

# Pioneer Troubadour

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



February/March 2000

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## COTS 1999

By John T. Gillespie,  
District COTS Coordinator

The 1999 District Chapter Operations Training Seminar held the weekend of December 3-5 was very successful. The only downside was the number in attendance. We had 63 members there, down about 15 from a year ago. The members who didn't attend missed a great barbershop experience.

The 38 sessions offered were diverse, providing something for every chapter officer, board member and committee man, as well as Joe Barbershopper.

The faculty consisted of Dean Jerry Easter, Central States District; Presidents Instructor Don Challman, Land O' Lakes District (Our own representative on the Society board); Secretaries Instructor Mike Lancot, Evergreen District; Treasurers Instructor Dan Wheden, Evergreen District; Music & Performance Instructor Terry Reynolds, Mid-Atlantic District; Member Services Instructor Ivan Jensen, Rocky Mountain District; Chorus Director Development Instructor Chris Peterson, Sunshine District; Marketing & Public Relations Instructor Reed Sampson, Land O' Lakes District; and Chapter Support & Leadership Training Instructor Dale Thomas, Mid Atlantic District.

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## Bruce Smith selected to task force

*Lansing Chapter's Bruce Smith has been selected to be a member of the Society's Leadership Task Force. In his 25 years of Barbershopping, Smith has been a member of six chapters in five districts. He has held every chapter office except secretary and music VP. He has been a charter member of two chapters and was named Barbershopper of the Year in 1977 by the Mansfield, Ohio, Chapter. Below is his story.*

About a year and a half ago, I saw a request in one of the Society's publications that asked people with skills that they thought might benefit the Society to make themselves known. I contacted the Society, believing that my training and experience as a mediator might be such a skill, not because I saw the Society as racked with conflict and disagreement, but because I knew that, at times, disputes can become harmful and that a neutral third party can aid the parties in reaching an understanding and agreement.

In addition to mediation, I thought that my education in business (BBA and MBA), almost 30 years as an executive in health care, and my recent year-long study in organizational development might provide skills and tal-

ents that the Society could use.

I was contacted and referred to J. R. "Digger" MacDougal. Throughout the last year, I have been in discussions with Digger, a member of the LTF. Digger not only asked me numerous questions about myself, but asked me to comment on a host of issues that the Society and/or task force was working on. He challenged my thinking and asked me to challenge the thinking of others. Throughout this vetting, Digger was sharing my answers with the other members of the LTF to make sure that my skills and approach were both of value and not the mirror image of another member.



**Bruce Smith**  
Photo by Paul Howe

As a result of this process, several months ago I was invited to join the Leadership Task Force. The role of the Leadership Task Force is to assist all Society elements in identifying, coordinating, and integrating leadership training and development of their activities. This assistance may be given at the chapter, district, and Society levels and will include leadership and training programs requested by Society bodies, committees, and

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Quartet-size card	\$13
Quartet-size card (annual)	\$55

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## TROUBADOUR PUBLISHING INFORMATION

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

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

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# Monroe North featured in local newspaper

By Marketing & Public Relations  
VP Doug Pearson

**B**arbershopping has received more good publicity out of our Pioneer District. The December issue of "Prime Times," a bi-monthly tabloid of The Monroe Publishing Co., did an outstanding cover story on the Monroe North Chapter and its FLORAL CITY HARMONIZERS chorus. The two-page feature was highlighted by a full-cover shot of member Dale Cousino busting a chord, plus four inside pix of the chorus in action.

The article was headlined "Singing their way to happiness: Barbershoppers say fun, camaraderie help maintain positive attitude." Here's the article, reprinted with permission:

Singing in a barbershop group can be healthy, invigorating, and promote a sense of accomplishment.

Just ask Don Schroeder, a charter member of the Monroe North Chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America.

"I'm a 42-year-old man in a 70-year-old body," Mr. Schroeder, 77, quipped. "We get better with age." His brother Dale, 82, echoed that sentiment. He said he's not a musician and can't read a note, but can understand pitch and likes to sing.

"You just feel good when you sing a good note and are in harmony with one another," the World War II veteran said. "If I moved to Denver tomorrow, I'd want to find a barbershop group I could join."

The Floral City Harmonizers is

the performing chorus for the chapter. Allen Pixley, 61, joined the chapter in 1964 and is a member of the chorus and quartet "Long and Short of It." He says singing has given him a good attitude and happy outlook on life. "I think barbershoppers are often healthier and live longer than the general population," Mr. Pixley said. "Recreation is the key to a satisfying retirement -- and barbershop harmony is an ideal way to meet that need."

Barbershoppers have a long history in Monroe County. The first active chapter in Monroe was formed in 1948, but disbanded five years later. In 1963, it was revived and an official charter was signed.



Trying to hit a high note, Dick Ender, 63, of Milan looks to the director for guidance.

Two current members, Melvin Gillespie, 81, and Carl Curson, 80, were members of the chapter in the 1940s. Both met while singing in the chorus at Monroe High School in the 1930s and have been friends ever since. Along with the Schroeder brothers, they are the oldest members of Monroe North and have made lasting friendships with other members of the chapter.

"Carl and I have been singing together since our school days in the 1930s," Mr. Gillespie, a retired Detroit Edison Co. employee, recalled. "We first joined the group back in the Park Hotel days in 1946."

The elegant hotel, formerly located on Washington St. where the National City bank parking lot is today, was used for weekly singing practices. After practice, some members of the group would walk over to Jimmy Rathskeller's on E. Front St. for a brew.

"We'd continue our singing over there ... you get a little thirsty, you know," Mr. Gillespie said with a grin.

Singing in a barbershop quartet today is nothing like the early days, Mr. Curson, a baritone, said.

"There's no comparison," the retired Tecumseh Products Co. worker said. "The sound is much better. We have a director (David G. Granata) now, a good one, and that makes all the difference in the world."

Mr. Gillespie, who sings lead, praised his friend for singing as a baritone. "Some of these high notes are hard," he said. "I love singing bass, but it's easy compared to baritone. That's a tough part, and you really have to sing in harmony."

Each spring, the chapter hosts a concert at the St. Mary Center auditorium. The next show will be March 11. But there were no major concerts in the early years.

*(Continued on page 15)*



# Two Heartspring stories: David & Clinton

By District Charities Chairman  
Alex Willox

**A**llow me to share a couple of very special packages Heartspring wrapped up, stamped, and sealed for a safe delivery home in 1999 ... David and Clinton.

Lloyd and David had a special kind of relationship before David went home. Lloyd was David's teacher, a very patient and caring person. David is profoundly mentally retarded. He was an intimidated, frightened, confused, and defensive person when he came to Heartspring.

Lloyd and David worked very hard together to bring the rates of David's aggressions to a minimum. The first day

Lloyd and David met, in the first two-hour period, David attacked Lloyd eight times, including biting, hitting, screaming, and kicking. The next day he was better. After a couple of months, he was much improved.

By the time David went home, he might have an aggression once in a 30-day period. David's world has grown to include jobs such as retrieving cans at Wal-Mart and cleaning tables at Spangles.

David has now transferred to the public school system, and Lloyd has joined him as his personal teacher. Lloyd says he has

learned a lot from David, but most of all, he constantly reminds us that we are all fundamentally the same, regardless of ability or disability.

Clinton grew up at Heartspring, enrolling at age 10, and just recently celebrated his 21st birthday, the very first birthday his mother was able to celebrate with him at Heartspring.

When Clinton came to Heartspring, he was diagnosed as hearing and visually impaired, mentally retarded, and with communi-

cation disorders. He could read, but was unable to write. He could use sign language, but not precisely. Verlene's family (one of Clinton's teachers) became like an extended family for Clinton. He learned relationship building and the feeling of having a family around through the friendships of Verlene's sons.

Clinton's mother left her life behind in Illinois and moved to Wichita so that she could be close to Clinton and he could live with her. This required a great deal of adjustment for both Clinton and his mother. To Clinton, living with his mother meant he was on a holi-

day. Now he had to make the transition to understanding that living with his mother meant home. The preparation for Clinton's transition began in early June. He was given a series of events that were represented by pictures so he would understand he would be living at home and riding a bus to and from Heartspring.

To acclimate Clinton to taking the bus, Verlene and Clinton's paraprofessionals would go to his home and get him ready for school.

At first he would ride to school with Verlene and she would share with him his social reinforcement every step of the process so he would know what to expect.

Next, Clinton began riding the bus to school with Josie, his paraprofessional. Verlene would follow behind the bus in her van just in case Clinton had problems. Finally, Clinton was riding the bus to and from school by himself.

Today, Clinton is very routine oriented and a hard worker. He hates to miss work. Clinton spends up to 17 hours per week working on vocational job tasks. He has become quite a young man.

These are just two of the success stories accomplished through your contributions to the Harmony Foundation. Doesn't it make it all so worthwhile? ■



## HEARTSPRING

**We sing ...**

***That they shall speak!***

# A View From The Top

## Don Bazely, President

**G**reetings to all *Troubadour* readers. This is the first time many of you have met me and I am glad to make your acquaintance even if it is only in print.



Don Bazely

I thought that it would be appropriate if I shared with you some of my barbershop philosophy so that you had some basis on which you could agree with or disagree with

me.

You must be aware that declining membership numbers in Pioneer and, indeed, throughout the Society is causing some concern to our district membership people and similarly to the staff in Kenosha and the Society board members. All kinds of reasons have been offered to account for this loss of membership, ranging from, "We are not allowing the style to evolve," to "It does not appeal to young people."

I would offer the following thoughts: The "P" in our title stands for PRESERVATION. How can we listen to Simon and Garfunkel and claim that that is barbershop?

I challenge the concept that our style of vocal music has no appeal to young people. Well, O.K. I agree that Barbershop Harmony does not enjoy widespread appeal in the same way as "contemporary" music or country and western does, but it does appeal, especially when it is well presented.

Let's look at some statistics: The

combined population of Canada and the USA is in the order of 250 million. Assume half of that number are males. That means that there are 125 million males in continental North America.

In our wildest dreams, we never envisaged more than 100,000 barbershoppers in the U.S. and Canada. My Radio Shack calculator says that represents a little under 1/100 of the population. I have no idea how many young people, between the ages of 15 and 30 say, are singing barbershop. Obviously there are not enough. But ask the youngsters who are singing about "appeal." Some of us can learn enthusiasm from them. I suspect that there are not enough "qualified" disciples of barbershop harmony carrying the message to our kids.

One final thought: Dave Stevens, no longer with us, but a very well-loved member of our headquarters music staff, was the keynote speaker at Harmony College some years ago. A video tape of his address entitled, "What Are We Trying to Preserve," was issued by the Society. It was obvious that Dave was supporting our style of music and there was one statement that has stayed vividly in my memory as I listened to him. Dave said (and I paraphrase), "If I visited your chapter meeting 100 years from now, wouldn't it be nice if I could recognise what you were singing?" That is Preservation with a capital "P."

So, friends, we are the keeper of the keys and I ask you to "Keep it (mostly) barbershop."

Sing well and often. ■

## Do you have your spring convention lodging?

By Larry L. Parker, District Vice President for Events

**H**appy New Year to all! Now that the holidays are over, our thoughts turn to the April 28-30, 2000, convention in Battle Creek. Some of those thoughts should be toward making your hotel reservations. You say you've already made them. Well, that's good ... well, maybe!

Last fall, several convention-goers made multiple reservations at more than one hotel. As is customary, a credit card was used to hold the rooms. Unfortunately, many failed to cancel the reservations they didn't want. Last fall they were lucky, as the hotels did not charge for those rooms.

This spring, it will be a different story. If you reserve rooms at any hotel and you fail to use or cancel them, you WILL be charged for them.

Rooms are at a premium, especially at headquarters, the McCamley Plaza Hotel. The Pioneer District Convention Committee would like everyone to have a chance at the rooms they want. So please, make your lodging plans with care! ■

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**<http://www.harmonize.com/>**

## Society Synopsis

### Don Challman, Society Board Member

I'm using this article to bring you up to date with the most recent happenings at the fall Leadership Forum & Society Board Meeting held in Racine. A more



Don Challman

up-to-date report will be forthcoming following the Mid-winter Convention, held in late January in Tucson.

The Leadership Forum (where everyone gets to meet and plan with everyone else) seemed to be the best to date. This is probably due to all district officers, Society Board and Committee members, etc., more fully understanding the forum format and intent.

The biggest issue (isn't it always?) was the huge deficit the Society was incurring in 1999 and the dim outlook for the future. However, over the weekend, the Society Planning & Program Development Group spent untold hours together which resulted in the unexpected balancing of the year 2000 budget, with plus \$2000.00 to spare.

How did they do this? All programs took hits! The PPDG looked closely at every budget entry and cut it to the maximum extent possible. Specifically, this meant that all new programs were postponed, travel for Society staff (except for trips to extension sites) was cut, as was most travel by Society Board member representatives to district conventions.

The Society Board also can-

celled its spring meeting...major decisions to be made by the Society Board Management Council, after written or phone communication with the entire Board.

Actual Board business was light, but included:

- Accepting the Society 2000 Strategic Framework and Work Plan.
- Postponing the proposed merger of the Society Music & Performance Committee and the Society Chorus Director Development Committee for a year.
- Increased the Society yearly dues of \$60.00 U.S. per member to \$65.00 U.S., effective December 31, 1999, renewals.
- Approved the Society 2000 budget.
- Voted to invite the WHALE CITY CHORUS from DABS, BY APPOINTMENT quartet and SHANNON EXPRESS CHORUS from BABS, and the VOCAL VIKINGS from SNOBS to participate in the International Contests in Kansas City.
- Reaffirmed the Society Board's partnership with the Association of International Quartet Champions.

One of the big issues to be discussed in Tucson will be the recommendations brought before the Society Board by the Contest & Judging Committee regarding the future of the Show Package concept.

I'll be back at you with the full scoop in the next issue of the *Troubadour*. ■

## Where do I fit into my chapter?

By Tom Vizzi, *Buffalo Billboard* editor, Buffalo, NY

Last fall at the Seneca Land District COTS school, I heard a talk on the membership structure of our district chapters. This talk brought out the fact that each chapter has members that fall into five categories:

1. The Competitor - He's the guy that wants to win! He is willing to sacrifice hard work to accomplish his goal.
2. The Leader - This guy is willing to be an officer, a committee chairman, section leader, and do anything he can to help out the chapter. He's not too sure where he stands when it comes to competition.
3. The Hobbyist - This guy loves to sing; it's his hobby! He's been told that he has a nice singing voice and he probably does! He's not interested in competition; he just wants to sing!
4. The Affiliator - This guy just wants to belong. He comes to the weekly rehearsals, sings, and has a great time. He hardly ever volunteers to help the chapter in anyway, but just wants to belong.
5. The Tag-a-long - This guy goes along with anything the Leader says, does what ever the Hobbyist wants to do, and just tags a long with the chapter flow.

What is your chapter attitude and where do you fit in! Take a long look at your chapter; see if you can recognize any of the above member types. Now ask yourself, "Where do I fit in! Is there room for improvement?" ■



## Here's the Pitch

### Raleigh Bloch, Executive & Member Services VP

## Hanover serves up tasty harmony

**C**an a chapter have fun and recruit new members, or does it have to be all work. This is how one chapter did it in 1999.



Raleigh Bloch

Well, it all started about a year ago. We had our chapter Christmas party and it was very nice. Then Gene Hanover, our director, said rather nonchalantly, "If you guys get 12 new members, I'll cook for next year's Christmas party." Many of us knew that Gene used to run a restaurant, but never tasted his cooking. He said it would be a dinner that we would not forget 'cause it would be great. We wondered if we accepted and met this challenge, would he be able to handle such a large group.

Well, we took him up on his challenge. It became a rallying cry for the year. A membership drive was started early on, and we picked up a few members. We thought, "Hey, we can do this."

To make a long story short, we wound up with 13 new members and, along the way, were judged the best chorus in the district in the singing category and the most-improved chorus at last fall's competition!

It became evident that we were going to meet the challenge and, around the beginning of December, each member of the chapter received a very colorful invitation announcing that they were invited,

along with a guest, to the annual Christmas party and officer installation dinner. It also announced that our special guests would be Don Bazely, 2000 district president, and his wife Mary.

The menu was included in the invitation. It listed French onion soup, various breads, and saucy chicken or teriyaki beef served on a bed of basmati rice with vegetables. Dessert was Bananas Foster served on vanilla ice cream. "Wow," I said. "He's going to do that! I've got to be there to see this."

The invitations came in and the day drew near ... is this really going to happen? Gene asked for help in the kitchen and in setting up the rented hall and got it.

The dinner was held on Friday, December 17. Gene took the day off from work and was at the hall at 9:00 a.m. John VanWestrienen and I were there as well. Throughout the day, other members dropped in to help. Gene had done most of the shopping the night before. After picking up a few more things, the preparation began.

Gene made the seasoned croutons for the soup and salad. Wow, were they good! If this was an example of what the meal was to be like, it was going to be great.

Then the soup was made. It, too, was excellent. By the time the attitude adjustment hour started (5:30 p.m.), the smells wafting out of the kitchen were absolutely wonderful. People were greeted with fruit punch and hors d'oeuvres.

At 6:30, Gene announced that

the men had to serve their spouses. As they filed into the kitchen, they were given a plate garnished with parsley, tangerine sections, and grapes. Generous portions of chicken or beef were placed on a bed of rice. Baby carrots were added, and the appropriate sauce was spooned over the meat.

Soon the raves were heard. The meat was tender and very tasty. Everything not only looked good, but was wonderful. The meal was excellent.

So how was Gene going to top this? Out came a huge pan of Bananas Foster to the center of the room, which was lit only with the table decoration lights and the Christmas tree. Gene then flamed the Bananas Foster. Each man then dished out the ice cream and spooned on the Bananas Foster for his spouse. It was great!

Then the singing began. First to perform was FOUR-PART DIGITAL SURROUND SOUND. They are getting better every time we hear them.

Next to sing was our district champion, UPSTAGE SOUND. Gene changed roles from chef to lead; the quartet did a wonderful job.

Don Bazely then gave us a little pep talk about singing better each day, each performance, and each rehearsal. He then installed the officers and congratulated Gene on the fine dinner, to which there was great applause. Gene then stepped to the microphone and said that if we wanted to have him cook again next year, the challenge would be 50 men on the risers at the fall contest. Whoa! After a meal like we just had, we couldn't resist.

So there you have it. We need to get 50 men on the risers for this fall's competition. ■

## Public Relating

**Doug Pearson, Marketing & Public Relations VP**

### Want a successful PR program? COTS sessions offer good ideas



Doug Pearson

**C**ome up with a solid public relations program. Wrap it in a dynamic package and top the wrapping with an attractive bow. Then give it to your barbershopping public, including your own members.

That was basically the message given to our district's December COTS attendees who took part in the Marketing/Public Relations sessions. Led by our Society's PR Specialist Reed Sampson, the sessions offered some nuts-and-bolts advice we can all put to advantage.

"This may sound simple, but we need to give the media what they want," said Sampson. "You and your chapter need to get out and talk to your media contacts. Become involved so they know you by name." Here are some of the sessions' key points in dealing with the news media:

- Give them hard-core news (activities, events, shows, achievements, personal accomplishments, etc.) rather than "fluff and stuff."
- Make sure you know the deadlines of your media. You can have a real blockbuster story about your chapter, but if you miss the deadline, it doesn't do

you any good.

- Who is the best media person to send your story to? If you send it to the wrong person or department, it may never surface.
- Use the approach: "How can I help you?" when dealing with the media. Provide complete information. You might also want to make follow-up calls just to make sure the media have all of the information they need. This is also a good way of getting your name and your chapter's name in front of them.
- Think about faxing material to the media, or personal delivery, as opposed to using snail mail.

Moving on to internal public relations, Sampson made an important point: "There's a misconception that public relations is just external. Nothing could be further from the truth — the internal aspect of PR is equally important."

A major part of any successful internal PR program is the chapter bulletin. You might want to look at your own chapter publication and then ask yourself if it accomplishes the following: **INFORM** your members of coming events. List their nature, place and time, and supply the small but important details needed for chapter members to participate effectively in them; **RECORD** re-

cent barbershop events; **REFLECT** views of your officers and members on chapter activities; **RECOGNIZE** efforts and accomplishments of members and others; **EDUCATE** about chapter, district, and Society history, aims, and goals; **PROMOTE** barbershopping in general, together with chapter, division, district, and Society events and programs; **RECRUIT** (encourage members to bring guests); and, finally, **ENCOURAGE** pride and participation in our hobby and Society.

"Chapter bulletins are not the place for any type of negative articles or messages from your officers," Sampson emphasized. "If you're a potential member, you want to get positive vibrations from the chapter and its members."

Of course, no successful chapter public relations program can be effective without using the many marketing tools at its disposal. Along these lines, you might ask the following questions: Are you utilizing bulletin boards and billboards? Are you using public service announcements (PSAs)? How effective is your chapter in creating and maintaining mailing lists? Do you link your activities closely with your school system and arts community? Do you have an updated chapter brochure? Do you work closely with your chamber of commerce and your convention and visitors bureau?

Our discussions also brought out the importance of good public relations to our chapter's overall membership program. "If you think you can run a good membership campaign without public relations, good luck," said Sampson. Here are some thoughts along those lines gener-

*(Continued on page 22)*



# Chapter Coaching

## Doran McTaggart, Chapter Support/Leadership VP

What a milestone the year 2000 can be for our Society and our chapters! The theme for our International Convention in Kansas City this July is "Music Man 2000." This brings back wonderful memories of this great musical and the many opportunities it has given thousands of barbershop quartets to shine. It is fitting that Broadway is re-introducing the "Music Man" to a new generation as we honour the BUFFALO BILLS' 50th anniversary as international quartet champions.

Can your chapter transfer all of this potential energy into membership recruitment programs? There are many men in your community who are looking for a musical experience and we have the answer to their prayers. Your chapter coach can offer you many tried-and-true programs for increasing your membership. Select the one that best suits your chapter needs; have your VP of chapter development promote it to your members and then turn them loose. I haven't heard of any chapter that has said that it doesn't want any more singers. Our lack of action, though, seems to send this message.

We can keep our Society a secret no longer. Open the doors, let those Barbershop sevenths escape, and welcome those new men as

they experience the thrill of a ringing chord.

The best way to retain all of your members is to provide an exciting program each meeting night all year long. This is the time to put the ideas and information that you learned at COTS into practice.

Your music committee under the direction of the VP for music and performance needs each member's participation in the yearly program they are putting together for the chapter.

Get ready to mark the following events on your barbershop calendar: annual show, April and October conventions, Singing Valentines, chapter retreats, golf outings, ladies' nights, camping weekends, fish fries, corn roasts, barbeques, Christmas caroling, and other chorus and quartet performances. WOW! What a great year 2000 will be!

Your music committee is also planning well organized and interesting chapter meeting nights. There will be a great variety of musical experiences, including learning new music for the chapter show and the contest, keeping the repertoire ready for performance, and generating lots of quartet activity. Each meeting night program will use the creative talents of many members to present a memorable musical moment as we enter the new millennium.

Your chapter coach can help you in so many ways. He has the training and resources that will help keep your chapter on track. He will be a pro-active force this year, so

be ready for his call. He can be your guardian angel like Clarence in "It's A Wonderful Life." Do you want to see how much help your chapter coach can be? Give him a call and he will throw you the best lifeline you could possibly receive — his halo. ■

## COTS 1999

*(Continued from page 1)*

The following district chapters participated in this year's COTS: Benton Harbor-St. Joseph, Macomb County, Detroit-Oakland, Gratiot County, Grosse Pointe, Kalamazoo, Lansing, Muskegon, Traverse City, Wayne, Battle Creek, Windsor, Sault Ste Marie, Monroe North, Gaylord, Livingston County (licensed), and Michiana Metro (licensed).

In summary, the courses were excellent, the food was very good, the fellowship was superb, and the conference staff was the epitome of cooperation! ■



## Take Note

### Fred Kienitz, Chorus Director Development VP

I've been racking my brain trying to come up with some fresh, new stuff for you chapter chorus directors — ways to motivate your singers to get on board and help paddle the boat.



Fred Kienitz

Actually, there is a Society publication called *Directly Involved* that is available to all chapter directors and it is sent four times annually. If, however, you are

not receiving one at this time, let me suggest that you contact the editor and ask to be put on their mailing list for this very informative publication.

Call or write: Kirk Young, Editor, 3615 Third Ave., Kenosha, WI 53143-5199 (1-800-876-7464), ext. 541, or e-mail: [kyoung@spebsqsa.org](mailto:kyoung@spebsqsa.org).

Ask him to put you on the mailing list: Give him your title, chapter, chorus name, and your mailing address, and you will receive quarterly copies, filled with great things you can use with your chapter chorus.

This publication covers a magnitude of great information for you to introduce to your chapter singers if and when they are ready for learning the next step needed to become a better performing chorus.

Believe me, this publication covers everything from singing techniques, to chorus placement to warmup skills to Directors' College and covers a multitude of ways to fix problems in your group. This latest issue also has a list of 44 oldies, but

goodies (i.e., actual complete arrangements of songs currently in stock — 44 in all — many of which were used by a given ensemble (quartet or chorus) to help win a contest in their district or on an International stage. The package costs \$25.00 or 60 cents per copy. This offer is extended through April 2000

The issues under discussion in this publication come from some very high-powered directors, several of whom have gold medals around their collective necks after having won International contests. They are willing to share these ideas with all of us who enjoy this hobby.

WHY? Simply because they, too, feel that ours is one of the greatest styles of singing in the world. Not only are these people willing to share ideas with you and give you the opportunity to try them out, but also challenge you to get better as a front-liner and keep new and exciting ideas available for you to use in honing your chapter choruses to keep shooting at an ever higher level of competency.

This is also another outlet of information for you to utilize if you feel inclined to start attending Harmony College every summer at St. Joseph, Mo. This full week of classes ranges from quartet coaching to classes in arranging, theater, set construction, acting, and a plethora of other classes dealing with the art of singing, performing, conducting, writing, arranging, etc.

You can even receive your MASTER DIRECTORS certification from these classes. In fact, Pioneer

has two people presently enrolled in this series of classes and they can (if they hang in there) ultimately receive their certification in directing.

You know, a thought just occurred to me (remember the 44 arrangements discussed earlier?): You should insist that your chapter order the "Diamonds in the Rough" package of 44 songs from Harmony Marketplace for your chapter music library.

Now, pay attention. I began this minor epistle by touting the international publication and I would like to end it by passing on an excerpt from the latest issue that includes a question-and-answer column which asks a prominent director who, in the past 35 years, has won numerous contests at both district and International levels in both men's and women's societies, namely, HOW HAVE YOU BEEN ABLE TO DIRECT THIS AND OTHER CHORUSES FOR OVER 35 YEARS WITHOUT THE BURN-OUT THAT DRIVES SO MANY GOOD MEN AND WOMEN AWAY?

Massey states, "It is difficult to keep your energy, interest, and effectiveness up for a long tenure with the same chorus. I certainly have dealt with that often while directing in Oklahoma City."

In his summary, he says this: "So I go to the next rehearsal with a plan to enjoy myself and to train the singers who are at rehearsal rather than be concerned about the absentees. Within a very short time, I discover that I'm driving home, saying, 'Those basses are singing better and the tenors are really nailing that key change and, wow, we had good attendance tonight!' I never cease to be amazed that when the rehearsal

*(Continued on page 11)*

## Yours 4 A Song

### Russ Seely, Music & Performance VP

One of the first events that takes place at COTS is the installation of your district officers. It's usually a short ceremony, of which I have been a proud inductee several times in the past. At the last COTS in December, it occurred to me that ALL of my fellow officers are — or have been — quartet guys!



Russ Seely

We can boast a wide range of talent — from a couple of district champs, Bush League champs, comedy quartet(s) extraordinaire, champion MCs, and just-plain-GOOD quartet talent, proving that they all have that common bond: love for barbershop harmony. Chances are pretty good, too, that if we DOUBLED the cost of membership, we'd probably not lose any of these dedicated men.

And why are they so dedicated? The number one reason, I believe is that all of them became involved and recognized the beauty of our hobby. They became involved with their chapter, their district, and their Society, with the common goal of promoting an ideal that has been generous to all of them while nurturing that urge to sing the finest type of a cappella music — music that everyone can sing.

So then, what separates the leadership team from the average Joe B? It just has to be that one magic word — INVOLVEMENT! Many years ago, a great barbershopper

who was a personal mentor, stated, "In order to reap the full benefits of any venture, you must be willing to put something worthwhile into it and then those benefits become innumerable." If you think that your "two hours on the risers" is "something worthwhile," then I'm afraid that your investment will not be very fruitful.

So I proudly urge you to follow your leaders. GET INVOLVED! Try quartetting, tag singing, woodshedding. Accept a chapter job, visit other chapters, attend their shows and glows, and — important — insist that your chapter set aside time to promote the quartet experience. Then you can reap the rewards of a much fuller 'shop experience. If your busy officers can do it, why can't you?

Let's all resolve, in this new millennium, to blend the fun-loving past programs with the newer, improved model.

Little did I think that my first quartet experience would be the beginning of a lifelong journey that would lead me to a very rewarding destination of serving at all levels. But, my friends, I opted to GET INVOLVED!

We appreciate and thank you for the comments, both verbal and written, about past articles, in particular a recent rendering about quartets. Two-time gold medallist from Pioneer, Glen Van Tassell, took time from his Florida retreat (we get around) to send some very positive comments about quartet promotion. We will publish his comments in a future *Troub*.

On your "things to do" calendar, mark the dates of May 19-21 for Harmony Round-up at MSU. The next issue of the *Troub* will offer an enrollment form as well as details of the event.

Finally, you dads out there whose sons and/or grandsons are Barbershoppers, be sure to sign-up for that special chorus that will be headed by a wonderful father-son team of Jack and Mike Slamka at the spring convention. ■

**Sing ...  
For LIFE!**

### Chorus development (Continued from page 10)

is planned, energetic, purposeful, and FUN, good things seem to happen. You know what? It almost always starts with ME and knowing why I'm in this hobby! It's to have fun and enjoy my life!"

His final comment that this article ends with is one to think about. "This may be a little too simplistic, but, folks, we must remember that, in addition to being responsible for a lot of other singers enjoying the hobby, we have a responsibility to ourselves. I suggest we all take that responsibility seriously, look in the mirror, and ENJOY!"

\* \* \*

It's not too late to start making plans for this year's Harmony Round-Up which will be held in mid-May at MSU. It will focus on helping the newer directors learn some of the important techniques of leading a Barbershop chorus through a song in a successful manner. ■



# Young Men in Harmony

## Al Bonney, District Chairman

### Make your chapter 2000 YMIH plan

Whether your chapter is just getting started or has an es-



Al Bonney

tablished YMIH program going in your area schools, now is the time to design and implement your YMIH plan for 2000. In previous articles I have discussed several tools available

to you to begin or enhance your chapter's efforts in YMIH. If you missed those, call me. I can give them to you. In this issue, let me address some dates you may want to consider as you build your plan.

#### JANUARY THROUGH APRIL

**Just beginning?** These months are a great time to pick out one or two music teachers 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 additional relationships, so you could go back and build some more. But there are activities you

may want to consider for the teachers with whom you are already working:

- *Lansing has their Third Annual Quartet Competition* on February 12. Call Dennis Wortz, 517-241-7333, for entry info.
- *Locate a high school quartet your chapter can sponsor to Harmony Explosion Camp* July 20-23 at Ball State in Muncie, Ind. 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 who might like to win some money competing in the Collegiate Quartet Contest.* Prelims are at our convention April 28-30 and the winners go to International in K.C. \$1,000 prize for winning the prelim and \$4,000 for the winner in K.C. Call me or Jim DeBusman in Kenosha (1-800-876-7464, x-8566) for more information or registration.
- *Begin discussions with music teachers about their attending Harmony College* in St. Joseph, Missouri, July 30-August 6. The Society cuts non-member tuition in half for music educators. Your chapter may want to fund some or all of the rest of the cost. Call me to see if the district is picking up part of the cost again this year.
- *Begin discussions with music teachers about having Bill Rashleigh in the classroom as a guest teacher* during the week of May 15-19. 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.

#### MAY

**Just getting started?** School years begin in September and end in June. May is the time when teachers are making their plans for NEXT year (read September). If you want to be in their program in September, be in their thoughts in May! With the relationships you have built during the first four months, now is the time to discuss:

- *Purchasing the music* they want to use in September (Barbershop or not!).
- *Helping them choose* some Barbershop selections that are suitable for their classes (we have lists just for this.).
- *Discussing what role* you or the chapter can play in the fall – teaching quartets, coaches, etc.
- *Remembering HX camp and Harmony College* opportunity (see above) – there is still time to sign up.

#### Already built relationships?

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

#### JUNE THROUGH AUGUST

This is often a difficult time to get something new done. Anything that you want to happen during the summer needs to be arranged back in

*(Continued on page 16)*

## Macomb County Chapter

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My check is payable to: **MACOMB COUNTY CHAPTER SPEBSQSA**

# Troubadour goes high-tech

By Jim Styer, Staff Reporter

The Pioneer District's newsletter, the *Troubadour*, has gone high-tech. You now can read the *Troub* right at your computer.

District Webmaster Steve Sutherland, of the Detroit-Oakland Chapter, is putting the district's bi-monthly publication on the district web site. The *Troub* master page is: [http://www.harmonize.com/Pioneer/troubadour/Master\\_Menu.htm](http://www.harmonize.com/Pioneer/troubadour/Master_Menu.htm)

The August-September, October-November, and December-January issues are on the site, and the current issue was there before you got this *Troub* in the mail. This will ease the problems of some members who get their *Troub* late by mail.

Each *Troub* page is a graphic. Therefore, all of the pictures in the *Troub* also are on-line. Every story and column is listed separately on a menu. You can either click on a specific story to take you to the page that story is on, or you can click on a page number in another menu.

Steve receives the *Troub* computer files from Editor Gary Simon. Steve said he experimented to find the most efficient way to display them.

"I want to keep the original look of the *Troubadour* pages as much as possible," he said. "I feel the pic-

tures are as important as the text that is with them."

Steve added: "It looks like creating a graphic of each page and saving them in very high compression takes less server space. This is also what makes them look a little fuzzy when viewing. This does make it a little longer to load on your end. At 56K modem speed, my software says it takes around 15 seconds per page if internet conditions are ideal."

The home page of the district web site, with lots of other district information, is: <http://www.harmonize.com/Pioneer/pio.htm>

If you have any comments or suggestions, send them to Steve at [sps@mw.mediaone.net](mailto:sps@mw.mediaone.net) or to the PioNet. To join that list so you can keep in touch with nearly 300 other barbershoppers on line, send a request with your name and chapter affiliation to [jimstyer@voyager.net](mailto:jimstyer@voyager.net).

The *Troubadour* also is linked from the Web site of PROBE (Public Relations Officers and Bulletin Editors). That site is: <http://www.harmonize.com/PROBE>

Currently, five other district newsletters are on-line. They are Cardinal, Central States, Land O' Lakes, Northeast, and Southwest. They also can be seen at the PROBE site. ■

## Happy birthday to you ...

PioNet, the Pioneer District's e-mail service, celebrated its third birthday on February 1. It went on-line in 1997 with 30 subscribers and has grown to 271 subscribers today. About half of the

Society's 16 districts have e-mail services.

To subscribe to the PioNet, send a request with your name and chapter affiliation to: [jimstyer@voyager.net](mailto:jimstyer@voyager.net).

## Four Man Fishin' Tackle Choir



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A Sound Advantage

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(810) 326-0620

E-Mail: [LIVE4SHOP@AOL.COM](mailto:LIVE4SHOP@AOL.COM)



## Monroe North

*(Continued from page 3)*

In the early 1950s, many local barbershoppers traveled weekly to Temperance to sing with the State Line Chorus or to the Peristyle at the Toledo Museum of Art to sing with the Toledo Chapter. Both of the Schroeder brothers sing bass and were active in both choruses. They sang in the "Floral City 4" quartet that included Bill Whippen, a former school teacher who lives in Munising, and the late Jason King. The quartet went with the Toledo chapter to San Francisco in 1957 to sing in an international competition after the chorus won its district competition.

It was the "Floral City 4" that formed the Monroe North Chapter at Grace Lutheran Church in 1963.

"We started out as a quartet, but everybody wanted to be part of a bigger group," Don Schroeder recalled.

About a half-dozen other members, including Mr. Pixley, joined within a year after the charter.

Mr. Gillespie said the afterglow get-togethers that followed the big concerts are what he remembers most. "We'd meet for dinner and a guest quartet would sing," he said. "We had a lot of fun."

Ruth Collier, wife of member Walter, 76, sometimes brings her sewing needle to pass the time while her husband practices "Chattanooga Choo Choo" and other old-time favorites. She drives him to practice since he had eye surgery recently.

The chapter has sung at numerous special events in the county, including the Christmas tree-lighting in downtown Monroe. In recent years, the chorus has entertained at breakfasts, nursing homes, hospitals, weddings, churches and at veterans' services and ceremonies on Memorial Day and Veterans Day. About eight members are World War II veterans.

Mr. Pixley said the group has brought much joy to its audiences over the years. That, along with

nes, the women's version of singing in harmony, joined the barbershoppers at the dedication, which concluded with both choruses singing "God Bless America."

The 42-member Monroe North Chapter practices from 7:30 to 10:00 p.m. each Tuesday at First Baptist Church, 1602 N. Custer Rd. All men who like to sing are welcome. Dues are about \$85 a year.

"We have a lot of average Joes," the elder Mr. Schroeder said. "We could use about 10-12 more sing-



**Members of the Floral City Harmonizers barbershop group practice in the gym at the First Baptist Church. Directing the chorus is Dave Granata. The group draws members of all ages, but particularly attracts seniors who want to keep their voices young and sharp.**

charitable service the chapter has offered, has produced a sense of pride and confidence among members. "The feedback is immediate and often positive," he said.

Dale Schroeder's fondest memories are singing at the dedication of the World Wars Monument in Monroe on Decoration Day in 1998 and taking a singing tour of England in 1974. The Sweet Adeli-

ers. Anyone can come. You don't have to read music." His son Gary, 46, also is a member and carrying on the family tradition.

Don Schroeder farmed and still delivers bulk mail. A 1939 MHS graduate, he says barbershoppers improve with age. "We think we're better now than we used to be," he said. ■

## YMIH

*(Continued from page 12)*

the spring, or earlier. There are many opportunities. Most have been listed earlier in this article, but don't forget your own chapter shows and performances that might benefit from kids' participation. Again, plan these in the spring.

### SEPTEMBER THROUGH NOVEMBER

Go back to the list from earlier in the year. If you made your plans last May and prepared for them throughout the summer, you will have your hands full. Congratulations! If you have more time, go build more relationships. There are

lots of opportunities even if last May wasn't very productive. The year has just begun. Early meetings with the teachers may allow you to help them:

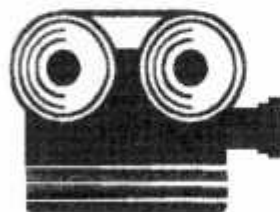
- Schedule a choir on your show.
- Get on her mailing list to buy tickets for their programs (and attend!).
- Come to a class with a quartet and sing for the kids.
- Anything to get your foot in the door and show the teacher and the boys how much fun barber-shop music can be to sing.
- Be proactive. 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.

### DECEMBER

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

If you have done your plan right, by the time 2001 rolls around, you will find yourself — timewise — in sync with the teacher's schedule. 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. ■

## HURON VALLEY CHAPTER SPEBSQSA presents it's annual spring show:



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### THE HURON VALLEY HARMONIZERS

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College**

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# Spring convention to feature father-son chorus

By Jim Styer, Convention PR

A new, one-time feature of the Pioneer District convention this spring will be a father-son-grandson chorus. Directors will be Jack Slamka and son Mike of quartet POWER PLAY.

The chorus will perform at the end of the chorus contest on Saturday afternoon. Rehearsal will be at 9:30 a.m. Saturday.

The convention will run from Friday through Sunday morning, April 28-30, in Battle Creek. Headquarters is the McCamly Plaza Hotel downtown. Eligible are any barbershoppers and any number of their sons, grandsons, fathers, and grandfathers. Only one of these needs to be a member. But each participant must have an all-events registration or a ticket to the chorus contest.

The generational chorus will sing "Lida Rose," with a female soloist to be determined, and a Val Hicks arrangement of "Singing Here with Dad." Because of the short rehearsal time, the music must be learned in advance. The arrangements and a part-predominant learning tape are available from the Society for \$6 plus shipping. To order, call 800-876-SING, ext. 8410, and ask for the father-son-grandson package.

Participants also must notify Larry Parker, convention chairman, of their intent to sing and the part they will sing. Write him at 1416 New York Ave., Lansing, MI 48906; call 517-372-8389; fax 517-372-8979; or e-mail: LParker437@aol.com. Chorus attire will be a suit or sport coat with tie, or a chorus dress uniform.

A father-son chorus also will

sing at the international convention this summer in Kansas City. Kevin and Freddie King will be the directors. To sign up, call 1-800-876-SING, ext. 8462. As of early January, Kenosha had nearly reached the maximum sign-up number of 150 singers.

## STANDING OVATION

Other features of the spring convention will include a Standing Ovation presentation, Grand Rapids chorus show, Joe Barbershop Chorus, college quartet contest, massed sing, and Sunday-morning gospel sing.

Also, competitions will be held at noon Saturday to determine a district chorus champion and at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday to select quartet representatives to the international convention. All will be at W.K. Kellogg Auditorium.

A presentation on Standing Ovation — a Society program to help improve chorus and quartet performances — will be held at 8:00 a.m. Saturday. It will be led by Gary Stamm, Society external affairs director and a presentation judge. Stamm is a performance coach, Harmony College teacher, and show writer, director, and producer.

The Station Ovation district committee chairman is Dave Cole of Holland.

## JOE BARBERSHOP CHORUS

Lansing Director Jeff Gougeon will direct the JOE BARBERSHOP CHORUS, open to all members, whether competing or not.

The chorus will sing "From the First Hello to the Last Goodbye" and "Wait 'Till the Shines, Nellie."

Rehearsal will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday in the auditorium gym. JBC will serve as mike testers for

the chorus contest.

"All are welcome to join in with the CAPITAL CITY CHORDSMEN for this event," said Jeff.

## COLLEGIATE QUARTET CONTEST

The district again will offer a Collegiate Quartet Contest at the spring convention. The winning quartet will receive \$1,000 and represent the district at the summer International Convention.

The contest is open to men aged 17-25 as of the International Contest date. No more than two singers may have been Society members before Jan. 1, 2000.

Further information and official entry forms are available from Al Bonney: albonney@aliens.com of Traverse City, district VP for Young Men in Harmony, or from Jim DeBusman: jdebusman@spebsqsa.org at Society headquarters. Entries must be received by April 7.

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

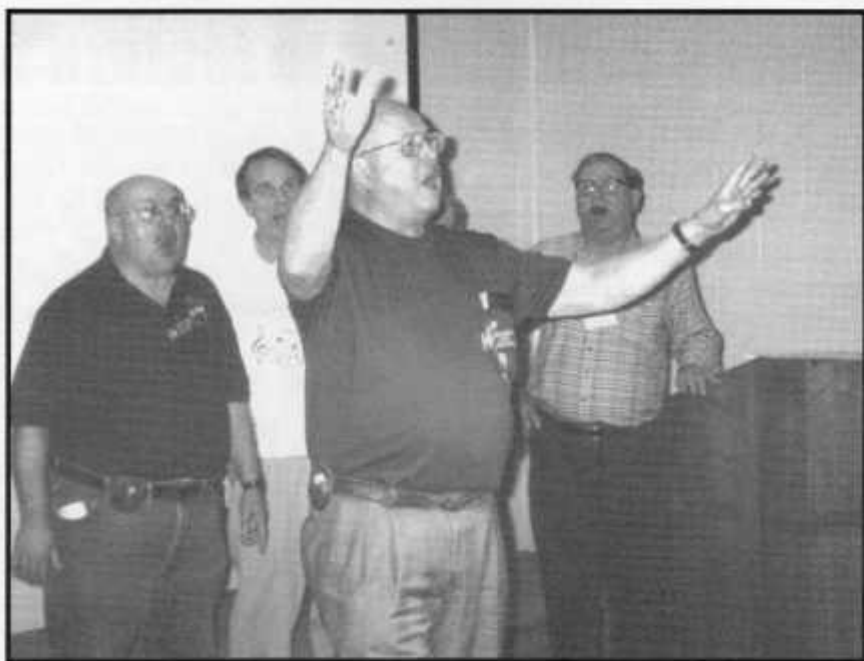
The Great Lakes Chorus of Grand Rapids will present a show at the headquarters hotel about one-half hour after the Friday-night quartet semifinals. A \$5 admission fee will help cover the cost of the chorus' trip to represent the district this summer at International. Show tickets can be requested in advance when you submit your convention registration.

- A massed sing will be held at the McCamly Place stage one-half hour after the chorus contest.
- A gospel service will be held at 9:00 a.m. Sunday at McCamly Plaza Hotel.
- A ladies' hospitality room and a Barbershop Shoppe will be set up at McCamly Plaza Hotel.

*(Continued on page 20)*



# COTS 1999



Newly inducted District President Don Bazely leads the COTS attendees in song. Joining him are (from left) Larry Parker, Doug Pearson, and Doran McTaggart.

(Below) Don Challman leads the session for chapter presidents.





(Above) The COTS faculty for 1999: (L to r) Ivan Jensen, Don Challman, Dan Wheden, Dean Jerry Easter, Terry Reynolds, Dale Thomas, Reed Sampson, Chris Peterson, and Mike Lanctot.



At the attitude adjustment hour, four attendees get together to sing a Pole Cat song.

1998 District Quartet Champion UPSTAGE SOUND performs a mini-show for COTS: Tenor Raleigh Bloch, lead Gene Hanover, bass Kerry Foley, and bari Ed Fritzen.



Photos by Paul Howe  
and Gary Simon

## Spring convention (Continued from page 17)

- District board meeting at 9:00 a.m. Friday; House of Delegates meeting at 2:00 p.m. Friday.

### REGISTRATION DEADLINES

Deadline for submitting convention registrations is April 14. All-events registration is \$16 before that date and \$20 thereafter. Deadline for registration for Battle Creek-area hotels is March 27. Registration forms are in this *Troubadour* and on the district web site: <http://www.harmonize.com/Pioneer/pio.htm>.

Registration by competing choruses and quartets must be done separately from convention registration. Competition registration is handled through Mike O'Donnell [MOdonn5307@aol.com](mailto:MOdonn5307@aol.com), district VP for Contest and Judging. A link to the competition entry form is on the district web site.

Additional timely details on convention plans will run on PioNet, the district's e-mail list, and in the April/May *Troubadour*. ■

## Bruce Smith (Continued from page 1)

task forces not otherwise assigned to the Chapter Support and Leadership Training, Chorus Director Development, or Contest and Judging Committees. Reporting to the Society president, the committee offers an overview perspective that ensures that all projects have preparation, produce measurable results, and are consistent with the Society's best overall interests.

The mission of the LTF is to put in place the programs and processes necessary to continuously enhance our Society's ability to attract and develop multi-dimensional leaders, as well as provide an overview perspective to ensure that all projects undertaken are capable of producing measurable results congruent with the best interests of the Society.

As a member of the LTF, I was asked to attend the Leadership Forum. The forum is the annual meeting that brings together national officers, district officers, Society staff, and various

committee and task force persons to plan for the future, discuss the present, and hold necessary meetings that permit the Society to function and receive feedback. At the forum, members of the LTF functioned as trainers and internal consultants. As the new kid on the block, my role was more observer than presenter. LTF members helped explain the Society's new structure, the concepts behind the five-year planning process, and the linkage between

alignment of vision, mission, values, and those plans. We sat in on a variety of meetings, answering questions and making comments as appropriate.


I walked away feeling that the task force members added value to the forum. The four existing members are extremely talented professionals. Perhaps the main insight or feeling that I drew from the forum related to the quality, commitment, and dedication of my fellow Barbershoppers. What a truly great group of people exists in our Society and how there is true dedication to making it a member oriented organization where each member (customer) is important.

In the past, I often thought that our Society was driven from the top down and that the concerns and needs of the member were not given appropriate consideration. There seemed to be few times or opportunities for Joe Barbershopper to have input. Those days are disappearing rapidly and I believe that the Leadership Task Force has helped in that transformation. ■

## PR contest deadline extended

The entry deadline for the Pioneer District PR award has been extended to April 1. The district's Public Relations Officer of the Year (PROTY) will be announced at the spring convention, and will be entered in the Society-wide PROTY competition for which the deadline also has been extended.

Send entries to Jim Styer, 72 Allison Drive, Battle Creek MI 49017. You may e-mail any questions to him at [jimstyer@voyager.net](mailto:jimstyer@voyager.net). ■



BILL
DAN

### A BARBERSHOP QUARTET

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Ada, Michigan 49301  
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## The Wayne Chapter of SPEBSQSA

*Present a day of barbershop harmony*



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**Jurassic Larks**

1998 International Seniors Quartet Champions



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1998 Pioneer District Champions

***Saturday, March 4, 2000 at Clarenceville High School***

*20155 Middlebelt Rd. Livonia, MI*

**Two shows: 3:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. General Admission Seating**

Advance sales: Students \$10.00 Group sales available

Adults \$11.00 Tickets \$12.00 at the door

**For more information call John (313-937-1322)**



Cut here



Enclosed is my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ Please send \_\_\_\_\_ tickets (total)

\_\_\_\_\_ Afternoon show \$11.00 ea. \_\_\_\_\_ Evening show \$11.00 ea. \* \_\_\_\_\_ Students \$10.00

Make check payable to: WAYNE CHAPTER S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A.  
Please mail the form & your check & a self-addressed stamped envelope to:

Don Venturino  
8337 Gary  
Westland, MI 48185-7084

## Editorial

# Off the paper

This issue of the *Troub* marks the completion of my first year as editor. It's been fun, scary, wonderful, and sometimes hectic.

I've met many wonderful people who have been gracious and kind to me and without whose help this newsletter wouldn't be worth lining the bottom of a birdcage.

The board of directors has been most cooperative and always supportive. Whenever I've asked district members to write an article, be it about a contest, an achievement, or a memorial to someone dear to us, they've always given me more than I had expected. Thanks to Dave Anderson, John Baker, Earl Berry, Al Bonney, Ken Gibson, Roy Gurney, Fred McFadyen, Russ Seely, Mike Slamka, Steve Sutherland, Tom Uicker, and Bob Wisdom.

One area I've tried to expand in the *Troub* is the "Chapters in Action" section. Although I wish many more chapters would make efforts to write informative articles, I do

appreciate the contributions of Loyal Beggs, Chris Berry, Ralph Brown, Dan Crampton, Gene Downie, Brian Dunkel, Ron Fick, Elbert Ford, Steve Foster, Roy Gurney, Gene Hanover, Guy Hissong, Lyle Howard, Paul Howe, Earl Krieger, Art Lane, Chuck Murray, Nick Piccione, Allen Pixley, Darrell Richmond, George Schmidt, Tom Uicker, Dick Williams, and Bob Woodward.

I've also strived to make the *Troub* more of a pictorial publication. Many people have contributed photos to help me toward that goal: Dave Anderson, Don Bazely, Al Bonney, Dave and Lori Cole, Ken Gibson, Al Glasby, Guy Hissong, Paul Howe, Sandy Pastor, and Doug Pearson.

Special thanks to Don Funk, who let me use a photo of the MERRI-MEN when Gordy Washburn died. I failed to give Don credit at the time, but I do so now.

Doug Pearson has been a source of encouragement, and has contrib-

uted numerous articles and photos. His dry sense of humor has picked me up more than once.

Each issue of this publication would have been about 12 pages long if it hadn't been for the excellent writings of Jim Styer. Jim's background in journalism has served him, and us, well.

Lastly, I pride myself on my grammar and spelling skills. But they pale in comparison to the abilities of my invisible partner, who sits in the background, but contributes mightily to each issue. Lynne Estell, my sister, is my second set of eyes. If there's a difference between a good issue and an outstanding one, she's the reason. Thanks, dear.

If I have forgotten to acknowledge anyone's contribution, I apologize for the omission.

I look forward to serving you for many more years. May you and I, together, continue to produce a newsletter that's informative, interesting, and timely.

Gary Simon, editor

## Successful PR program (Continued from page 8)

ated from the sessions:

- Have a greeter at every one of your meetings. The importance of an initial handshake is crucial in leaving a favorable impression with a potential new member.
- Have a guest sign-in book. Make sure you have a music book for each potential member so he can follow along what you're singing.

- Initiate a buddy system if you don't already have one. Every member should greet guests and each other.
- How about a chapter bulletin board with pictures, clippings, articles, and events?
- Think about small gifts for your guest such as a "You've sung with ..." card, key chain, or trinket with Society logo.

Sampson made a final, important point: Barbershoppers are talented, creative people. They should be asked to be a part of your chapter's public relations team. ■

## Recording reviewer wanted

I'd like to include a new feature in the *Troub* — Barber-shop CD/tape reviews, especially of Pioneer District performers.

If you collect new recordings and are interested in writing a continuing review column, let me know, either by e-mail, GSi-mon1@wwnet.net, or by phone, 734-981-6342.

Gary

# PIONEER DISTRICT SPRING CONVENTION

APRIL 28-30, 2000

BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN

## CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

Sending in this convention registration form DOES NOT enter you into the chorus or quartet competition. A separate form is required for this and can be accessed from our web site. Send to 2000 Contest & Judging VP Mike O'Donnell.

**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**

REGISTRANT NAME \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE/GUEST NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

COMPETING CHORUS? YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_ CHORUS NAME \_\_\_\_\_

COMPETING QUARTET? YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_ QUARTET NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CHAPTER NAME \_\_\_\_\_

VOICE PART: TENOR \_\_\_ LEAD \_\_\_ BARITONE \_\_\_ BASS \_\_\_

EARLY REGISTRATION: \$16 PER PERSON

LATE REGISTRATION: \$20 PER PERSON

EARLY REGISTRATION **MUST BE RECEIVED** NO LATER THAN APRIL 14, 2000

FEE FOR \_\_\_\_\_ PERSONS @ \$16/\$20 TOTAL REGISTRATION FEE: \_\_\_\_\_

International Chorus Representative Show Friday Night: Add \$5 each for \_\_\_\_\_ persons.

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

or MASTERCARD or VISA # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM AND FEE TO:

**Stan Williams, Treasurer**  
**421 Franklin Street**  
**Leslie, MI 49251**

All-event passes will be at the convention registration desk in McCamly Plaza Hotel (headquarters). Single-event tickets may be purchased at the registration desk or W. K. Kellogg Auditorium: Friday \$10; Saturday noon \$10; Saturday eve \$10. Children 12 and under free.

Each member of a competing quartet or chorus must register for an all-events pass. Failure

to do so could disqualify the quartet or chorus from the contest.

Refund policy: Registration fees will be refunded to persons canceling in writing prior to the 11:00 a.m. opening on Friday.

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

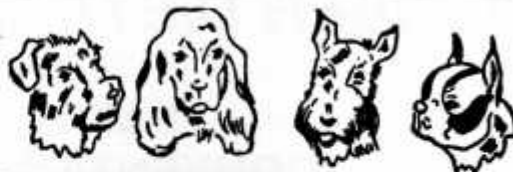


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Larry Wise • Bass  
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*an a cappella ensemble*

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Bob Wisdom  
248-879-7083

# 2000 PIONEER DISTRICT SPRING CONVENTION

April 28-30, 2000

## HOTEL RESERVATION FORM

- All spaces must be filled out completely -- **type or print clearly.**
- Hotels require a credit card guarantee.
- All acknowledgements will be sent to the individual whose name and address appears below.
- Confirmation will be sent directly by your assigned hotel.
- Any changes in reservations must be made directly to the hotel after confirmation is received.
- **Do not send any room deposits to the Housing Bureau.**
- Reservation requests must be received no later than March 27, 2000.
- **We will not accept room requests after this date.**

PLEASE MAIL FORM DIRECTLY TO:

**Battle Creek Visitor & Convention Bureau**  
**77 E. Michigan Ave., Suite 100**  
**Battle Creek, Michigan 49017**

**Phone 1-800-397-2240 Fax 1-616-962-6917**

Hotel should confirm this reservation to:

Arrival Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Departure Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE OF ROOM:

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

☐ 1 bed (1-2 persons)

☐ 2 beds (2-4 persons)

Phone (Days): ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Names of additional people in room:

### **HOTEL RATES** (not including tax)

Please number in order of preference

McCamly Plaza Hotel - \$80.00 flat rate ☐ [ ]

(Headquarters)

*(TWO-NIGHTS STAY REQUIRED)*

Battle Creek Inn - \$74.00 flat rate ☐ [ ]

Baymont Inns & Suites - \$59.95 flat rate ☐ [ ]

Econo Lodge - \$52.00 flat rate ☐ [ ]

AmeriHost Inn - \$66.00 flat rate ☐ [ ]

(Plus \$1.00 per night security warranty)

☐ Request Non-smoking Room

☐ Request Handicap Room

### **GUARANTEED RESERVATIONS:**

Credit Card: AE MC VISA DISC

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Chapters in Action

## Macomb

By Roy Gurney

Before we say anything else, we want to congratulate the GREAT LAKES CHORUS from Grand Rapids on their fine job in the chorus prelims. We also enjoyed their acceptance package on Saturday night. "Go do our district proud in Kansas City!"

We don't want to make excuses, like having a new director, but we just didn't execute the plan. So, onward we go, as some of us have never been to Nashville before.

Our election of officers has been held for the year 2000 and with the growth of the chapter as well as that of capable leaders, we were able to add back some of the positions that we used to have. One of these is program vice president. So, here is the new roster for the start of the century:

- President - David Anderson
- Secretary - Scott Young
- Treasurer - Fred McFadyen
- VP Chapter Development - Gary Washburn
- VP Music - Chuck Hatch
- VP Program - Jeff Dix
- At Large - Ed Conn

In addition to these elected positions will be Immediate Past President Derrick Deakins, Services Chairman Floyd McDaniel, Bulletin Editor Roy Gurney, and last but not least, Interim Music Director Matt Coombs. One important opening yet to be filled is that of quartet chairman.

The holiday season was upon us and so were our performances. The

Chorus sang at the tree-lighting ceremony in Mt. Clemens. And to fully realize the time of year, we put on another Christmas show at Mt. Clemens High School on Saturday, Dec. 11. Tickets were available from all members as well as at the door.

A past president of our chapter and fellow quartet singer, Mike Jaissle, has been having some medical problems, not the least of which was the need for a heart transplant. The good news is that he has received a new heart and is on the mend. Well wishes can be forwarded through the chapter.

Looking past the new year we are having our annual show on March 25, 2000, with International Champion Quartet MARQUIS as our headline performer, backed up by that great new District Quartet Champ, WJBC! Look for more about this in the next issue. In the meantime for us, the cry is NASHVILLE 2001!

## Benton Harbor-St. Joseph

By Earl Krieger

The winds of change continue to waft gently over our chorus. Some good things have been happening in Benton Harbor-St. Joseph. We have Nick Stuart DIRECTING, we have a new, more desirable location for our rehearsals, and we have signed on a new EXPERIENCED lead singer, Don Richmond. We have also made a significant change in our rehearsal format. We have been devoting the first 30 minutes to quartetting. Dave Mohr has agreed to be our coach in this all important area of barber-shopping. His expertise and personality have not only added a great deal of fun and interest to our

weekly meetings, but has also improved our performance as a chorus. Best of all, we were able to accept performance dates for the holiday season. Nick put together a 30-minute program of traditional Christmas carols and songs by combining selections from the "What The Dickens" package and our "Yuletide Favorites" song book. Our quartet coaching, diligent use of rehearsal time, and practice tapes enabled our chorus to perform this program quite well. We even had press coverage when we performed for the residents of the Whitcomb Tower retirement facility December 21. *The Herald-Palladium* newspaper ran a 6 x 9" color picture on the front page of the second section featuring our rendition of "Rudolph." (Paul Letke was our star performer with his blinking "red nose.")

We're on the move ... we must work at maintaining our momentum and look ahead to spring ... do we dare to think about April and Battle Creek?. One thing I know. We will not have a repeat of last summer's disappointment of having to decline several important performance dates for lack of singers and an adequate performance package.

Five of our officers were privileged to attend the Pioneer District COTS at the W. K. Kellogg Biological Station in December. This was my first ever COTS and to say I was impressed would be a bit of an understatement! Terry Reynolds' three-hour session on Music & Performance contained a wealth of information, both oral and on the printed page. Every avenue of this important chapter activity was thoroughly explored along with many helpful comments from the 15 area chapters present.

(Continued on page 28)



## Monroe North Barbershoppers

Proudly Present  
Annual Concert of Barbershop Harmony  
***"Old Friends – Old Songs"***

with

**The Floral City Harmonizers**  
*Under the direction of Dave Granata*

plus

Platinum



Turning Point



**Saturday, March 11, 2000**

**St. Mary's Center Auditorium – Monroe, MI**

**Reserved Seats \$10.00**

### Tickets

If you wish to order tickets  
by mail, please send your  
check to:

Rich Genord, Ticket Chairman  
7312 Stewart Road  
Monroe, MI 48162

with \$10 for each ticket. Please  
include the following with your  
order:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_



## Chapters in Action

*(Continued from page 26)*

I also attended the Dale Thomas class on "Solving the Three Most Common Chapter Problems," MEMBERSHIP, DIRECTOR turn-over, and MUSIC (music was a surprise). Dale devoted a good segment of the hour on chapter preparation and back-up to deal with the loss of a director. We were indeed fortunate to have had Doran McTaggart in attendance at this class and had the added benefit of his input to our discussion on all of the above.

COTS was a rewarding experience, interesting, very informative, and FUN. Attitude Adjustment was special; we had a little refreshment and sang just about every Barberpole Cat song in the book. I must mention the FOOD! Saturday's lunch and dinner were excellent; my compliments to those responsible ... I think I gained a couple of pounds.

One final comment about COTS. Any chapter that does not take full advantage of COTS is *missing* a ton of good stuff on how to utilize their potential to the maximum.

By the time you read this, our chapter will have had a dinner meeting January 9 at the Pebblewood Country Club in Bridgman for the installation of officers, with Gene Hanover officiating. We are looking forward to some good food, fellowship, and some singing. To highlight the evening, we will have the added bonus of being entertained by UPSTAGE SOUND.

Milt Zoschke, VP Chapter Development, issued a CHAPTER

CHALLENGE for us to consider regarding the HARMONY FOUNDATION. He told us he would start the ball rolling with a \$25.00 contribution. If eight of us would make a similar contribution by December 31, he would contribute an additional \$25.00. As a result, our chorus will have contributed a total of \$467.00 to the HARMONY FOUNDATION in the month of December. This total also includes our weekly coffee money.

IT'S GREAT TO BE A BARBERSHOPPER!

## Pontiac-Waterford

By Gene Downie

On Saturday, November 6, the Pontiac-Waterford Chapter held their annual chapter show, "Fun in Just One Lifetime" to a packed house. Aided by the outstanding performances of UPSTAGE SOUND and the FOUR-MAN FISHING TACKLE CHOIR, the show was a huge success. We extend our sincere thanks to both quartets for their outstanding performances.

Under the direction of Program Development V.P. Walt Denio, signs had been posted around the perimeter of our community area three weeks prior to the show, advertising for men interested in joining a Christmas Chorus. On Nov. 9, 15 men showed up at practice in response to the signs. This is the third year we have utilized a CHRISTMAS CHORUS to attract prospective members. By far, this was our most successful attempt.

On November 16, we held a guest night, with an outstanding performance by BORDER CROSSING. Five additional prospects attended this event.

We had two weeks left to teach them to sing in the barbershop style

before our annual Christmas singouts began. The task was easier than expected since many of the new recruits were experienced singers. By November 30, we were ready to begin our tour. Seventeen performances in 20 days was an ambitious schedule. However, the response we received was an indication the program was a resounding success.

The new members enjoyed the experience and being a part of our group. At a social gathering following our final performance, many of them spoke very positively about their experience and our chapter. We personally invited all of the new singers to join us in January and become part of our chapter. Now comes the hard part; we must wait two weeks until our next practice to see how many will return.

We have increased our membership each year, using the Christmas Chorus. We fully expect, with the positive response we received, that this year will be the same. We are looking forward to a Happy New Year.

For information on this process, please call Gene Downie at 248 682-9321 or e-mail at [genede@gateway.net](mailto:genede@gateway.net).

## Flint

By Chuck Murray

Flint Chapter (FABC) had a very busy December, with many chorus performances taking place on normal meeting nights. The chorus sang at Woodhaven #5201 and #5191 Nursing Homes, West Flint Church of the Nazarene, Genesys Convalescent Center, Genesys Regional Medical Center, all floors of McLaren Hospital,

*(Continued on page 29)*

**(Continued from page 28)**

Genesee Valley Mall, Linden Lane Senior Apartments, and Genesee Masonic Lodge #174, F. & A.M. installation of officers.

Guy Hissong, our chapter secretary, is also now the Worshipful Master-2000 of the Genesee Lodge #174, F. & A.M. Being a good barbershopper, Guy invited his chorus to join the Masons for lunch and to sing at his installation. This hard-working chapter member who not only helped bring our chapter into the 20<sup>th</sup> century by computerizing our roster and getting us on the internet with a web page, is also very active in Masonry. He is a good lead singer who will be singing tenor to help in a pickup quartet doing Singing Valentines this year. Watch for more good things from this Guy!

Our annual chapter Christmas party was held at Bonaparte's Restaurant in Flint near the Great Lakes Technical Center. Dave Lonsbury and Jack Stevens brought in a professional Karaoke machine for entertainment. Several well-known "lounge lizards" made for some good fun. New chapter officers were installed and others reconfirmed by Fred Kienitz.

Plans are proceeding for the annual chorus retreat to Northern Michigan at DNR Headquarters on the north end of Higgins Lake. Plans include putting finishing touches on show music, singing in Grayling and/or Roscommon restaurants, and short-sheeting Freddie's bunk. Some members are actually planning to ice fish.

Planning for Valentine quartet-ting is moving along, with Al Kurmas as the new manager-coordinator of the program. Paul Smith has been diligently marketing Singing Valentines, and we antici-

pate that the eight quartets available will be quite busy.

The 2000 show is set for May 20, and it is going to be another super theme. "When Everything Old is New Again" is a takeoff on the "Back to the Future" films, with the chorus visiting various periods of the millennium via song.

It is reported that chorus members may be wearing electronic costumes, like in the film, *Tron*. Check our web site for ticket info. <http://community.mlive.com/cc/flintbarbershop>

## Clarkston

By Lyle Howard

The Clarkston QUARTETERS got their first real taste of performing before the public in December. That is, if you don't count the open house we held earlier in the year featuring TDSC. Guest quartets did more entertaining at that function than did Clarkston.

After several weeks of preparation, I'm proud to say that 100 percent of the current active group dressed up in their best Christmas sweaters and met at a prearranged location on Dec. 20. We then carpooled and performed at five locations during the evening. Included were one assisted-living home and four fine restaurants: Mr. B's, Duggan's Irish Pub, Mesquite Creek, and the Deer Lake Racquet Club.

Two quartets from within the group did an outstanding job. And most of these men are relatively brand new to Barbershopping. We were ably assisted by Bob Wisdom, Les Marhoff, and Randy Meldrum, who drove all the way from Bay City (I always thought he was a little strange), as a third quartet which included myself. The entire group

also sang a couple of numbers.

We must have made an impact. Mr. B's presented each of us with a \$10 gift certificate before leaving for the next gig. And a lady dropped a \$20 bill on the chapter if four of us would sing a song especially for her, which, of course, we did.

Tom Tailford contributed sleigh bells for the evening and Ross Ensign topped off our overall appearance wearing a Santa hat. Everyone agreed that it was well worth the effort and we are better off for it.

Anyone interested in the QUARTETING aspect of our society would be most welcome at our meetings, which are held every Monday night at United Methodist Church in Clarkston. Call me for directions at 248-634-1577 or E-mail at [howardlj@tir.com](mailto:howardlj@tir.com)

## Holland

By Art Lane

**Chapter raises \$40,000.00,  
ends year with four great shows**

The Holland Windmill Chapter took a big step toward renovating the Park Theater early in December with a show called "Remember When." The three performances cleared some \$40,000, with pledges still coming in, according to 1999 President Steve Foster.

Chapter members invited a limited number of people they knew — people who might be expected to make a substantial contribution to transforming the former movie house into "the best little theater in Michigan." Those who attended were served a catered dinner of prime rib and cornish hen, then settled back for a quick-paced hour of entertainment. The aim of the show was to illustrate "Preservation

**(Continued on page 30)**



## Chapters in Action

### *(Continued from page 29)*

Through Performance": preserve the theater by preserving all kinds of performances from the past.

Performers representing Little Orphan Annie, Shirley Temple, Elvis Presley, Abbott and Costello, an opera singer, the Marx Brothers, and singing cowboys did their stuff. Chapter members did the train scene from "Music Man," and the DUTCH MASTERS, with Mary Lucas, sang "Lida Rose/Dream of Now." The evening closed with a moving appeal about the Park Theater from Myke Lucas. The show was directed by Bill McAndrew and written by Jack C. Oonk.

With checks still arriving in the mail, the chapter had another chance to tell the Park Theater story to the people of Holland. The chapter joined a dozen other venues in a downtown Celebration 2000 organized by the City of Holland on New Year's Eve.

At the Park Theater, people filled all of the seats and dozens more stood in back to see a 20-minute picture story about the past and future of the theater. Then the WINDMILL CHORUS put on a show. The evening closed with the NO REHEARSAL BAND, followed by the city's laser light show out on the streets. Some 12,000 people celebrated the century in downtown Holland.

### **Steve Foster named Barbershopper of Year**

Our president for the past two years, Steve Foster, was named Barbershopper of the Year for 1999 by the Holland Chapter. He was given

his plaque to the applause of the chapter's Celebration 2000 crowd on New Year's Eve.

In his two years as president and even before that, Steve redefined the meaning of enthusiasm and work for the chapter. He has been relentless in his pursuit of funds for the chapter. Steve organized our first Singing Valentines effort, buying candy, ordering flowers, scheduling quartets, and even spending hours making personalized valentine cards on his computer. The result? We found we could make as much money doing Valentines as we do on our big annual show.

In 1999, Steve had the idea of a money-raising golf marathon. So he rented a golf course, got 20 other people to play all day on the hottest day of the year, and played 100 holes himself. The result? We took in \$7,000.

Steve took us where the Holland Chapter had never gone before — the Netherlands — and he kept it from raining all through the trip. He expanded the tag contest into a three-day event.

When we were pursuing purchasing the Park Theater, he kept the ball rolling 'til we actually borrowed a lot of money and bought the theater. Afterwards, he worked practically every Saturday, and lots of other days, cleaning and repairing the building.

Steve also took the chapter board where it had never been: to the internet. Now we communicate easily by e-mail and the chapter has its own web page. To make the chapter work better, he has organized retreats for singing, problem-solving, and looking into the future.

### **Officers installed for 2000**

At a retreat in January, the Holland Chapter officers for 2000 were installed. They are Jack C. Oonk,

president; James Hall, vice president of chapter development; Mike Oonk, vice president for music; Mark Andrew, secretary; Paul Bekker, treasurer; and Bruce Rabe and Dale Bekker, members at large. Appointive officers are Myke Lucas, chorus director; Jim Essenberg, chorus manager; Art Lane, public relations and bulletin; Jim Wojahn, house manager; and Bill McAndrew, youth outreach. Steve Foster is immediate past president.

### **Christmas shows brighten holiday**

The WINDMILL CHORUS put a new wrinkle in its Christmas concert in 1999 with a plot and title. The show was called "Some Assembly Required." It starred Jack C. Oonk as a parent assembling a toy on Christmas eve; eventually he is trapped inside the toy. Directing was Mike Oonk, and their mother, Betty Oonk Wojahn, was the narrator of a poem describing the events — a poem reminiscent of "Twas the night before Christmas."

The chorus also sang Christmas carols to several hundred kids and parents during a party at the Civic Center put on by the city recreation department.

## Grosse Pointe

### **By Nick Piccione**

**O**n December 6, our Christmas activities began with our annual performance at the Apollo Hall Christmas Party for persons of all ages with significant disabilities. Sponsored by the Lions Club, this event gives us as much of a lift as we give a lift to the audience. Hats off to the Lions Club for the good works they do.

Our sell-out Christmas Show at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial

*(Continued on page 31)*

*(Continued from page 30)*

Theater on December 9 with the EASTPOINTE SWEET ADELINES receiving the best reception yet.

On December 12, the chorus boarded a chartered bus for our all-day journey to nursing homes and senior citizen residences throughout Macomb County and the east side of Detroit. December 14 found us singing at the "Lighting of the Tree of Hope" at St. John's Hospital.

We added a new experience to our season when we performed at the Detroit Zoo for their "Wild Lights" celebration on December 19.

And lastly, singing carols at our annual pub crawl on December 21 raised \$1,856.00 for St. John's Holy Ear Institute. By that time, we were ready for Christmas!

Our Grosse Pointe spotlight this issue falls on our esteemed seniors quartet, THE SILVER DOMES. The group originally became Pioneer District Champs in 1966 with Russ Seely (lead), Johnny Wearing (tenor), John Wade (bass), and John Seemann (bari).

In 1977 at the international in Sacramento, THE SILVER DOMES finished 6th in a field of 25 quartets despite formidable competition from other quartets, including 11 future gold medallists.

In 1999, THE SILVER DOMES have again become Pioneer District Champs and will compete in Tucson. The quartet still includes Russ Seely, Johnny Wearing, and John Wade, with Gene Bulka joining the group as baritone in 1998.

Due to illness, John Wade has had to withdraw as bass and, with the approval of both the district and International, Bob Wisdom will replace him in Tucson. Good luck Russ, Johnny, Gene, and Bob ...

we're proud to be represented by such a great group of "Silver Domes."

*In contests these fellows exceed,  
Making chords that ring out indeed.*

*But win, lose, or draw*

*To us they've no flaw*

*'Cause they bring the pride we all need.*

## Kalamazoo

By Dan Crampton

On December 23, the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission was presented with a check for \$8,000 by John Fair, president of the Kalamazoo MALL CITY BARBERSHOP CHORUS. This check represented monies raised by chorus members from two benefit Christmas shows on December 11. All proceeds from the shows went to the mission.

Gene Hanover, director of the chorus, came up with the idea of a Christmas benefit show for the mission early on in the year. Gene felt, and chorus members agreed, that the people of the Kalamazoo area had been very good to the chorus over the years and that they "wanted to give something back to the community." In the first half of the show, the chorus presented the skit "What the Dickens." The second half featured the MID-LAKES SWEET ADELINE CHORUS and Kalamazoo's 1998 Pioneer District Champion Quartet, UPSTAGE SOUND.

The check presentation ceremony took place in the mission dining room. The Kalamazoo quartet FOUR-PART DIGITAL SURROUND SOUND (1999 Pioneer District Novice Champions) gave an excellent performance of holiday songs to a large audience as they were eating their noon-time meal. When it

was announced how much the chorus had raised, the cheers were loud and appreciative. It warmed your heart on a cold day just before Christmas. The holiday show may become an annual event.

Kalamazoo Chapter is doing "good things" in the community!

## Traverse City

By Elbert Ford

Hello from the CHERRY CAPITAL CHORUS. We got through the Y2K concern without a bump as far as I can tell. We had a very good holiday season with a few performances. The one I'm sure everyone will say was the most fun was singing for the elementary schools.

John Meyers made arrangements for us to sing at six different schools, spaced out through the day with a time-out for a group lunch at TC Traders. On December 21, we all met at 8:00 a.m. at Central United Methodist Church, where we had rented their two large vans for transportation. There were some 32 of us ready to spread barbershop and Christmas cheer to the kids.

At all of the stops, the kids were very enthusiastic and enjoyed all our songs. We had them sing along on many of them.

One school we visited was for students with learning disabilities from a five-county area. We were in position to start singing while the last children were filing in when this boy of about eight looked at us in amazement and said, "Boy, you guys are old." We couldn't start the performance until we stopped laughing.

We had a lot of fun at another

*(Continued on page 32)*

## Chapters in Action

*(Continued from page 31)*

school where one of our lead singers, Bill Weitshut, a retired teacher, volunteers there every day. The kids just love him, and as a result, we were treated quite well there.

We are having a chapter retreat and planning session on January 8 to lay out our plans for 2000. By the time you read this, it will be history. But let's hope the things that are decided there will lift us up for not only this year, but for years to come.

If you feel the need to go skiing and happen to be up this way, stop in and get a Traverse City welcome on Tuesday evening at 7:30. We meet at the Presbyterian Church on Airport Access Road near Munson Avenue.

## Grand Rapids

By Dick Williams

Here's hoping all of you had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

On December 21, we had a potluck dinner along with the installation of our new millennium officers hosted by Mr. Doug Pearson. Doug did a wonderful job and everyone had a great time.

Since no quartets were in attendance, Joel Mills quickly stepped in and held a gang sing. These are always a lot of fun and this was no exception. Thanks, Joel.

Talk about a lot of years singing, we have three gentlemen, and I use that word loosely, Jim Horton, Paul Robinson, and Jack Schneider, who total 169 years of barbershopping.

Wow!

The chorus had a float in Grand Rapids' annual Santa Claus parade and that was a lot of fun, plus we got great exposure.

We owe a debt of thanks to Steelcase Corp. as they were kind enough to furnish us with one of their show trucks and flatbed, which was neatly decorated by Fred Conklin and Corey Decker. They did a great job. Thanks, guys.

The chorus also sang for Steelcase's Christmas Open House and that was a lot of fun. Those two events really got us into the spirit of the holidays.

May we have a drum roll please. Thank you.

Grand Rapids Barbershopper of the Year is none other than Mr. Dale Mattis. And a well deserved award it is, too, for Dale is one super guy. It was through his efforts that we were lucky enough to get Ann Jarchow as our director. Dale is also our president for the second consecutive year.

You da man, Dale, you da man.

Until next time, it's great to be a barbershopper!

## Monroe North

By Chris Berry and Allen Pixley

There are a lot of exciting things happening in the Monroe North Chapter. Membership has grown from 28 members on the risers for the 1999 show to 37 members singing in the 2000 show.

We elected new officers for 2000: President - Sam Solomon; Vice-President Music - Dale Cousino; Vice-President Chapter Development - Dick Ender; Treasurer - Phil Karns; Secretary - David Broughton; and Trustees - Steve Cawood and Tom Mehlhose.

This new board, along with Dave

Granata and Sam Solomon, is setting a new direction for the chapter. We have been increasing our music knowledge, hitting more of the chords, and planning more performances. We're even planning on attending the spring contest (something we haven't been doing much for the last several years).

In the meantime, we are singing in January for the celebrity servers night at the local Big Boy restaurant, for St. Michael's We Care, a local charity which assists families with huge medical problems and which grants final wishes to kids.

Elsewhere in this issue, you will see the ad for our annual show to be held on March 11. We are proud to have PLATINUM as our headliners, as well as TURNING POINT. Also performing will be Director Dave Granata's quartet, ARCHIVE. In addition, we also plan to feature the boy's chorus from Monroe High School, which is currently singing some Barbershop songs. Now that's exciting! Please come join us for a wonderful evening.

The chapter is also organizing "Barbershop in the Park" jointly with the local Sweet Adelines and the high school chorus for June 22. We hope to make this an annual event as part of Monroe's "Concert in the Park" series.

Barbershop is still alive in Monroe!

## Saginaw Bay

By Ralph Brown

It is that time of year again to bring you up-to-date on the activities of our chapter during the last year of the millennium. We had a dinner show in the spring and, although it was not a great money maker, we did promote our hobby

*(Continued on page 33)*



**(Continued from page 32)**

through exposure to a number of people new to Barbershop-style singing. I worked the ticket table at the door and at least one attender out of five had never been to a show.

After the show, I was approached by several people asking to be put on a mailing list so they would know about future shows because they were thrilled with the performance and said the food was very good. We had the HARMONY HOUNDS from Battle Creek as our featured guests and they were superb.

As many of you know, we keep active during the summer, and so we performed at Bay City Wenona Park to kick-off the Arts Festival. We shared the stage with the local Sweet Adelines; we followed their performance and then did a joint chorus finale. One could tell that it was a crowd pleaser — we received a standing ovation.

We also had a return engagement in Frankenmuth, Michigan's "Fischer Platz." Unfortunately, it rained and we had to go inside; so the affair was not well attended by the public since they couldn't hear our beautiful tones wafting around town, which usually draws quite a crowd.

Our annual trek to Harrisville Harmony Weekend netted the trophy for the highest percentage of attendance of a chapter membership. If I recall correctly, this was the fourth year in a row that we brought home the prize. We would like to put out a challenge to any chapter in the district to try to take the trophy from us this year.

The community parade organizers would like to see several Barbershop floats entered so they can better depict what the weekend is all

about: "Harmony." Why not put this event on your things-to-do list for the new millennium year 2000!

We only had two paid performances last year, but we had a lot of exposure since we did our annual singing at local care facilities and hospitals. More importantly, we volunteered to work the phones at our local PBS television station.

The evening performance being presented on PBS was the video, "Can't Stop Singing," which is about the International Convention with backstage interviews with the



competitors and a first-hand view of how the competition is conducted.

Our chapter was well represented at the Great Octet Contest in Ann Arbor in October, taking second place among a field of excellent octets. We had Bill Grumbley and Frank Bateson (tenors), Martin Musolf and Doug Beaver (baritones), Pat Morand and Tom Roozenburg (basses), and Bill Matson and Paul Ward (leads). We are always proud of our showing at these events in view of the fact that we are a small chapter. Those who missed this event certainly missed one of the highlights of our hobby.

On the down side for last year, two of our long time Barbershoppers, Frank Beattie and Jerrold Smith, passed. Two other chapter members had open-heart surgery, but are doing very well.

As this article goes to press, we have one of the best basses in the

state from our chapter, Len Johnson, in the hospital under going treatment for a ventricular blood clot in the center of the brain. Our thoughts and prayers are with him and his wife, Linda, as he continues to improve and gain in the battle to get back to good health. Our Chorus Director, Bob Winters, has been keeping his status posted on PIONET, so those of you out there that know him can check on his progress.

Our new officers for the year 2000 are: District Delegate, Leonard Johnson; President, Thomas Matuszewski; Secretary, Ralph Brown; Treasurer, Martin Musolf; and VP Chapter Development, Bill Grumbley. The new officers, committee chairs, and chapter members are committed to get ready for competition this spring and make things happen in Battle Creek for the Saginaw Bay Chapter. Good luck to US!

## Gratiot

By Ron Fick

Hello from the middle of the mitten ... Gratiot County. We have good news and sad news:

The good news is we had a very successful fall show in October, featuring FRED and some LARGE quartets from our chapter. The theme of our show was "Dorf Goes Barbershopping" and it was well received by the audience and fun to do. FRED was very FRED, that should cover it. GREAT!

The sad news is our very capable arm waver Jeff Rayburn, after 16 years of directing our chorus, retired. Jeff, we will miss having you up front directing.

During the Christmas season, we

**(Continued on page 34)**

## Chapters in Action

(Continued from page 33)

performed at the Masonic Home in Alma, did a mini-show in Mt. Pleasant, and sang Christmas carols at the nursing homes in Alma and St. Louis.

Our new officers for 2000 are Grant Colthorp - President, Mike Moyer - VP Music & Performance, Ron Fick - VP Chapter Development, and Jim Hutchison - Secretary-Treasurer.

The chorus is learning suitable tunes for Valentines and, hopefully, we'll have many quartets active this year performing Singing Valentines. Last year, the Valentine performances were popular and put some \$\$ in the kitty for future good causes.

Keep smiling and ring some chords.

## Detroit-Oakland

By Tom Uicker

A new year is upon us, and the GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS are again busy preparing for our annual show coming up February 18 & 19. Our featured quartets are METROPOLIS from California, 1999 International semi-finalists and 1998 Harmony Sweepstakes Grand National a cappella champions, and Sweet Adelines quartet HARMONIX, medallists in the 1999 Sweet Adelines Regional Convention and first place winners in the women's division of the 1997 Buckeye Invitational.

And, of course, we will have the GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS CHORUS with our chapter quartets and the SONGSTERS ENSEMBLE. The show

will again be held at Clarenceville High School in Livonia. All seats are reserved and tickets are going fast. If you missed our ad in the last *Troubadour*, just give ticket chairman Tom Uicker a call at 248-559-7082.

On the social scene, we have just held our annual Ladies Night/Honors Banquet/Officer Installation. Chapter Coach David Anderson and his wife, Pat, were able to join us for dinner and dancing on Friday, January 7, 2000. Dave performed the installation ceremony of our Year 2000 executive board: Herb Hebner, President; Jim Kunz, VP Music & Performance; Harry Jessop, VP Chapter Development; Russ Makowski, VP-Program; Dean DeLong, Secretary; Tom Uicker, Treasurer; and members-at-large Bill Essmann, Bill Juchartz, Jay Peterson, and Will Power.

A quiet, but steady behind-the-scenes worker named John Schell was surprised and honored as our new Barbershopper-of-the-Year.

As mentioned in the last *Troubadour*, our daytime singers have reactivated with practices on Wednesday afternoons. They put on a nice Christmas performance at the Arnold Home in Detroit in early December. Now they are working on a couple of Gospel songs for the Sunday worship service at the spring convention.

So, if you happen to be in Royal Oak, Michigan, some Monday night about 7:30, stop by Starr Presbyterian Church at Thirteen Mile and Crooks Road and sing a couple with us.

Or, if you are free on Wednesday afternoons, our daytime singers meet at the same church between 1:00 and 3:30 p.m.

## Michiana Metro

By Gene Hanover

The new year is off to a great start. We are less than three months old and we are close to having enough members to charter. We have 15-18 regular men that attend weekly and we have only had two or three weeks without a new guest since we started to meet in October.

We have had great coverage in the South Bend, Indiana, and Benton Harbor newspapers, and on Sunday, February 20, Nick Stuart, chapter president and quartet UPSTAGE SOUND will be live on WNIT, Public Television channel 46 out of Elkhart, Indiana, on their Open Studio at 1:20 p.m. We hope that everyone that can watch will watch.

We are in the planning stages of our first show. We are in the process of getting a date and organizing all of the stuff that the rest of you do every year. It will be a cabaret-style show and will feature the LIGHTHOUSE CHORUS and UPSTAGE SOUND, 1998 Pioneer District Quartet Champion. Watch the Pionet and future *Troubadours* for further details on the place and date.

We are also hoping to have the chorus at the spring convention, performing in the headquarters hotel. We are spending our time on a show package and will not compete until the fall.

If there is anyone that knows of men that like to sing, living in southwest Michigan or northwest Indiana, drop us a line. We will invite them down for an evening of song!

Keep singing, y'all!

**Sing ... for life!**

## Lansing

By Paul Howe

The Lansing chapter has had a hot and heavy schedule through the holiday season, with several performances as well as our annual meeting and a mid-holiday luncheon meeting. From the looks of several members at our last practice, it wasn't just the turkeys that got stuffed over the holidays.

Our biggest news was the announcement of our "Barbershopper of the Year" and President's "Key Man" awards for 1999. BOTY went to a very deserving Larry Parker for all of his extra work in keeping the chapter moving along while we were without a director. Any of you that saw his little dance routine while directing

us at the fall competition will have some idea what I mean.

Our "Key Man" for the year was John D. (Dave) Barrett, chapter librarian, "Crazy Quartet" coordinator, and a true "unsung hero" of the chapter. A special award was presented this year to Carole Parker for all the support and help she has given the chapter for many years.

Upcoming events include our 3rd annual youth quartet competition on February 12 and our spring show at the Wharton Center of Michigan State University, Saturday, March 4, 7:30 p.m. This year's show will be "An Evening with Irving Berlin."

Other featured performers include the outstanding quartet UPTOWN SOUND, and the WATER WONDERLAND CHORUS, SAI. ■



## Looking for QCA member information

By Al Fisk, Quartet Champions Association Secretary

I am trying to garner all pertinent info on members of former Pioneer District quartet champions. Unfortunately, for some of our guys, I have no information whatsoever.

If any of y'all are on the list on the right or if any of youse guys know anything (phone, address, address, etc.) about these guys, please contact me or have them contact me.

Sadly, some of these gentlemen may not be with us anymore. Please forgive me for not having that info, and let me know that status as well.

Sooooo, please contact me via phone (248-651-3796), snail mail (845 Dressler Lane, Rochester Hills, MI 48307), or e-mail (Altonfisk@aol.com) if ya can help me out in any way.

Thanks for your time.

Albro, Jarv - Saginaw Mi - 1947 - Barons of Harmony  
 Bean, Louis - Lansing Mi - 1951-52 - Merri-men  
 Bond, Bill - Detroit Mi - 1953-54 - Wolverines  
 Bowen, Mike - Mi - 1978-79 - Personal Expression  
 Buffman, Chuck - Grand Rapids Mi - 1973-74 - Galaxies  
 Clements, Andrew - 1994-95 - Genuine Blend  
 Coburn, Joe - Mo - 1967-68 - Sharplifters  
 Esper, Simeon - 1993-94 - Full Chord Press  
 Grove, Tom - Dowagiac Mi - 1950-51 - Tune Vendors  
 Hand, Ralph - Midland Mi - 1949-50 - Interludes  
 Hardenberg, Marty - Holland Mi - 1959-60 - Chord Counts  
 Heath, Howard - Saginaw Mi - 1947 - Barons of Harmony  
 Lilly, Ed - Fl - 1962-63 - Curbstone Serenaders  
 McGlynn, Jim - Dowagiac Mi - 1950-51 - Tune Vendors  
 McIntire, Bill - Midland Mi - 1949-50 - Interludes  
 McNutt, Scott - Mo - 1990-91 - Checkmate  
 Mudgett, Mike - Mo - 1967-68 - Sharplifters  
 Oursler, Bill - Saginaw Mi - 1947 - Barons of Harmony  
 Payne, Chet - Midland Mi - 1949-50 - Interludes  
 Reddick, Ed - Detroit Mi - 1955-56 - Treblemakers  
 Sarle, Chuck - Saginaw Mi - 1947 - Barons of Harmony  
 Sipots, Ray - Detroit Mi - 1953-54 - Wolverines  
 Sipots, Joe - Detroit Mi - 1953-54 - Wolverines  
 Stoze, Gary - Mi - 1982-83 - Good News  
 Van York, Vic - Detroit Mi - 1955-56 - Treblemakers  
 Wisheart, Dick - Fl - 1948-49 - Clef Dwellers  
 Zinnikas, John - Wayne Mi - 1963-64 - Noteries



## ... New edit NO

In the United States, anyone can become president. That's the chance you take!

Don't put your money in a laughing stock.

Warning: dates on calendar are closer than they appear.

People who cough and sneeze never go to the doctor; they go to the movies or a concert instead.

God has given man the seemingly infinite capacity to remember countless tags plus one of the chapter chorus contest songs.

The three other guys in your quartet will always have the uncanny ability, without any apparent signals between them, to simultaneously go sharp.

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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.

*Music washes away the  
dust of everyday life.*

## Upcoming Events

### 2000

Feb. 12 - Lansing's Third Annual High School Quartet Competition. Contact Dennis Wortz: 517-241-7333

Feb. 18-19 - Detroit-Oakland Show. Contact Tom Uicker: 248-559-7082

March 4 - Lansing Show. Contact Dennis Wortz: 517-241-7333

March 4 - Wayne Show. Contact Andy Afflen: 734-453-0597

March 11 - Kalamazoo Show. Contact Al Grieser: 616-327-1199

March 11 - Monroe North Show. Contact Dale Cousino: 734-379-9434, or Don Schroeder: 734-242-4256

March 12 - Huron Valley Show. Contact Darrell Richmond: 734-434-2487

March 25 - Macomb County Show. Contact Fred McFadyen: 810-293-8178

April 8 - Sault Ste. Marie Show. Contact Bob Shami: 705-253-9574

April 8 - Windsor Show. Contact Andy McCann: 519-979-3130

April 15 - Grand Rapids Show.

April 28-30 - District Spring Convention

May 12-14 - Harmony Round-Up. Contact Russ Seely: 810-363-8977

May 15 - 19 - Bill Rashleigh's visit to PIO schools. Contact Al Bonney: 231-223-4064

May 20 - Flint Show. Contact Dale Radford: 810-234-2724

June 9-10 - Traverse City Show. Contact Jeff Belanger: 231-933-9900

June 9 - Windsor Send-Off.

July 2-9 - SPEBSQSA Int'l Convention & Competition - Kansas City

July 15-18 - Harmony Explosion Camp, Ball State University, Muncie, Ind. Contact Al Bonney: 231-223-4064

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

Oct. 20-22 - District Fall Convention

Oct. 28 - Pontiac-Waterford Show.

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

Dec. 1-3 - COTS, Gull Lake

Dec. 8, 10 - Grand Rapids Show.

### 2001

Apr. 27-28 - District Spring Convention

Oct. 19-20 - District Fall Convention

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