invites you to take a drive on I-75 to the beautiful city of Gaylord, Michigan, the Alpine Village, September 30, 2000. Come enjoy the fall color. But most of all, enjoy Bush League 2000.

Along with preparing for Bush League, the HARMONIE MEISTER CHORUS and chapter quartets will be on stage performing at the Gaylord Alpenfest July 19 at 5:00 p.m. The quartets will be street singing on the 20th and 21st, roaming and entertaining the hundreds

(Continued on page 38)

Chapters in Action

Gaylord

(Continued from page 37)

of visitors on the Alpine Strasse with Barbershop harmony.

Macomb

By Russ Dyer and Roy Gurney

No one can be more proud of POWER PLAY and their recent fifth place award in Kansas City than the HARMONY HERITAGE CHORUS singers. With three Super Slamkas being members of the chapter and Jack being our former chorus director, we all felt a special kinship (and no small amount of anxiety) as they sang their way through the quarter- and semi-finals to the "Top Ten" and then to medalist stardom. Man, what music! Way to go, guys. We hope we'll all be there to see you get the big one next year. You're an inspiration to all of us in the chapter, district, and the world!

Chapter President Dave Anderson and his Barbershopper son, Rick, were in Kansas City, together with chapter members Chuck Hatch, John Nolte, Norm Hamlin, Jack Frucci, Jeff Forman, Dave Percy, and Don Reddy to cheer for POWER PLAY as well as our Grand Rapids brothers in song. Some of us not able to attend the convention sweated out the quartet final competition firsthand by listening to the live "Webcast" on the Internet.

With the Kansas City suspense over, our chorus now returns to the business of continuing to prepare for three major upcoming performance dates. The number one goal, of course, is October's district convention in Battle Creek. With the able guidance of Director Matt Coombs, competition song rehearsal began early in the year, and we successfully showcased the songs at the annual district Windsor Send-Off Show.

Another prestigious appearance will be at the Michigan State Fair in Detroit on August 25. This will be a first-time experience for the chorus and anticipation is building.

February 3, 2001, is the scheduled date for our next annual show at which a significant venue change will occur. After several years of being staged at Mount

Clemens High School, the show will be held at the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts with its modern, 1,100-seat auditorium located at Macomb Community College's center campus. Mark your calendar. Negotiations are underway to schedule FRED as our headliner guest quartet. At this writing the deal is not set in concrete, but stay tuned.


One of the guest quartets will be the Sweet Adelines SUCCESS EXPRESS ("with my daughter on baritone" - Roy). They have been International finalists and come from Columbus, Ohio.

On August 12, the chorus will hold its annual "retreat" featuring a full day of rehearsal and coaching at the beautiful Waldenwoods Family Recreation Resort near Hartland. Champion coaches Jack Slamka and Wayne Kinde will be on hand to fine tune our skills.

The all-day coaching will be followed by a big cook-out at the campground and entertainment for the 500+ campers. We also have two other special coached rehearsals planned.

At a recent rehearsal ceremony, Chuck Hatch was presented his 1999 Chapter "Barbershopper of the Year" plaque. A 21-year Barbershopper, Chuck was formerly a member of the Detroit-Oakland and Motor City Metro Chapters before joining the HARMONY HERITAGE CHORUS three years ago. He ably serves the chapter as the music and performance vice-president as well as chorus baritone section leader. Good going, Chuck.

Have a wonderful summer, everyone, and we'll see you all in Battle Creek in October! ■



BILL
DAN

A BARBERSHOP QUARTET

Contact: Dan Casamatta
6705 Adaridge Dr. SE
Ada, Michigan 49301
(616) 676-8814
E-Mail: porgyt@aol.com

JOEL
MARK

Bush League 2000

Friday - Saturday - Sunday, September 29-30, October 1

Return this form by **Robert Dittman**
September 10, 2000, to: **502 Center St.**
Gaylord, MI 49735

Please print

Name of quartet _____ Contact man _____

Address _____ Home phone () _____

City _____ State/Prov. ____ Zip _____ Business phone () _____

To make your visit more effective and pleasant, please give the names of quartet members:

Tenor _____ Lead _____ Bari _____ Bass _____

Arrival date _____ Departure date _____

Please reserve the following accommodations. Circle Plan A or Plan B:

Plan A (2) nights lodging in a standard room, breakfast and dinner on Saturday, breakfast on Sunday, all applicable taxes and gratuities: **\$110.00 double occupancy each (apply EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT of 10% if applicable)**

Plan B (1) night lodging in a standard room, dinner on Saturday, breakfast on Sunday, all applicable taxes and gratuities: **\$80.00 double occupancy each (Apply EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT of 10% if applicable)**

Deposit policy: You may guarantee your room reservation with a major credit card or a deposit of one night's lodging no later than September 10, 2000. Refund of your deposit will be made if cancellation occurs at least 14 days prior to arrival. We will send you a confirmation of this reservation request. Upon receipt, please review all information. You should receive your confirmation within 3 to 5 working days.

Do you require any special lodging needs: Barrier-free room _____ Main floor _____ Non-smoking _____

PHONE OR E-MAIL RESERVATIONS ARE NOT ACCEPTED FAX: 517-731-1169

Circle one: VISA DINER'S CLUB MASTERCARD AMEX

Number _____ Expiration date _____

Signature _____ Date signed _____

ALL RESERVATIONS WILL BE PLACED WITH THE QUALITY INN BY THE BUSH LEAGUE COMMITTEE. PLEASE DO NOT RESERVE PLANS DIRECTLY WITH HOTEL (SEE RESERVATION ADDRESS ABOVE).

Individuals (non-quartet) may use this form. Please include family member's names.

Name (1) _____ Name (2) _____

Others (family) in room _____

If 2nd room is required, please indicate and provide name(s) _____

For more information, contact Hank Hedges: 517-731-1169, or HHedges@i2k.com

Bush League: The home of past, present, and future champions!

... New edit #10

That millennium sure flew by, didn't it?

How can you tell if you have a cheap doctor? He takes Wednesdays off to play miniature golf.

My mother is a tour director for guilt trips.

At every party, there are two kinds of people — those who want to go home and those who don't. The trouble is, they are usually married to each other.

I went out to buy a kitchen sink and they threw everything else into the deal.

Law of successful stage presence: The secret of successful stage presence is sincerity. If you can fake that, you've got it made.

Wayne Chapter, SPEBSQSA, Inc.
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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.

"There are two means of refuge from the miseries of life: music and cats."

Albert Schweitzer

Upcoming Events

2000

Aug. 17-20 - Buckeye Invitational, Columbus, Ohio. Contact Walt Miller: 740-928-6306, or <http://www.singingbuckeyes.org>

Aug. 22 - Herm Baker's Corn Roast. Contact John Baker: Mrjbnapa@aol.com

Sept. 16 - Alpena Show. Contact: Bill Martin: 517-356-0476

Sept. 16 - Gratiot County Show. Contact Mark Wilson: 517-833-2466

Sept. 23 - Grosse Pointe Show. Contact Jim Grogan: 313-881-1465

Sept. 29-30 - Bush League 2000. Contact Hank Hedges: 517-731-1169

Oct. 7 - Muskegon Show. Contact Mike O'Donnell: 616-363-1368, or Web Scrivnor: 616-842-9041

Oct. 20-22 - District Fall Convention

Oct. 28 - Pontiac-Waterford Show. Contact Dick Johnson: 248-363-5173

Nov. 4 - Rochester Show. Contact Carl Hasselwander: 248-651-6172

Dec. 1-3 - COTS, Gull Lake, Mich.

Dec. 8, 10 - Grand Rapids Show.

2001

Feb. 3 - Macomb County Show.

March 3 - Kalamazoo Show.

Apr. 27-29 - District Spring Conv.

Oct. 19-21 - District Fall Conv.

Oct. 27 - Rochester Show.

Nov. 1, Dec. 1-2 - COTS, Gull Lake

Note: All chapter show activities must be cleared through District Secretary Jack Schneider (contact information on page 2).

Historical notes

**From *The Harmonizer*,
November/December 1982**

In the days before photocopying machines, an original copy of "Keep America Singing" in the possession of this historian [Dean Snyder] is a "blue-print." The heading includes "For Men's Chorus ... Words, Music, and Arrangement by Willis A. Diekema," and it was first presented publicly at the Milwaukee convention in 1947. The Society will ever be indebted to Bill Diekema for this original composition - so long used as our theme song - with the original title now paraphrased into "Keep the Whole World Singing" to indicate that our song style is now growing in favor overseas in England, New Zealand, Australia, and (with an accent) in Sweden.