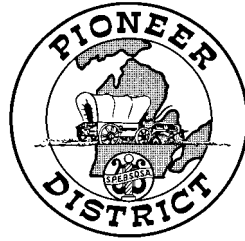


Pioneer Troubadour

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



Oct/Nov 2000

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Harmony College 2000

By Tracy Ulrich

Tenor, Four Man Fishin' Tackle Choir

Harmony College. What a kick! This was our second year and it was better than ever.

The fun began before we left Chicago's O'Hare Airport. Our flight was delayed for more than an

hour on the runway due to severe storms. We only had the top three parts of our quartet because our bass, Neil Nugent, had taken an earlier flight. So, we hooked up with a couple of other Barbershoppers, Tony Bove from Ontario and Karl Heidemann (quartet CHORD ORDER) from Alpena, did a little part swapping, and entertained the "crowd" until we were ready to go.

While we were preparing to leave

the plane in Kansas City, our flight attendant thanked us for making an otherwise unpleasant situation an enjoyable one. Then she handed us two bottles of expensive Champagne wrapped in linen napkins! Needless to say, Neil won't be traveling separately anymore.

The week rolled along to the Friday night Parade of Quartets. Our music coach, Roger Payne, had suggested we perform Neil's parody "Four Phenomenal Fishermen from Michigan." As it dawned on the crowd that it was "Sentimental Gentleman from Georgia" that was being parodied, ripples of laughter flowed through the auditorium.

We finished the big tag at the end only to be greeted by a standing ovation, with Bill Myers (REVIVAL bass) leading the way! But the fun wasn't over for the night.

Pioneer's own Gene Hanover had an outstanding evening of fun planned at the "PioBash" where everyone kicked back and enjoyed a time of chorus and quartet fun. Thanks, Gene!

The Saturday night show was another experience entirely. The HC

staff entertained us all with their various vaudevillian acts (including an *outstanding* Red Skelton-style performance by Joe Liles) and then FRED came on. It was my first live taste of FRED's lunacy. It wasn't to be my last.

At the afterglow, we went on stage just before FRED. We sang two of Neil's parodies as FRED listened. Then FRED went on.

The first song or two were "normal" for them. But when they got about halfway through "I Don't Know Why (I Love You Like I Do)," Jared "Pookie" Carlson gave us the honor of a first-class lampooning. What a kick!

As you might have guessed, the FOUR MAN FISHIN' TACKLE CHOIR had a fabulous time at Harmony College this year. From the moment we arrived and through each passing day, our excitement grew as we realized that our coaches were providing *exactly* what we came looking for.

Of course, with great coaches like Bill Myers, Roger Payne (music judge and tenor of REVELLE), and Rosemary and Bob Calderon (presentation coaches for the VOCAL MAJORITY), it would've been hard NOT to have great results. I can't even describe to you the tremendous impact that these coaches and the rest of the staff had on us this year!

All we can say is THANKS! ■



Pioneer District members at Harmony College 2000 — 52 strong! (Photo by Kurt Amundson) Additional photos on page 21.



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Editor: Gary Simon, 6530 Paul Revere Lane, Canton, MI 48187-3054
734-981-6342 (R) 810-578-3944 (B) 734-844-7427 (F)
E-mail: GSimon1@wwnet.net

PRESIDENT

Donald Bazely
52 The Drive
Sault Ste Marie, ON P6B 1B7 Canada
705-759-8958 (R)
DonBaz@sympatico.ca

SOCIETY BOARD MEMBER

Donald Challman
916 Tanglewood
Shoreview, MN 55126
612-484-9738 (R) 612-293-7744 (B)
BdChallman@aol.com

CONTEST & JUDGING VP

Michael J. O'Donnell
2510 Four Mile Road NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49525-2020
616-363-1368 (R) 616-451-2857 (B)
MOdonn5307@aol.com

CHORUS DIRECTOR DEVELOPMENT VP

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

MARKETING/PUBLIC RELATIONS VP

Doug Pearson
169 Lexington
East Lansing, MI 48823
517-351-9587 (R) 517-381-8060 (B)
DPearson8@juno.com

SECRETARY

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

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

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

MEMBER SERVICES VP

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

EVENTS VP

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

CHAPTER SUPPORT/LEADERSHIP VP

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

MUSIC & PERFORMANCE VP

Russell Seely
7226 Barnsbury
West Bloomfield, MI 48324
248-363-8977 (R) 313-896-5650 (B)
SAS4fits@aol.com

TREASURER

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

YOUNG MEN IN HARMONY CHAIRMAN

Al Bonney
12660 Sundown Lane
Traverse City, MI 49686
616-223-4064 (R)
Albonney@aliens.com

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2. Mail file(s) on floppy disk.
3. Fax typed copy.
4. Mail typed article and scanner-ready artwork.

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Macomb salutes Power Play

On July 25, Macomb Chapter hosted a party to celebrate POWER PLAY'S fifth-place, bronze medal-winning performance at the International Convention & Competition in Kansas City.

Chaired by Gary Washburn, more than 150 Barbershop fans attended the event at First United Methodist Church in Mt. Clemens.

Among those paying tribute to POWER PLAY were Pioneer District President Don Bazely of Sault Ste. Marie (Canada) Chapter and Society Executive Vice-President Roger Lewis of Battle Creek Chapter.

Quartets appearing were BORDER CROSSING and WJBC.

It was a special moment when POWER PLAY dedicated the song "Heart" to former chapter president Mike Jaissle, who had had heart transplant surgery several months earlier. See page 5 for story.

(Below) HARMONY HERITAGE CHORUS Director Matt Coombs leads the massed Barbershop chorus.

(Right) Former International quartet medallist Denny Gore shows off the bronze medal of POWER PLAY lead Mike Slamka. (Below) The foursome entertains the audience with one of its International Competition songs, "Get Me to the Church on Time." (Photos on this page provided by Sandy Pastor)



Mike Hansen: "What a Wonderful World"

By Staff Writer Doug Pearson

I'm sure most of you have interesting Barbershop stories worth sharing. Here's one of mine:

*"I see trees of green,
Red roses, too;
I see them bloom,
For me and you"*

When RENAISSANCE quartet bari Mike Hansen folds his voice into "What a Wonderful World," the intensity of his interpretation unveils a strong personal emotion.

You see, the 38-year-old Lansing Chapter member is a cancer survivor, and his story is one he'll gladly share with others.

Three years ago, Mike's world didn't seem so wonderful. His fun-filled Barbershop days with RENAISSANCE were rudely interrupted when he was diagnosed with testicular cancer. Mike went through some pretty rough times, including a number of chemo treatments. But he now considers himself cancer free. "The treatments were successful," he says.

With a strong message of success to tell, Mike was asked to be a main speaker at a National Cancer Survivors Day picnic in June at East Lansing's Patriarche Park. Some 150 Lansing-area survivors and their families celebrated their successes at the get-together.

Speaking with the conviction of experience, Mike reminded his fellow cancer survivors to thank the person who led them to the success they celebrated. It wasn't the doctors developing better research,

Mike said, or the families continuing to be supportive — although they deserve much appreciation. Instead, he told those assembled to thank themselves.

"You are beating one of the toughest things you'll ever face,

district competition and finished second at the Bush League in addition to performing around the Lansing area.

Of course it was only fitting that RENAISSANCE sang "What A Wonderful World" at the East Lansing



Lansing Chapter quartet RENAISSANCE: (From left) Bari Mike Hansen, bass Bob Fox, lead Paul Jones, and tenor Tim Duman.

and you should feel fantastic," he said. "At some point, you have to say, 'I did this.'"

Mike's fortitude, unwavering optimism, and positive attitude served as a continuing inspiration to his fellow quartet members, according to RENAISSANCE bass Bob Fox. "I was simply amazed at how he handled the situation," Bob said. "I think our quartet provided a good support system for him — and it worked both ways."

With renewed vigor, Mike is continuing his harmonic ventures with RENAISSANCE. A local favorite, the quartet has competed in

Survivors Day event.

"This whole cancer experience made me focus on the many reasons to live," Mike says. "One small example is that I've found it's nice to hear the birds sing in the morning."

And he'll readily tell you that his whole experience as a survivor most definitely gives added meaning to the words of the song:

*"I see friends shaking hands,
Saying 'How do you do;
They're really saying,
'I love you' ...
Yes, I think to myself,
What a wonderful world." ■*

Mike Jaissle: "You've Gotta Have Heart"

By Staff Writer Russ Dyer

"You've gotta have heart ..."

These opening words of the hit song "Heart" from the Broadway musical *Damn Yankees* have a special meaning for Mike Jaissle, former president of the Macomb County Chapter. In a three-hour operation in October, 1999, Mike's life was saved when a donor's heart was transplanted into his chest.

"Miles and miles and miles of heart ..."

After Mike experienced threatening heart symptoms in late 1998, doctors performed two catheterization procedures. But early the following year, he again began experiencing warning symptoms and during a third catheterization on March 2, 1999, Mike suffered a massive heart attack. "It nearly destroyed my heart," Mike reported.

When he was discharged from the hospital three weeks later, doctors told him his heart was operating at 8 to 10 percent of its normal capacity and his only hope was a heart transplant.

On Friday, October 22, 1999, Mike was placed on the waiting list of Michigan's Gift of Life agency, formerly called the Transplantation Society of Michigan. Coincidentally, he had also decided to travel with friends to Mt. Pleasant that weekend, with plans to depart on Sunday and return on Monday.

But in a divine twist of fate, the

travelers decided to leave on Saturday and return on Sunday. At 12:30 in the morning on Monday, Mike received a call that a heart had become immediately available for him. "I was touched twice by God," Mike says. "First, I was already in the hospital when I had my heart attack, and then if I hadn't changed those travel plans, I wouldn't have been home when the call came about the available heart."

Twelve hours after he received the call, the operation was com-

plete and Mike became the 405th person during the past 17 years to receive a heart transplant at the University of Michigan hospital. "And number one is still living," he added.

three-day stay on the waiting list. The normal wait is 18 months to two years, and Mike believes he would not have lasted that long. "I walked my daughter down the aisle at her wedding last May and I never would have made it without the new heart."

Gift of Life policy does not permit the identity of the organ donor to be known by the recipient unless the donor's family agrees. "All I know is that my life-giver was a 37-year-old female from somewhere in mid-Michigan," Mike reports. "I've

written a letter to her family so I can personally thank them," he says, "but I haven't received an answer yet."

Regardless of whether or not he ever learns his donor's identity, each morning when Mike awakens and each night before sleeping, he touches his chest and thanks her for his life. "I'm here because of the love and compassion of a

young woman and the courage of her family to honor her wishes. She's given me the opportunity to have endless yesterdays and boundless tomorrows," he states with obvious emotion.

Mike has become a dedicated advocate for organ donation and speaks publicly at every opportunity on behalf of the Gift of Life organization. "Fill out an authorization," he says, "have it listed on your driver license, and make sure



Quartet Power Play pays special tribute to heart transplant recipient Mike Jaissle by singing "Heart."

(Continued on page 22)

Fall Convention 2000 preview

The International Harmony Party Wants You!

Don't miss this fall's Raucus Caucus, known outside party circles as the Pioneer District Fall Convention Oct. 20-22 in Battle Creek.

The host chapter, Traverse City, has developed a Harmonically Correct Party Platform — lower dues and increased singing time, two pitch pipes in every pocket, a signing bonus for tenors, self-esteem counseling for baritones, assertiveness training for leads, early retirement for basses, and a ringing chord in every song.

Political advertising is being paid for by the Raucus Caucus Committee Bazely for President, which lists I. M. Sharp as treasurer and U. R. Flat as secretary.

In addition to the tongue-in-cheek election theme, the chapter and the district convention committee have spent long hours in caucus to put together a program of high-level competition singing and all-around fun that should appeal to a wide range of conservatives, moderates, and liberals.

Semifinals and finals to select a new district quartet champion will be held at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, respectively, at W. K. Kellogg Auditorium.

The Seniors Quartet Contest will be held Friday night. The winner will represent Pioneer at the mid-winter International Convention. Due to a change in the rules, all seniors quartets must be registered and submit entry forms just as any other competing quartet must do. Entry deadline was Oct. 6. Direct any questions to Mike O'Donnell, district VP of contest and judging (MOdonn5307@aol.com).

The chorus contest, to select a

district representative to the International convention next summer, will be at noon Saturday at the same auditorium.

Mike-testers for the chorus contest will be the JOE BARBERSHOPPER CHORUS, open to any Barbershopper whether he's singing in another chorus or not. Rehearsal will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at the gymnasium in the auditorium building. Director will be District President Don Bazely (donbaz@sympatico.ca) of Sault Ste. Marie, Canada. Sheet music for the songs "I Love You Truly" and "Heart of My Heart" were included in the last issue of the *Troubadour*.

Your Vote Counts

The International Harmony Party Wants You!
October 20-22, 2000
Battle Creek, Michigan

Don't Miss The Raucus Caucus!
Hosted by the Traverse City's Cleary Capital Chorus

Check Out Our Harmonically Correct Party Platform

- Lower dues and increased singing time!
- 2 pitch pipes in every pocket!
- Signing bonus for tenors!
- Self-esteem counseling for baritones!
- Assertiveness training for leads!
- Early retirement for basses!
- A ringing chord in every song!

Hosted by the National General Secretaries Society for President
I. M. Sharp, Treasurer, U. R. Flat, Secretary

A show sponsored by Pioneer District's Quartet Champions Association will begin a half hour after the Friday-night quartet semifinals at McCamly Plaza Hotel. Cost is \$5, which can be paid at the door or submitted in advance with the convention registration form. Featured quartets tentatively include POWER PLAY, WJBC, and UPSTAGE SOUND. The QCA CHORUS has been rehearsing "I'd Give a Million

Tomorrows," and "You Keep Coming Back Like a Song."

A district board meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. Friday, and the House of Delegates will meet at 2:00 p.m. Friday, both at the headquarters hotel. A district budget proposal will be presented for discussion and action, and officers for 2001 will be elected.

A meeting for chapter presidents will be held at 7:00 a.m. Saturday at Porter's Steak House at McCamly Plaza Hotel. Battle Creek President Dick Campbell is in charge.

The convention is to conclude with a Gospel sing at 9:00 a.m. Sunday at the headquarters hotel.

As usual, a Barbershop Shop and a Ladies' Hospitality Room will be open when competitions are not in progress.

The Traverse City Chapter will sponsor a raffle, with proceeds going to the Harmony Foundation. The foundation helps support activities including Heartspring and SingAmerica/SingCanada.

Convention chairman is Larry Parker (LParker437@aol.com).

Convention registration forms can be printed off of the district's Web site (<http://www.harmonize.com/Pioneer/pio.htm>). Deadline for early registration at \$16 per person is Friday, Oct. 13. After that, the price is \$20. Hotel reservations were closed in September.

Other convention information is also on the district Web site, including an updated list of restaurants in the downtown area.

For updated convention details, watch the PioNet, the district's e-mail list. To subscribe at no charge, e-mail your name and chapter to jimstyer@home.com. ■

A View From The Top

Don Bazely, President

Buddy, can you spare a dime?

Your district board met early in August to address a serious situation which, if left unattended, could have become *very* serious. The fact is, we are spending more money than we are taking in. I understand that only the government is allowed to do that.



Don Bazely

Right now we have the LOWEST district dues structure in the entire society. I believe it is something like 15 years since

we last had a dues increase. We found that some districts employ innovative means to make up their shortfall, such as assessing each chapter additional amounts for each member, collecting a small (but effective) fee for each seat sold for the annual chapter show, and so on.

Why are we running at a deficit? There are a number of reasons, such as increasing costs for auditoriums, judges' travel and expenses, COTS, district officers' travel, and decreasing support of Pioneer District events by Pioneer District members.

Are you part of the solution ... or part of the problem? Too far to

travel? If you look at a map of the 16 districts, you will find that Pioneer covers by far the smallest area. I believe that perceived travel difficulties are relative. (I speak from a position of authority!)

During the special board meeting, it gradually came to light that most, if not all, of the board members pay a premium for the privilege and pleasure of serving on the Pioneer Board. In other words, it COSTS us money to serve on the Board. Many expenses are (a) not reimbursable according to district bylaws, or (b) the Board members decide to swallow legitimate expenses and make no claim. I am proud to be associated with a group of men such as those who serve on our district Board. We are all trying to control expenditures.

The bottom line is: we are recommending a district dues increase to \$20US. It is based on a tight budget and actually positions us at the median level society wide. Will it hurt a bit? Perhaps. Was there anything else that could have been done? I doubt it. But Barbershop-ping is still the best bargain in the world.

You will have an opportunity to argue the point at the House of Delegates meeting in October.

Speaking of HOD, we would be delighted to see a "full house." ■

QUARTET CORNER

FOUR PART DIGITAL SURROUND SOUND introduced itself to the Pioneer District in the fall of 1999 when it sang in the quartet competition. The foursome had been together for only two months. They earned the chance to warm up the mikes at Saturday night's finals by winning the Novice Quartet Championship.

So who are these guys, anyway?

Matt Root (tenor): The youngest member of the quartet (17) is a sophomore at Loy Norrix High School in Kalamazoo and is a nephew of David.

David Dolph (lead): Affectionately referred to as "The Old Guy," David has been a member of the society for 12 years and, as the most experienced member, is the business leader of the group, handling the finances and bookings. He is married and has two children and one grandchild.

Chris Fenner (bari): The musical brains of the outfit, Chris has selected much of the music for the quartet and even arranged a number of original scores for FOUR PART DIGITAL SURROUND SOUND. When the quartet was suggesting names, Chris came up with a mouthful which became our favorite when he proceeded to teach us the tag he had written for it. He is currently pursuing a degree in music education from Western Michigan University.

Jon Mollison (bass): The least experienced member of the quartet was a member of the Society for only a month before he jumped at

(Continued on page 12)

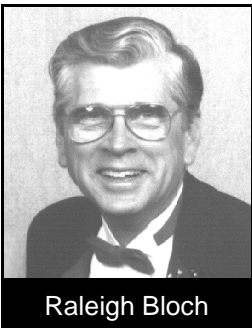
"Alas for those who never sing, but die with their music still in them."

Here's the Pitch

Raleigh Bloch, Executive & Member Services VP

123, COTS, preservation, and membership

Whoa! Wait a minute. Wait a cotton pick'n' minute! You're going to start off with a title like that? You'll



Raleigh Bloch

take up the whole Troubadour, if you write about all that. Besides, you wrote about 123 last time and Russ Seely wrote about preservation and Doran McTaggart wrote

about COTS.

Yes, and weren't those great articles? Russ said what I've been feeling for quite sometime and Doran is right on with his thoughts.

But what did you expect me to write about, Baywatch babes, chocolate cake, and football? These things all have something in common.

They do, do they? Well, it's going to be fun to see you pull this one out of the hat.

Well, you watch. Let's talk about preservation. Russ talked about what are we preserving and he's right on. But in addition to what are we preserving, who are we preserving it for and how?

First of all, we are preserving it for ourselves. We enjoy this stuff called the Barbershop style, and it would be nice if we could do this the rest of our lives.

We are also preserving it for future generations. So how do we do

this? Do we record it and put it in a museum? Is this a good way? I don't think so.

We need to teach it to others so they can enjoy the thrill of participating in this music.

Yeab, you're probably right. Recording most likely isn't the best way to go, especially when I think of my 8-track tapes. It looks like preservation is going to require membership to keep on handing this hobby off to others, just like it has in the past.

You got that right. We need members and that's why we should all get behind "It's As Easy As 1, 2, 3."

What about COTS? Although something about Baywatch babes might be interesting.

Well, maybe not babes, but how about that frosting for that chocolate cake? COTS is coming up in December and it's another way to preserve the Barbershop style.

How in the heck can COTS preserve the Barbershop style?

I'm glad you asked. (It's great being your own straight man.) Well, COTS is ever updating its curriculum so that your chapter officers can be the best that they can be (sounds familiar) and run our chapters better and make it easier for the rest of us to enjoy this hobby, which helps preserve it.

Our chapter officers didn't go to COTS last time. Some of them were officers before and felt that they didn't need to

go. I can see that there is always new stuff coming along. Besides, our chapter is like a lot of other chapters and we aren't doing as well as we were.

The chapter officers are the frosting on that cake. They can make it sweet by running healthy chapters or bitter by letting the chapters languish. Are they doing the things that preserve? Are they doing the things that lead to membership?

If they know everything they need to run a successful chapter, then have them come to COTS and teach those who don't.

In addition, COTS is fun for all. There are even sessions for Joe Barbershopper.

So even COTS leads to preservation and membership.

See how this all ties together? We need it all — the Barbershop style (the music we are preserving), COTS (to provide a strong organization), and membership (the way we're preserving this style for the future). So let's do this 1, 2, 3 thing.

I will promise you this. If your chapter does nothing — no preservation of the music, no COTS, no membership drives — you will have guaranteed results, none of them good.

What about the Baywatch babes?

I hear they like good singing. ■

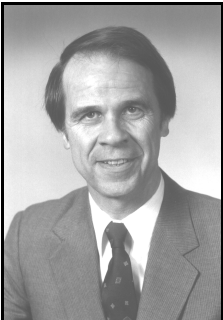


Public Relating

Doug Pearson, Marketing & Public Relations VP

Guest night provides PR scenario for success

Standing by themselves, communications and public relations don't mean too much. But tied into a program, event, or activity, they emerge as vital elements that can spell either success or failure for what you and your chapter are trying to accomplish.



Doug Pearson

It's terrific to be specific, so to show you what I mean, let me borrow your captive eyes for a short analysis of a successful chapter venture.

Several months ago, our Grand Rapids Chapter felt that a special guest night would be a good way to attract new members. Here's my slant from a PR standpoint:

The Grand Rapids guest night was set for August 15, and President Dan Casamatta constantly REMINDED chapter members of the importance of this night. He PREPARED LETTERS to be sent to potential guests. Members filled in their names and phone numbers and SENT the LETTERS to these hoped-for guests.

MEDIA in the Grand Rapids area were contacted with information regarding the guest night. This resulted in an impressive flow of good publicity throughout the area.

Meanwhile, POSTERS were made up for members to DISTRIBUTE and POST around town. To ensure good initial COMMUNICATIONS, chapter volunteers were assigned to man the guest registration table. In this type of program, personal, one-on-one COMMUNICATION is invaluable, so a buddy system was developed whereby a designated member was responsible for a guest throughout the night.

Utilizing his unique skills as a verbal COMMUNICATOR, Program VP Joel Mills "put on a great program," according to Dan.

Another proven COMMUNICATOR is Director Jamie Carey. This guy knows the value of good communications as a middle school teacher, and he made a forceful TALK to the prospective members on how the chapter wants and needs all of the guests' talents.

Let's not forget a good follow-up. As chapter president, Dan SENT each guest a personal NOTE and each buddy CALLED his guest to see if he had fun, to answer any questions, and to see if he can get his guest back.

Jamie E-MAILED each member with the directive: "Make sure you call these guys — It's important they know we need them!" And chapter member Jim Russell took photos (always a good COMMUNICATIONS and PUBLIC RELATIONS tool) to send to the *Trouba-*

dour for publication.

Just in case you didn't get my drift, I capitalized all words pertinent to communications and public relations. You can easily see how important these ingredients were to the success of this guest night program, and how effectively they were used by the Grand Rapids Chapter.

This Grand Rapids scenario is just one of several that come to mind. Other successful membership drives conducted by chapters such as Windsor and Huron Valley also threw a liberal dose of communications and public relations into their recipe for getting new members.

Finally, one more scenario is worth mentioning — a scenario where good, solid communications spelled success. For those of us on PioNet, we were all very much aware of the Salute to POWER PLAY Party.

Thanks to Macomb County Chapter's Gary Washburn, we were immersed in constant updates and abundant information on the upcoming bash. Gary even numbered his party updates on PioNet (I believe there were at least three or four).

The end result was that if you didn't know about the party and its significance, chances are you were taking a Sabbatical on some other planet. The second end result is that the party was well attended and a huge success with some 180 POWER PLAY fans in attendance.

If you still don't believe that good communications and well-rounded public relations pay off, just talk to Dan Casamatta, Gary Washburn, or other guys around our district who have been instrumental in promoting and marketing the many virtues of Barbershopping. ■

Chapter Coaching

Doran McTaggart, Chapter Support/Leadership VP

Two new members X 800 chapters equals more and better singers

Leadership training falls on my plate and, again, I implore you to send your chapter's Leadership Team to COTS for training. (See COTS ad on page 16.)



Doran McTaggart

Look for registration forms, course selection, and other information that will be sent to every chapter by

John Gillespie, COTS Honcho. See you at Gull Lake on December 2 and 3.

CHAPTER SUPPORT is the other half of my title. You have a well-trained chapter coach who can be of assistance to you. He is the conduit who will help you make things happen.

Every chapter president in the Society received a letter from Executive Director Darryl Flinn soliciting each chapter's support for a Society-wide membership program during the last 90 days of the year, "It's As Easy As 1, 2, 3." He sent several sheets of ideas and programs that you can download from the Web site. On each sheet was a reminder to contact your chapter coach.

Raleigh Bloch and Don Bazely both made mention of "It's As Easy As 1, 2, 3" in the last *Troub*

but it is important enough to repeat again. Our Society has dropped from 38,000 to 34,000 members in the past few years. If every one of our 800 chapters increased by two members each, that would be an additional 1,600 singers.

Financially, more than \$100,000 would be collected in International dues, and the extra district and chapter dues would support many good activities at these levels. These new members would sell show tickets and program ads, and be new customers to purchase tapes, CDs, music, and other merchandise from Harmony Marketplace.

Musically, these new men would contribute to your chapter, enjoy a musical experience, and "Share the Dream" with their friends, relatives, and neighbors. What a win-win situation! "It's As Easy As 1, 2, 3."

Get involved, select a program, gather your materials, and call your chapter coach. Let's "Share the Dream" with others as we grow in numbers in the last quarter of the year. ■

"Quartet singers make better chorus singers."

Dr. Greg Lyne

COTS is coming!

By John T. Gillespie,
District COTS Coordinator

The Pioneer District Chapter Operations Training Seminar, known this year as COTS 2001, will be held December 2-3 at the W. K. Kellogg Education Center, Gull Lake.

COTS is an annual seminar that provides Barbershoppers with knowledge and enthusiasm, and challenges them to meet the ever-growing administrative needs of their chapters. This forum also provides an opportunity for every member of SPEBSQSA to interact with one another and with a highly trained, certified faculty to strengthen the Barbershop experience.

COTS is not just for officers anymore. It offers something for everyone. Consider this your continuing education in Barbershop.

Now you can study about specific functions within a chapter that interest you, receive a basic course in an office that deals with the bare facts, study a variety of subjects from a multitude of instructors, learn from the revised *Chapter Management Guide*, or follow a track of allied classes. You can develop and enhance your leadership skills that will benefit you in Barbershopping and in your career.

Registration materials will be mailed to each chapter president and secretary about the middle of October. Make your plans now to attend and enjoy a weekend of excellent courses, highly trained instructors, great food, great fellowship, and, above all, SINGING! ■

Take Note

Fred Kienitz, Chorus Director Development VP

Fourth CDWI bolsters five Pioneer directors

On August 19, Pioneer District held its fourth CDWI (Chorus Directors' Workshop Intensive) in Flint, Michigan. The Flint Chapter served as hosts and furnished 16 singers. I sent invitations, both written and verbal, to a chapter officer in each chorus with a suggestion to talk it up and send some local people to bolster the training chorus. We ended up with five guest singers and had a great day.

Directors from Flint, Lansing, Saginaw Bay, Pontiac-Waterford, and Rochester Hills served as students for the day.

We had two outstanding faculty members: David Carr from Toronto, Ontario, and Roger Ross, a gold medal tenor who resides in Orlando, Florida. These gentlemen did an excellent job and were upbeat for the entire day.

One of the things that amazed me was the fact that, like the instructors for the first three workshops, these guys gave 110 percent of their time, effort, and enthusiastic drive in an effort to send five directors back to their home chapters with a better understanding and increased drive to push their chapter choruses to a higher level of singing and performance.

This event was better planned primarily because all details were to be made in my own hometown. I could personally check every facet of the daily event weeks before the actual date.

This entire event made me doubly thankful for the other three workshops, which were held in Rochester Hills, Lansing, and Gaylord. This was because I had to depend on someone else to do all of the "grungy" work with only an outline from me and a prayer that all would be well.

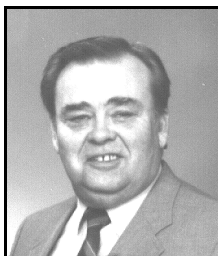
This is a very important factor for all districts: We need to work together and toward setting up a team of high energy people to make this program work.

Had it not been for the Hank Hedges, the Al Fisks, the Larry Parkers, and the Chuck Murrays, we might have had four big disasters rather than the very successful schools we have had thus far.

To all the students involved for the first three workshops, I say "Thanks loads!"

To Chris Miller, Toney Corey, Nan Worden, Andy Brenz, and Jeff Gougeon, a big "Thank you" and a special wish that this day helped to make your task as a chorus director just a little easier and hopefully gave you some new insight into your success as a front-liner.

As for me, I'm already thinking of arranging the next CDWI for five new directors ASAP. ■



Fred Kienitz

Power Play first Pioneer medallist in 13 years

With its fifth-place finish at Kansas City this past July, POWER PLAY was the first Pioneer District quartet in the finals since THE RITZ in 1987, with Clay Shumard of Grand Rapids singing baritone. With a change in personnel, THE RITZ went on to claim the International title in 1991 as a Johnny Appleseed District quartet.

The Slamkas' climb into the medallist rank began with FAMILY FORUM in the fall of 1985, placing fifth in district competition. Members were brothers Jack and Mike with their sons, Mike and Don, respectively.

The family continued to compete, placing second in 1988 as POWER PLAY and becoming district champs in 1989. The quartet then included Jack's son, Mark, and Jason Oyler; they had replaced Jack's brother, Mike, and the latter's son, Don.

Since then, the quartet has scored first in the district's International prelims every spring it has competed. With Jason Oyler singing tenor, the foursome finished 39th in International competition in 1990, and 24th the following year. Don returned to replace Jason in 1992 as the quartet placed 14th. The quartet first climbed into the international top 10 in 1997.

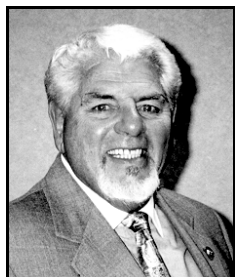
All told, POWER PLAY has placed three times in the international finals (top 10), four times in the semifinals (11-20), and twice in the quarterfinals.

Yours 4 A Song

Russ Seely, Music & Performance VP

The future is now!

Since we all seem to enjoy that idea that we are “family” (I think it started with the Pittsburgh Pirates a couple of decades back), I think it’s only fair that as a family we should air out our linens from time to time to evaluate their fitness.



Russ Seely

It’s no secret that Pioneer has NOT done well at International for the past quarter of a century. Gad, that sounds like a l-o-o-o-o-ng time, right? I’m referring, of course, to our chorus reps who, in spite of improving “numbers,” fail to get close to the median when the final tally is published.

Having attended most of the conventions during this drought, I’m frequently asked, after the fact, what happened with whomever the current chorus rep happened to be. I usually try to give a positive, generic answer to those who inquire. But I must tell you that many of our competitors, who perhaps think I can take a ribbing, aren’t diplomatic at all when they make disparaging remarks about Pioneer or Seneca Land, who also have not done well during this period.

Well, you may ask, WHY DON’T WE PLACE HIGHER?

The answer is not simple and I’m sure every chapter that has represented us could show you their

“wish list” (items necessary for their success) with different priorities, but I’ll gamble the one BIG intangible is US!

We all want to rally ’round our heroes — POWER PLAY — and love the family concept (in their case, literally and figuratively), but when is the last time we “backed” our own chorus reps in an extraordinary manner? If it wasn’t for the magnificent job that Doran, Andy, and the rest of those Windsor winners provide at “The Send-Off,” chances are pretty sadly true that we wouldn’t see, back, encourage, or whatever it takes to develop the charisma needed to move forward with any degree of success to the International stage. Remember, these guys worked hard to earn the right to represent us in a much tougher, impersonal arena where you have to believe that just a tad of pre-judging might affect their level in scoring.

There was a time when I was totally against chapters “beefing up” before an International contest, that is, accepting dual memberships from Barbershoppers who could qualify to sing at International. Now, with all of the mega-choruses, I’m all for it.

So why don’t we accept the winds of change? Why don’t we personally contact the representing chapter to see if they could use a lead, a tenor, or even money? I think that if we are going to play in the big leagues, we’d better come

prepared with enough qualified manpower that will make the statement, “PIONEER IS HERE TO COMPETE!”

The other suggested tack would be to have a totally auditioned-for-membership, lean, mean competing machine with no current chapter ties. Do we want that? I hope not.

Having woodshedded or sung arrangements with dudes from all over this great country, I can tell you that the guy from LA or Dallas isn’t any different from you rascals in Pioneer.

On the other hand, where is our Society heading and how do we fit? In the next issue of the *Troub* will be my last article as your music & performance VP. I’ll address some final musings in that issue. ■

Quartet Corner (Continued from page 7)

the chance to join the quartet. Jon is married with one child and one due on Halloween.

The quartet is active in their local chapter (Kalamazoo’s MALL CITY CHORUS), singing at every show and donating all of Valentine’s Day money raised for the chapter by singing over 40 valentines. Other charitable appearances by the quartet include fund raisers for Right to Life and performances at several local churches.

With each performance, the quartet’s sound and stage presence improves. They have also taken advantage of the numerous learning opportunities within the district: Bush League, Harmony Round-Up, and the help of coaches Ed Fritzen and Gene Hanover.

With support like this from Pioneer, there is no limit to what this quartet can achieve! ■

Young Men in Harmony

Al Bonney, District Chairman

Today is the day!

Whether you have a YMIH program seeking growth or are contemplating starting one, today is the day to move from where you are onto the road towards where you want to be.



Al Bonney

It's really just that simple — make the decision to move and you are half way there ... but then you knew that.

Perhaps I might best support that heroic effort by suggesting three resources that will help make your job easier.

The first suggestion is find a guy to be the YMIH sparkplug for the chapter. You must have a guy who thinks YMIH is just the thing to put the chapter on the map, or an ex-music teacher who really believes in the program. He is the perfect guy to lead the effort.

Now make him a board officer — VP of YMIH — and give the program a voice on the chapter board of directors. Our Society thought the program was important enough to get the districts to make it a board position.

Give a guy a title, a bit of power, and a budget to make things happen, and get out of his way! Your chapter WILL have a YMIH program!

The second suggestion is to send your new VP of YMIH to

COTS. If it were up to me, I would have you send the whole board because COTS has a lot of wonderful courses to help improve chapter operations from every aspect. But certainly send the YMIH guy.

There WILL be a class there on YMIH where he can learn what the Society has to support him and your chapter's programs. He will learn about other successful programs and where he can go to get help and ideas. He will meet me and many YMIH VPs from other chapters.

Together we will share ideas and dreams with both new guys and experienced ones.

The third suggestion is to tell me who your new YMIH guy is. In my role as district VP of YMIH, I communicate throughout the year with the YMIH guys in the chapters to let them know about opportunities they might be interested in and good ideas that have worked in other chapters.

I am always available to answer questions that might help a project get unstuck. If I know who your guy is, I can be sure he is "on my list."

Today is the day!

You can do it or not. The move is up to you.

In any case, you know what you have to do — I'm just here to support you if you want it. I hope you find these suggestions helpful.

Good luck! ■

FOUR-MAN FISHIN' TACKLE CHOIR



Hooked on Harmony



Cast for:

Neil 231-882-4835 or
Tracy 231-348-1178

Sing ... for life!

DON

MICHAEL

MARK

JACK



A Sound Advantage

Contact: Michael Slamka
(810) 326-0620

E-Mail: LIVE4SHOP@AOL.COM

Standing Ovation Program

A study of the Society's musical history reveals that growth in quality, vocal technique, arrangement, musicality, and performance has developed primarily from the involvement in the contest and judging program. The best coaches of the style are also certified judges.

There is, however, a large segment of our membership that is not involved as deeply, or at all, in competition. The Society sees the need of those choruses and quartets to raise the overall level of public performances for their own satisfaction as well as the increased entertainment of their audiences. Our annual shows and public performances provide us with joy and pride in addition to preserving our style of singing. But no singing unit can coach and thereby improve itself. Our quartets and choruses need assistance and encouragement to improve performance levels.

The Society has developed a program through which quartets and choruses can obtain a voluntary review with recommendations for improving future performances. The program is called Standing Ovation.

The ideal venue for a review would be a chapter show or performance. The quartet or chorus can, however, prepare a 20-40 minute performance designed to reflect the group's public presentation. Attention will include, but not be limited to, the following:

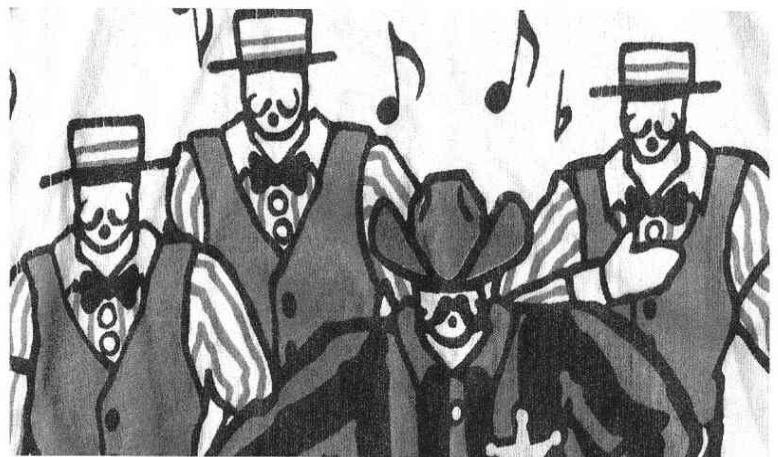
- Music selection, including representation of the Barbershop style
- Quality of singing, musicality, and presentation
- Sequence of songs for entertaining flow
- Non-singing comments (master of ceremonies, scripted act, etc.)
- Costuming and grooming
- Overall entertainment value
- Technical matters (lighting, sound, etc.)

Pioneer's Standing Ovation Committee consists of Roger Lewis, Mike O'Donnell, and Russ Seely.

All chapters are encouraged to avail themselves of this district service. There is no cost to the chapter other than overnight lodging, if required, for the reviewer. Call 248-363-8977 for details. ■

Do you know these guys?

We don't
either!



But, chances are they'll be on the Pioneer District Quartet Champions Show along with the rest of us Friday evening, October 20th, in Battle Creek. Don't miss your favorite Quartet Champions and the QCA Chorus perform at the Fall Convention. The bargain basement price -- only \$5.00. The show starts (30) minutes after the Friday contest session and will be held at the McCamly Plaza Hotel. Tickets can be purchased in the registration area on Friday or at the door! Bring along your family and friends and join us to experience the best Pioneer has to offer!!

Affiliated Charities

Alex Willox, Chairman

Thanks to all of the chapters who have given to the Harmony Foundation to date.

We are at present down from last years giving and I hope that in the

next quarter we will overcome this deficit and move beyond in our giving.

Always remember — we are passing on one of God’s great gifts

to the future generations as we sing and give from our hearts .

Sing for Life

Alex

Chapter	General Fund	Heartspring	Harmony Heritage Museum	SingAmerica/ SingCanada	Endowment	Total
Allegan County	\$ 10.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 20.00
Alpena	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.00
Battle Creek	241.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	241.45
Benton Harbor-St. Joe	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.00
Boyne City	150.00	195.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	345.00
Clarkston	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Detroit Oakland	3,738.06	45.00	0.00	0.00	10.00	3,793.06
Flint	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Gaylord	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Grand Rapids	65.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	65.00
Gratiot County	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	500.00
Grosse Pointe	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.00	17.00	2,853.00
Hillsdale	10.00	275.00	0.00	0.00	10.00	295.00
Holland	0.00	0.00	48.00	0.00	0.00	48.00
Huron Valley	60.00	105.00	0.00	0.00	32.00	197.00
Kalamazoo	30.00	0.00	12.50	12.50	0.00	55.00
Lansing	440.50	0.00	50.00	50.00	0.00	540.50
Livingston County	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Macomb County	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Michiana	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Milford	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Monroe North	60.00	150.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	210.00
Motor City Metro	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	200.00
Muskegon	10.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	11.00	521.00
Pontiac-Waterford	19.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.00	39.00
Rochester	62.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	62.00
Saginaw Bay	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sault Ste. Marie	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Swan Valley	0.00	39.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	39.25
Traverse City	35.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	240.00	275.00
Wayne	586.00	315.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	901.00
Windsor	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Frank Thorne	100.00	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	300.00
District Total	\$ 5,767.01	\$ 1,424.25	\$ 110.50	\$ 1,702.50	\$ 333.00	\$ 9,337.26

So ...

are you interested in the future of your chapter?

Pretty silly question, isn't it?

OF COURSE YOU ARE!

So don't forget to attend this year's
action-packed edition of Pioneer District's

COTS

(Chapter Operations Training Seminar)

On tap are some 40 sessions offering something for every chapter officer, board member, committeeman, and Joe Barbershopper.

Society experts will be on hand to conduct these sessions and to answer any of your questions.

Oh, and don't forget — lots of singing, heaps of good food, and warm camaraderie

Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 2-3
At Gull Lake

**For more information, see the article on page 10,
or contact your chapter president.**

Quartets Champions Association

Al Fisk, Secretary

As of this writing (September 2), the Quartet Champions Association is planning to rehearse at the Lansing Chapter meeting site on September 17. We will be working on "I'd Give a Million Tomorrows" and a couple of other selections that we have performed in the past. Our Friday night show in Battle Creek will feature the QCA CHORUS as well as some terrific quartets: UPSTAGE SOUND, WJBC, and POWER PLAY. We look forward to seeing y'all at our show!

This month, let us feature another singing superstar in our midst — Mr. Denny Gore.

The following is gleaned from the FANFARE Web page (FANFARE is a mixed *a cappella* ensemble of which Denny is a member):

Denny has been a member of SPEBSQSA since 1968. He has sung with four district championship quartets: VAGABONDS, CENTER STAGE, LEGACY, and STAY TUNED. Two of his quartets reached medallist ranking in International Competition, both as high as silver medallists (VAGABONDS and CENTER STAGE). Denny played drums (many years ago) and has been singing in *a cappella* groups since junior high school. He has written and produced a number of Barbershop shows including "A Great Day for the Irish," which is offered through SPEBSQSA.

Denny worked on FANFARE'S shows and stage presentations. At work, Denny is a systems manager and team leader with Daimler-Chrysler Information Services. When Russ Seely is out of town, Denny is his fill-in singer and has

done a number of performances with the FOUR FITS.

Finally, in Denny's own words: "I sang with MARQUIS (1995 International Champions) for three years replacing Randy Chisholm, who passed away suddenly in 1997. At the international level, I have seven contest medals including four silver medals. I have coached many quartets and choruses (for no fee, I might add) including (a very long time ago) POWER PLAY and IVY LEAGUE.

"I had some great coaching myself having been coached for about 15 years by the man that many, including me, feel is the best quartet coach ever — Lyle Pilcher. I still miss him and his long phone calls.

"I also got some great vocal coaching from Jarmela Speta and, from Detroit, Jan Albright; they're the greatest! I highly recommend getting good vocal instruction and taking care of your instrument.

"Because of my three-year stint with MARQUIS, there is a chance I'll be asked to be an associate member of the Association of International Champions — an honor of which I am proud."

And we are proud of our own Pioneer District legend, Mr. Denny Gore. ■

Ever
growing ...
**Or nothing
else matters!**

Brats, beans, beer, and Barbershop

By Staff Writer Doug Pearson

A blue-ribbon offering of zesty food, copious beverage, and a full plate of four-part harmony proved to be a winning combination at the second annual Brats, Beans, Beer, and Barbershop get-together on July 28 at the well-irrigated Roger Lewis estate near Battle Creek.

Non-members were invited to attend and had the opportunity to listen to some close harmony as well as join the singing fun. They combined with district members to sing in five quartets during the Novice Quartet Contest.

Also on the agenda was a pick-up quartet contest captured by the appropriately named FOUR OLD GUYS.

The PATCH CHORDS kicked off the "organized," registered quartet portion, followed by a sizzling district array of fabulous fearsome foursomes including PHILATOGA TOWNSHIP, FOOLS' GOLD, WHATEVER FOUR, and the combination FOUR PART DIGITAL UPSTAGE SOUND.

The program portion of the evening was ably energized by the enthusiastic master of ceremonies — Battle Creek's golden-throated Dick Campbell.

Also included in this annual musical parade were plenty of woodshedding, the time-honored ringing of chestnuts, and a number of resonating tags.

You say this sounded like fun? Well, folks, it most certainly was! So see you there next year. ■

Editorial**Help!**

This is a message to those of you who submit articles to the *Troub*. I need your help. I've been blowing my budget by publishing too many pages per issue. This has increased printing and postage costs to an unacceptable level.

How can you help? WRITE TIGHT! By this I mean keep your articles focused and concise. If you have a tendency to include too much detail or be too wordy, you'll not only help fatten the *Troub*, but chances are you'll lose your readers as well.

I know, as editor, that it's my responsibility to edit articles for content. But I've been reluctant to do this because I know how much effort you put into your writings.

So take me off the hook — WRITE TIGHT!

Thanks for your help.

Gary

An open letter to the members of the Pioneer District

Gentlemen:

At the request of our District Board, I have the undesirable task of explaining to you the situation we as a district have found ourselves in financially. As most of you know, I am dead set against spending money, whether it be yours, ours, or, worse yet, mine.

But the time has come to face reality and spell out the need for some long overdue increases. The idea is to have this article in your hands BEFORE the House of Delegates convenes at this fall's convention. This will permit you to make your opinions known to your chapter's delegate before he has to cast his vote on your behalf.

Quite simply, the cost of doing business is going up. We are faced with ever-increasing costs for hotel rooms, travel, telephone, postage, and supplies.

This *Troubadour* that you are reading is a major expense of the district. Yet I'm sure all of us agree that its quality, value, and timeliness are at an all-time high. As a board, we weren't willing to sacrifice the benefit of this first-class publication. We weren't willing to give up the delivery of registration forms for conventions, Harmony Round-Up, or COTS and the related slate of events or classes that go with them, or to cut back on show ads or quartet ads.

But on the other hand, the cost of producing them has risen to equal the entire amount of our district dues. Additionally, our numbers are going down, meaning we collect less in dues each year because of declining membership.


At our recent "committee of

the whole" budget meeting, the consensus was to find ways to make the *Troub* more self supporting, rather than diminish the product we currently have. The fact that the publication has gone from an average of 12-16 pages per issue to one in the 24-32-page range speaks highly of the need for and value of the *Troub* to our members. Instead, it makes sense to play up the benefit of advertising in this first-rate publication and to encourage even more information and benefits to the reader.

The proposed dues effective next calendar year will be a raise from \$10 to \$20 per member. Keep in mind that this is the first increase in district dues in more than 10 years. I doubt that there is any other item in your budget about which that can be said. (Other than the cost of a computer.)

Please look realistically at the operating expenses of the district and consider that the dues go to underwrite the cost of the *Troub*, the District Directory, the International Travel Fund for our chorus and quartet representatives, insurance, postage, telephone, travel, and meeting expenses for district officers. These are all paid for by the district. Some of the excess is covered by revenue from the conventions, but with costs rising, the amount of surplus there is diminishing also, to the point that conventions are barely covering their own costs, without contributing to the general fund.

**Stan Williams,
Pioneer District Treasurer**

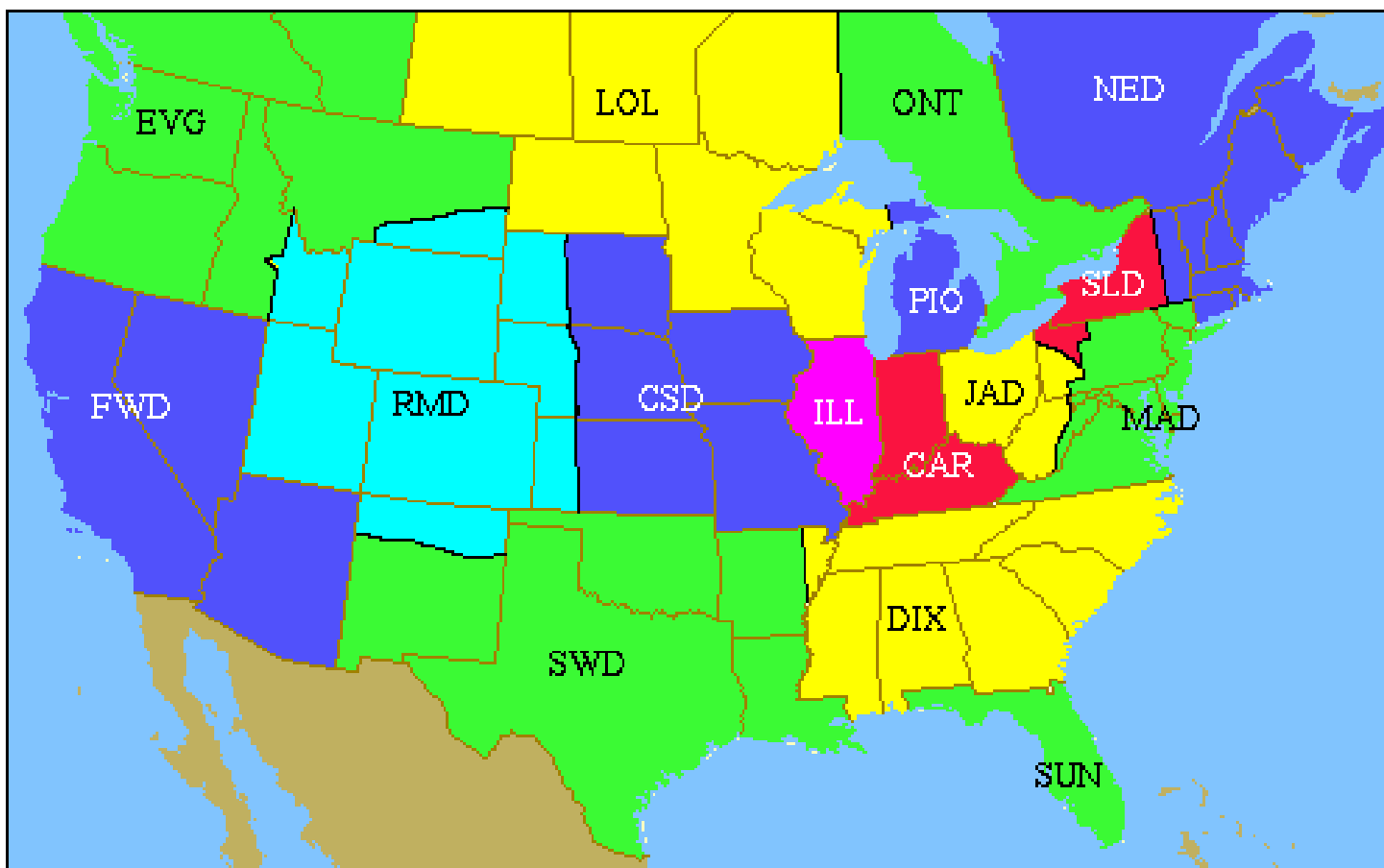


The Highwaymen
A Barbershop Quartet

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

Mark Phelps
Contact - USA
1-734-427-8743
or See our Website
<http://members.xoom.com/highwaymen>

SPEBSQSA District Map



Key

CAR: Cardinal District
CSD: Central States District
DIX: Dixie District
EVG: Evergreen District
FWD: Far West District
ILL: Illinois District
JAD: Johnny Appleseed District
LOL: Land O' Lakes District

MAD: Mid-Atlantic District
NED: Northeast District
ONT: Ontario District
PIO: Pioneer District
RMD: Rocky Mountain District
SLD: Seneca Land District
SUN: Sunshine District
SWD: Southwest District

We sing ...

You can help PROBE honor top volunteers

There are many members who work behind the scenes in non-singing tasks to support our Society and its musical accomplishments. They are the marketing, public relations, and bulletin volunteers who help communicate our message and our music, both within the Society and to other music lovers.

PROBE wants to recognize the top practitioners among them. And you can help — by nominating them for the prestigious PROBE Hall of Honor award.

PROBE is the Society's self-supporting, all-volunteer Association of Public Relations Officers and Bulletin Editors. Anyone — men and women, Society members and non-members — who is interested in Barbershop harmony communications can join

PROBE's top award is its Hall of Honor, which has recognized 31 persons since it was established 11 years ago with the induction of Deak Martin, Dee Paris, and Wilbur

Sparks.

Nominations are now open for persons who will be considered for recognition at the 2001 International Convention in Nashville.

A nominee must have been a PROBE member for at least 10 years, and must have made contributions to PROBE and its purposes well beyond the normal duties of performing PROBE-related functions for a chapter or district.

Any current PROBE member may make a nomination. The nomination must be in writing, specifically describing the nominee's services and contributions. Include supporting evidence if available. Letters of support from other persons who know the nominee may be included.

The deadline is April 30, 2001. Yes, that's a number of months away. But start now to think about it and gather the information you need. Otherwise, you may forget about it and later realize that the

deadline has passed.

Send your nominations to Committee Chairman Jim Styer, 72 Allison Drive, Battle Creek MI 49017. Or e-mail them to jimstyer@home.com. And feel free to write him if you have any questions.

Meanwhile, if you wish to join PROBE, you can sign yourself up by sending the \$5 annual dues to PROBE, SPEBSQSA, 6315 Harmony Lane, Kenosha, WI 53143. Or, since membership is a legitimate chapter expense, you can have your chapter secretary sign you up by calling or writing Kenosha. In October, chapter secretaries send Kenosha a list of officers for the following year; PROBE membership can simply be marked on that submission to Kenosha.

Benefits of PROBE membership include support for public relations and bulletin activities and a subscription to the quarterly *PROBE-moter* newsletter. ■

Barbershoppers invade Gitche Gumee land

By Lyle Howard

Eleven Barbershoppers, including one very special out-of-stater, converged on Sonnybob Lodge on beautiful Oba Lake, 210 miles north of the Soo, during the week of August 18-26.

And surprise of surprises, there was a fairly even distribution of all four singing parts.

Ten of us boarded the northbound train at Hawk Junction for the trip to Sonnybob, where the tracks run right through the middle of the fishing camp.

Honest anglers who always tell the truth included Bob Wisdom and Dunc Wallace, Motor City Metro;

Jim Dugan, Detroit-Oakland; Dick Johnson, Len Barnes, and John Smith (our trip organizer), Pontiac-Waterford; Neil Nugent, Traverse City; Lyle Howard, Clarkston and Frank Thorne; Bob Riedel, Phoenix; and Bill Gwaltney, Pensacola.

The special guest? Through the efforts of John and this man's son, they were able to pull off a complete surprise for Drayton Justis, lead of 1971 International Champion GENTLE-



Serenading the sea gulls from "Eatin' Rock": (from left) Bob Riedel, John Smith, Len Barnes, and Bill Gwaltney.

MAN'S AGREEMENT. Drayton flew in from his home in Atlanta. His

(Continued on page 31)

Photos from Harmony College



John Szewc (right) with his 12-year-old grandson, Brian Danowski, and Kevin King, lead of quartet BSO and one of John's teachers. John sponsored Brian to Harmony College, which was his way of supporting the Young Men In Harmony Program. (Photo provided by John Szewc)



(Above) Harmony College attendees (from left) Jeff Gougeon, Reese Olger, Bob Fox, and (kneeling) Jason Fox take a camera break. (Photo provided by Jason Fox)



(Above) Quartet MY THREE FRIENDS entertains at the Saturday night show: (l to r) tenor Jack Frucci, lead Paul Lammers, bari Wayne Pitchford, and bass Levon King. (Right) Quartet BLACK RIVER demonstrates what it has learned at Harmony College. (From left) tenor Bill McAndrew, lead Mark Andrew, bass James Hall, and bari Steve Foster. (Photos provided by Jason Fox)



Mike Jaissle

(Continued from page 5)

your family knows your wishes so they can agree after your death to donate your organs to those who need them.”

Organs that can be transplanted are the heart, kidney, liver, lungs, and pancreas. Corneas may also be given to those with serious vision problems. “Every day in Michigan, 13 people die while waiting for an organ transplant,” Mike adds. “It’s critical that people become aware of the constant need for organ donation.”

“That’s when the grin should start ...”

At a recent reception honoring POWER PLAY hosted by the Macomb Chapter, the champion Slamkas, proudly sporting their newly won bronze medals, capped

the evening’s festivities with several of their finest songs. Their final offering was “Heart,” which they sang after calling Mike from the audience and fitting him in line between Jack and son Mike. This gesture was especially appropriate because it was Jack Slamka who introduced Mike to Barbershopping in 1988. “Jack and his family also provided a tremendous amount of support for me and my family during my illness and recuperation,” Mike reported with love and gratitude.

One of Jack Slamka’s favorite expressions and advice to all Barbershoppers is “Sing from the heart or don’t bother.” Mike Jaissle has special reasons to sing from his heart.

For further information regarding organ transplantation, contact the Gift of Life Agency at (800) 482-4881. ■

COTS

Training for Every Barbershopper!

See
page 10

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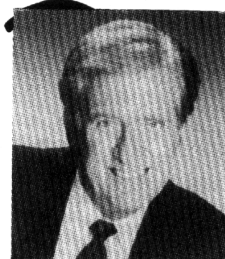
IRELAND

with Jim Clancy **May 3 - 13, 2001**

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Let's Take a Boat to...BERMUDA!

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with Scott Werner & Dave LaBar **July 29 - Aug. 5, 2001**

Sing in a chorus of 100+ directed by Scott Werner (director, *Alexandria Harmonizers*) with assistant director Dave LaBar, as you set sail from Boston harbor. Then spend four days on board in the port of Bermuda: pastel houses & "wedding cake" roofs, beaches that blush, no high rises...just a sub-tropical paradise that is a golfer's and snorkeller's nirvana.

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BASIC TOUR PACKAGE: SEPT. 7 - 16: Enjoy 3 nights in Sydney and 4 nights at the Convention.



- A #1 Hobart, Tasmania for 3 nights and 4 nights in Auckland, New Zealand...return to US on Sept. 23
- D #2 2 nights Alice Springs/ Ayers Rock, 3 nights Gold Coast /Surfers Paradise, 2 nights Cairnes...return to US on Sept. 23
- O #3 New Zealand..3 nights in Auckland, 3 nights in Queenstown...return to US on Sept. 23
- N #4 New Zealand..4 nights Auckland, 3 nights Papeete, Tahiti...return to US on Sept. 23
- S #5 Depasar, Bali...return US on Sept. 23

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Chapters in Action

Kalamazoo

By John Mollison

This past summer was not one of idleness for the MALL CITY CHORUS, with concerts, contests, and big plans keeping the chorus members jumping.

Our first park performance was in Plainwell, where we shared the stage with the MID-LAKES CHORUS SWEET ADELINES. Their new band shell is in a cozy little park on the Kalamazoo River.

The second big concert in the park was at Bronson Park in downtown Kalamazoo. The large crowd we began the show with only grew larger as curious downtowners stopped to enjoy the performance of the chorus and two quartets, FOUR PART DIGITAL SURROUND SOUND and 1998 district champs UPSTAGE SOUND. Despite some early threats of rain, the evening turned out to be perfect for a picnic and a free concert.

The 25 men who were able to make the trip to Columbus in August had a great time competing at the Buckeye Invitational. Despite the demands of competing at 10:00 a.m. to a less-than-packed house, the MALL CITY CHORUS sang their way to a ninth-place overall finish. The men of PHILATOGA TOWNSHIP also competed in the quartet contest and finished 11th in the field. Thanks to all of the Pioneer members who were there to cheer us on.

Redoubling our efforts to "Keep the Whole World Singing," Kalamazoo is in the middle of its most ambitious recruiting drive in recent memory. All of our activities for the remainder of the year will be geared to implementing the "100-Man Dash." Look for a much larger presence from Kalamazoo at upcoming conventions.

In a closing note, the chapter said goodbye this past month to one of our own. May the Lord bless you and keep you, Joe Freeman.

Flint

By Guy Hissong

Well, my fellow Barbershoppers, greetings once again from the FLINT ARROWHEAD CHORUS. We have been readjusting, so to speak, and fine tuning

to prepare for the fall convention. We have been away from the conventions for a while and look forward to being reunited with our many friends on stage. To hear the spectacular performances by the many quartets and choruses surely fills us with eager anticipation.

Director John Noteware has been cracking the old musical whip once again. We have had some great ideas on vocal training passed along by Tony Corrie and Music VP Ed Boychuck.

We have a very busy couple of months ahead of us and are already putting together Christmas selections.

We brought in the month of August in style by singing at the Swartz Creek Fine Arts Center with the fabulous Sweet Adeline's THUMB AREA CHORUS. A wonderful crowd filled the lawn and hillside as chords rang from both sides promoting Barbershop music. It was an inspiration to see John and Chris Noteware side by



side, not only as husband and wife, but directing their choruses as the crowd cheered.

The director's workshop was a success, once again held in Flint. Instructors and singers came from as far away as Canada to join in the fun.

With the Harrisville weekend just around the corner, along with our open house, the word remains to be "BUSY."

Barbershopping ... What a Great Life!

Traverse City

By Elbert Ford

Hello to all you fellow Barbershoppers out there. We relaxed this past summer and were not very active other than on chapter meeting nights. On Sunday, August 20, we had the pleasure of singing at the Church-In-The-Park service sponsored by one of the local Methodist churches at Sunset Park. We had beau-

tiful weather for it, and 37 guys came out for worship and singing gospel Barbershop. We sang “Beautiful Savior” and “Let There Be Peace on Earth” during the service, which was attended by 670 worshippers — a season high.

After the service, we performed a mini-show for the crowd that had stayed around — which was about one third of the congregation.

We are still working out a fine plan of hosting the fall convention in Battle Creek. Al Bonney, the coordinator for our chapter, has had monthly meetings to ensure that not a single detail goes unattended. Make plans now on being there to see this well laid plot unfold! We can't have a great convention without your presence.

We meet every Tuesday evening and would love to have any of you as a visitor. Just come to The Presbyterian Church on Airport Access Road, just off Munson Avenue (US 31 North), at 7:00 p.m., and receive a traditional Traverse City welcome.

Windsor

By Same Old Guy

Our chapter really got behind the 1999 Chapter Challenge Program and increased our membership from 44 to 66 members. WOW! We are proud to have won a Gold Award for membership recruitment.

Each member received a lapel pin as a reward for his efforts. We also won a Platinum Award for retention along with a \$100 gift certificate from Harmony Marketplace. We are planning to support “It's As Easy As 1, 2, 3” in November.

Our newly elected Leadership Team will be at COTS in December and will distribute fliers about Uncle Sam Night in Windsor. In the meantime, make sure that you put Friday, January 19, 2001, on your calendar for this great inter-chapter activity.

We are pleased to report that the COUNTY CONNECTION, a chapter quartet, will be performing in a local production of “The Music Man.” They will be ambassadors of Barbershopping in our community as they ring those Barbershop chords. Today Windsor, tomorrow Broadway.

Macomb

By Russ Dyer

Nick Pastor didn't know he was being conned. He believed it was quite logical that his wife,

Sandy, an accomplished photographer, would certainly want to attend a photography exhibit at the Lathrup Village Community Room.

But when they arrived at the Southfield Road address, the only photos on display were of Nick himself. And nearly 100 friends, relatives, co-workers, and fellow Barbershoppers shouted their greetings. Sandy had masterfully engineered a surprise birthday party for Nick, longtime baritone member of both the Macomb and DOC chapters.



Following dinner, a cake-cutting ceremony allowed Nick to demonstrate his superb breath control — obviously developed from years of singing — when he easily blew out the eighth-note-shaped candles representing **Big 70!**

The rest of the evening was predictably devoted to the noble art of producing Barbershop music. BORDER CROSSING, from the Macomb and Windsor chapters, opened the program, followed by Macomb and Huron Valley's MY THREE FRIENDS. When someone revealed that Nick had attended a chorus-directing class at this year's Harmony College session, every Barbershopper in the room gathered on stage to test his skills. Although an anonymous bass quipped, “Do you think he's going to be able to follow us?”, 40-odd singers followed Nick's direction very nicely during several Polecat songs.

The program was completed with the appearance of the Sweet Adeline medallist quartet from the Fenton Lakes and Eastpointe chapters, MOTOR CITY MIX. The high point in their set was a comedy number in which Nick was called from the audience to become an unwitting

(Continued on page 26)

Chapters in Action

Macomb

(Continued from page 25)

ting fall guy for the champion singers.

An actual fall nearly occurred when Nick tried out an orange (his favorite color) 26-speed bicycle given to him by his family. He was doing fine until a table of guests somehow moved in his way.

The chorus enjoyed a “first” recently when we performed at the Michigan State Fair. Highlighting the event was a flag-lowering ceremony during which we sang the National Anthem and the state’s official song, “Michigan, My Michigan.”

We all said goodbye recently to our former Board secretary, Scott Young, whose job required him to transfer to Dallas, Texas. By this time, we presume he has joined one of the several fine chapters in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. Good luck and good singing, Scott.

Nearly 30 chorus members attended the annual “retreat” at the Waldenwoods Family Recreation Resort recently where director Matt Coombs and coaches Jack Slamka and Wayne Kinde drilled the chorus nearly to their knees in marathon morning and afternoon sessions. (This also presented Sally Burns with an instructional opportunity by pointing out the difference between our left and right *knees!*). Later in the evening, we presented an impromptu program for the non-singing campers at the resort.

We look forward to seeing all of you in Battle Creek. (Nick will be riding his bicycle to BC!)

Lansing

By Paul Howe

That “whooshing” sound you heard was summer zooming by and disappearing off into the distance. And what a great summer it was. Our chapter picnic was great fun with wonderful food. It’s always a treat to violate all the rules and consume a huge meal before you try to sing.

August found the CAPITOL CITY CHORDSMEN at Oldsmobile Park, performing the National Anthem. The Lansing Lugnuts mascot, “Big Lug,” tried to direct

us, but that brought only discordant sounds. I think our performance of the National Anthem would have made the park ring even without a small boost from the P.A. system ... system ... system.



With summer gone, that brings to the fore two thoughts: Getting the snow blower tuned and ready, and getting ourselves tuned and ready for the fall convention. We’ve been working hard learning new songs for the competition. There’s plenty more hard work ahead, though, with special coaching sessions and intense practices on the menu. Even though it’ll be hard work, we’re all looking forward to it, and also to our first competitive singing under our new director, Jeff Gougeon.

Holland

By Art Lane

Quartets turn out for tag contest

Nineteen enthusiastic quartets braved a cool July evening to compete in the Holland Chapter’s 15th annual Chester P. Oonk Memorial Tag Contest at the Saugatuck RV Resort.

Winner in the novice category was GRAND SHORE FOUR, composed of Barb Oonk, Jan Welsh, Melanie Johnson, and Alice Eelen. The professional category winner was THE YOUNG ’UNS, made up of Cal Verduin, Sid Helder, Dan Doctor, and Mark Garlock.

The Bart Tillitt Tag Hog Award for being in the most quartets was won by Mike Oonk.

Winner of the Bob Von Ins Gut Bucket Award for the best bass was Jim Horton, a longtime Barbershopper from Grand Rapids and often a judge at the tag

contest. Jim did not sing this year, but the judges checked the rule book and decided, "It doesn't say he has to sing." Judges were Cal Verduin and Sid Helder of the 1952 district champion EXTENSION CHORDS, and John Morrow, a 16-year Barbershopper from Lombard, Illinois.

PTP shows again brighten Park Theater

Preservation Through Performance was the theme for three nights in July at the Park Theater as a talented group of performers put on variety shows to raise funds for theater restoration. Holland Chapter President Jack C. Oonk was director, writer, and master of ceremonies. The WINDMILL CHORUS performed and GOLD STANDARD did the train scene from "Music Man," but the shows ranged from opera to Elvis.

Quartets have had busy summer

Holland Chapter's quartets have been on the go. THE DUTCH MASTERS sang for the Grand Haven Community Picnic, did a coaching session for the WINDMILL CHORUS, and spent their annual weekend singing on Beaver Island. GOLD STANDARD, in addition to performing in the PTP shows, is the official quartet for grand openings of Arby's restaurants in West Michigan, having done eight so far. BLACK RIVER has had a number of performances and burnished its craft at both Harmony Round-Up and Harmony College.

Greeting Whale City Sound

The Holland contingent at the Kansas City convention, along with Dick Plaisted, our former president who now sings in Minneapolis, had a big hello for WHALE CITY SOUND, the chorus from Zaandam, Netherlands. We put on two shows with this chorus during our 1998 singing tour of the Netherlands.

Thanks to a bunch

The chapter honored Jack W. Oonk for being named Public Relations Officer of the Year for a single event at the International Convention. The chapter used the occasion to thank others who have helped with the Park Theater project. Receiving blue ribbons with paper PTP medals were Oonk, Myke Lucas, Don Lucas, Cal Verduin, and Bill McAndrew.

Motor City Metro

By Steve Ray

Motor City Metro took six weeks off this summer and joined forces with the DEARBORN SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL CHORUS. An annual community event, this year's chorus was comprised of 120 mixed

voices and sang Carl Orff's "Carmina Burana," all in Latin! Chapter members who participated had a great time, made some new friends, and proved that Barbershoppers can hang with the best of 'em, even in another language (quidam ibi vestiuntur!).



In return for our participation, FESTIVAL CHORUS's musical director, G. Kevin Dewy, allowed us to provide a Barbershop harmony demonstration at one of the rehearsals. Special thanks to our chapter coach, Dave Anderson, for helping us out. The demo was so well received that a chapter quartet was invited to sing at the afterglow following the performance at the Henry Ford Museum.

A special treat for us was teaching and singing tags out on the grounds of Greenfield Village to members of the Dutch *a cappella* group DAKOOR, who shared the stage with the FESTIVAL CHORUS.

After summer comes fall, which means district convention and chorus competition time. Look for us there.

Huron Valley

By Darrell Richmond

Things have really been cooking at Huron Valley lately. Since our May guest night, we have enlisted seven new members. One inactive member recently became active again. All new members have had previous singing experience, are good sight readers, and are quick learners.

The new members have worked hard to get up to speed on our repertoire, and most of them recently competed with us at the Buckeye Invitational in Columbus, Ohio. We had 36 men on the risers there! It was a great learning experience.

A recent concert during the Saline Sidewalk Sale drew 25 HURON VALLEY HARMONIZERS on a Saturday. The "weather outside was frightful" as we were drenched in rain, but spirits remained high and we had a great time as we sang outdoors and inside several downtown establishments.

(Continued on page 28)

Chapters in Action

Huron Valley

(Continued from page 27)

A month earlier, we sang for the 10th anniversary of Saline's Mill Pond Manor retirement community at their family night dinner celebration. Over 35 of us crammed into the American Legion Hall there to ring chords that night.

Buckeye Invitational

I have fond memories of the chorus's participation in this year's Buckeye Invitational.

First comes to mind the coaching that John Hohl gave us before we left town and reinforced on Friday afternoon. It really brought out the emotion in me and the message of the songs. Never in my brief experience with the chorus has time spent on the risers and working so hard gone by so fast and been so much fun. Thanks very much for the experience, John.

The Friday night show was awesome! There couldn't have been a better opening. Leading off with the young men and women from Harmony Camp was a perfect way to start. The kids were simply great!

Later came our current SPEBSQSA quartet champions, PLATINUM. I know why they put these guys last on the program. Who could follow a group like that? What music machines those four guys are!

On Saturday morning, our unity breakfast with messages from coach John Hohl, our director, Lynne, and our assistant director, Paul, and our singing of "Friends" were all heartfelt. There was a little free time to see the main chorus competition that began with Kalamazoo Chapter's MALL CITY CHORUS directed by Gene Hanover. They performed very well!

Then it was on to another rehearsal and soon it was time to dress for our performance.

I felt a little tentative as we opened. But soon I was caught up in the message of the song. All too soon, it seemed, the curtains closed on us. I felt good about how things went.

I was somewhat disappointed by the news of our sixth-place finish, however, but as I got feedback from others, that disappointment soon passed.

Saturday night's show was again great. The SINGING BUCKEYES were very good! Their voices and their high-

stepping dance routine blew me away! We've got a way to go, guys.

Then there were quartets THE RITZ, BLUEGRASS STUDENT UNION, and PLATINUM. What a closing show! What a total experience!

If you ever compete at the Buckeye or just go there to feast on the festivities, you are in for a treat.

I can't close without mentioning that our show "Side by Side" will be held on Saturday, November 4.

Detroit-Oakland

By Tom Uicker

Summertime has come to a close, and it was a busy season for Detroit-Oakland. After two successful performances in July, we ran a series of guest nights in August. We now have three new members and two reinstated members. It's not a big jump, but it's a beginning.

We are working through new songs for our show next February as well as songs for contest this fall. We have ordered new uniforms that we are hoping to have ready for fall contest. The building energy has brought back another couple of members who had found other things of interest in recent years. We have yet to discover if we can sustain this newfound energy and focus it on our future performances.

Let me take this time to remind you of Canada Night on the first Friday in November. It is one of only two remaining "first Fridays" that were celebrated in times past. (The other one is the Return of the Jug on the first Friday in June.) We want to invite all Detroit-area Barbershoppers, especially the Windsor Chapter, as well as any other chapters that would like to make the trip. We are planning to hold the party at the VFW Hall at Inkster and Schoolcraft in Livonia.

Unlike Jug Night, this party has remained a traditional "stag" event although we do want to encourage you female chorus directors to attend. We like to spice up the entertainment by making it a mini-chorus contest. A mini-chorus is from 10 to 16 singers, all from the same chapter, with or without a director. The prize for the winning chorus is the "Old Oakland Bucket" traveling trophy. Last year's winner was THE OCCIDENTAL FLAMENCO BEACH RESORT from Grosse Pointe. As the details become firm, we will post information on the PioNet, and we will have fliers posted at the fall convention.

Keep in mind our annual show next February. Featured quartets are BANK STREET and FREE STYLE, 7th

and 12th place, respectively, on the International stage.

Good luck to all the competing quartets and choruses in the fall district competition. The GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS will be there with you. And, if you have time some Monday night, stop by Starr Presbyterian Church on the corner of Crooks Road and 13 Mile in Royal Oak. We would love to sing one with you.

Saginaw Bay

By Ralph Brown

Well, it was another busy summer for our chorus. We once again had the distinct pleasure of joining with the SWEET ADELINE CHORUS on stage at the Wenonah Park Shell in downtown Bay City. Every year it gets bigger and better. In addition to the choruses, we featured a new quartet: Paul Ward (lead), Pat Morand (bass), Frank Bateson (tenor), and Martin Musolf (bari). The unique thing about this year's performance is that Nan Wardin of MOTOR CITY MIX quartet fame is the director for both choruses. I think you would almost



have to be an octopus to direct eight separate parts at one time — no small task.

Almost all of our “gigs” were out of doors. We sang at the ‘tridge’ in Midland on a windy afternoon. You all know how difficult it is to sing into the wind with little or no sound system. The crowd was polite and considerate. It's a good thing they could lip read or we probably wouldn't have received any applause.

Our most memorable outing was at the Midland Fair Grounds for about 6,000 bikers. The grandstand was packed and it stopped raining moments before we were to start. As the photo indicates, we were on a portable stage with just enough room for Nan to stand and direct. One step back and she would have been up to her ankles in mud three feet below us. The sound system was two mikes on folding chairs and speakers sitting on the floor. “Did you ever have one of those days, boys, did you ever have one of those days?” The spectacular ending for the day was when one of our

tenors, Josh Biggs, was asked to sing the “Star Spangled Banner.” As he got underway, the 6,000 bikers in front of him started singing along with our chorus singing behind him. He said it was “awesome.”

This past Labor Day weekend, we made our annual trek up to Harrisville for Harmony Weekend. It turned out to be a very nice day with lots of fine singing and camaraderie with fellow and lady Barbershoppers as well as some of the local gentry. The sound was improved by at least 100 percent since they hired a sound company. You all know how hard singing out of doors can be!

Just one final note. We brought back the trophy for the highest percentage of chapter folks present at 66 percent.

We hope to see a great turnout for contest in Battle Creek.

Grosse Pointe

Nick Piccione

Looking back for a moment at some of our most successful summer activities, the chorus family picnic was particularly well attended. But why not? The Grosse Pointe Farms Park on Lake St. Clair was beautiful and so was the weather, food, refreshments, and singing. Our thanks go to President Jim Grogan, Mike Proffit, Chuck Wingard, and all who helped.

We sent a particularly large contingent of approximately 23 members plus wives and guests to Harrisville this year. The fun weekend was accentuated by the fact that our own Johnny Wearing (intrepid performer and tenor extraordinaire) was master of ceremonies for the final show.

There are only three short weeks until opening day, September 23, of our annual show. We are working like crazy to have it ready on time. With great songs and another clever script from the mind of Russ Seely (believe it or not, this one actually takes place in a mental institution), it has become a labor of love.

The Grosse Pointe spotlight now falls on Frank Maranzano — carpenter, artist, and magician. With equal parts imagination and lumber, Frank has created the staging for our shows for many years. After such past interpretations as a ballpark, a revolving stage, and my personal favorite, that amazing sea-going vessel “The Good Ship Lollipop,” we can hardly wait to see what Frank comes up with this time. A member of the GOOD NEWS GOSPEL SINGERS, past Barbershopper of

(Continued on page 30)

Chapters in Action

Grosse Pointe

(Continued from page 29)

the Year, and a resounding bass, Frank is, indeed, an asset to our chorus.

Finally, when considering the venue Russ has chosen for this year's show, I wonder:

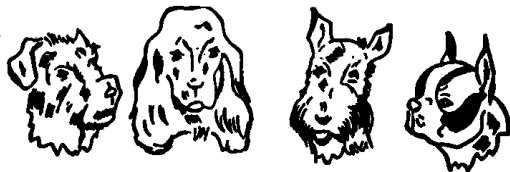
It may not be so detrimental,

We're all in an institute mental.

The laughs we maintain

Make us seem not so sane,

Metbinks it's not just accidental. ■



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JOEL

MARK

Fall Convention Schedule (tentative)

FRIDAY, Oct. 20

9:00 a.m. - District board meeting, McCamly Plaza Hotel.

11:00 a.m. - Registration begins, McCamly Plaza Hotel lobby.

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

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

2:00 p.m. - Ladies Hospitality Room opens, McCamly Plaza Hotel. To 5:00 p.m.

6:15 p.m. - Registration moves from hotel to W. K. Kellogg Auditorium.

7:30 p.m. - Quartet competition semi-finals, W. K. Kellogg Auditorium.

Half hour after competition - Pioneer Quartet Champions Association show, \$5.00 admission, McCamly Plaza.

SATURDAY, Oct. 21

7:00 a.m. - Chapter Presidents' Breakfast, Porter's Steak House, McCamly Plaza Hotel.

9:00 a.m. - Registration continues, McCamly Plaza Hotel lobby.

9:00 a.m. - Ladies Hospitality Room. To 11:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m. - Joe Barbershop Chorus rehearsal, gym at W. K. Kellogg Auditorium.

10:45 a.m. - Registration moves from hotel to W. K. Kellogg Auditorium.

Noon - Chorus international prelims, W. K. Kellogg Auditorium.

Half hour after competition - Mass sing, McCamly Place

After competition - Ladies Hospitality Room. To 4:30 p.m.

7:30 p.m. - Quartet competition finals, W. K. Kellogg Auditorium.

After competition - Hospitality rooms at McCamly Plaza and other hotels.

SUNDAY, Oct. 22

9:00 a.m. - Gospel service, McCamly Plaza Hotel.

It's Michigan ... again!

By Joan Kienitz
Marketing/Membership Coordinator
Border Lakes Region #2
Sweet Adelines International

The winner is ... SANDSTONE ... applause for another Michigan Young Women in Harmony International winner! With the help and encouragement of the Sweet Adelines and the Pioneer District Barbershoppers, we have produced another Rising Star Contest winner.

SANDSTONE, from Richmond High School in Richmond, Michigan, took the honors at the International Rising Star Contest on July 21 in San Antonio, Texas. They had won the Region #2 YWIH Four-Star Harmony Quartet Contest in January, and were given financial help to get them to San Antonio.

Members of SANDSTONE are tenor Grace Schmidt, baritone Erin Willard, lead Calista Conner, and bass Colleen Riley. For those of you who know Tom Conner, lead of quartet RESOLUTION, he is the uncle of Calista. Uncle Tom was one of the first to be called with the good news after the quartet had placed the highest out of 18 quartets.

Last year's winner, DAZZLING DIAMONDS from Grand Ledge, Michigan, had competed in the first Lansing Chapter's quartet contest for young men and women. Their teacher was Jamie Carey and their coaches were Ken and Vicki Gibson.

SANDSTONE'S music teacher, Judie Sharpe, is also a member of EAST POINTE CHORUS in Region #2. She is an outstanding teacher and has included Barbershop music in her curriculum. My husband, Fred, and I attended her spring concert and watched as she worked her magic with her groups.



Rising Star Contest winner SANDSTONE: (from left) tenor Grace Schmidt, bari Erin Willard, lead Calista Conner, and bass Colleen Riley.

To attract more boys into her music program, she invited Tom's quartet to sing with SANDSTONE during the concert.

Marianne Marchand, Region #2 YWIH coordinator; Diane Catellane, director of EAST POINTE CHORUS; Linda Liddicoat, Region #2 directors' coordinator; and Sylvia Alsbury, SAI International music & showmanship judge from Tucson, Arizona, helped coach the girls.

SANDSTONE will be guest of honor and perform at the Sweet Adelines International Convention in Orlando, Florida, in September.

Hooray for Michigan Barbershop singers! Let's keep promoting and sharing this wonderful hobby of ours with our young people. ■

Gitche Gumees (Continued from page 20)

family entourage arrived on Sunday.

To his complete shock and amazement, we all sneaked up to his cabin door and sang "Hi, Neighbor" shortly after their arrival. He had absolutely no idea we were there.

Drayton currently sings "on the front row" with Atlanta. He says he had to audition for a front-row spot and won it fair and square.

The rest of the week was filled with singing and catching pike bigger than most of us.

The best part of each day was the shore lunches of freshly caught walleye and pike on "Eatin' Rock," meticulously prepared by Len over an open fire.

Wednesday evening, we put on our annual performance in the activities building for the locals who could get there by boat or by walking the tracks. Drayton sang "On the Front Row" and performed in one of the five quartets.

A special, very expensive prize for the biggest fish hooked, but not landed, went to Bill. John, who was fishing with Bill, frantically told him to cut it loose when he saw that the head of the pike was as large across as the net opening!

We must place credit where credit is due. If it were not for the tireless efforts of John year after year, this absolutely memorable event would not take place.

But most of all, if it were not for his morning and nightly culinary skills, the entire group would have come home completely malnourished and in need of medical attention.

Thanks, John. You did it once again. ■

... New edit #10

My boss said to leave an emergency phone number when I went on vacation. I left 911.

The other day I went to a bookstore to buy a dictionary. The clerk sold me a really cheap one. I couldn't find the words to thank him.

Money is what you use when you max out your credit cards.

It's the 98 percent of lawyers that give the rest a bad name.

One evening at story time, a little girl asked her father: "Daddy, do all fairy tales begin with 'Once upon a time?'"

"No, honey," replied her father. "Many begin with, 'If elected, I promise to ...'"

Wayne Chapter, SPEBSQSA, Inc.
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*"Barbershopping cannot be described,
only experienced."*

Earl Moon

Upcoming Events

2000

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

Oct. 20-22 - Pioneer District Fall Convention in Battle Creek. Hosted by Traverse City Chapter.

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

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

Nov. 4 - Huron Valley Show. Contact Delruss Wolff: 734-461-9884

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

Dec. 8-10 - Grand Rapids Show.

2001

Jan. 21-28 - SPEBSQSA Midwinter Convention, Jacksonville, Florida

Feb. 3 - Macomb County Show.

Feb. 16-17 - Detroit-Oakland Show. Contact Tom Uicker: 248-559-7082

March 3 - Kalamazoo Show.

March 3 - Lansing Show.

March 10 - Kalamazoo Show.

Apr. 27-29 - Pioneer District Spring Convention.

May 18 - Holland Show.

June 3-July 2 - SING! An a cappella celebration in Nashville, Tenn.

July 3-8 - SPEBSQSA International Convention, "2001 - A Barbershop Odyssey" in Nashville, Tenn.

Oct. 19-21 - Pioneer District Fall Convention in Battle Creek.

Oct. 27 - Pontiac-Waterford Show

Oct. 27 - Rochester Show.

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

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

Enroll in Music Premiere

For \$11.95, you receive 12 arrangements — six in November and six in May. A cassette with each song performed is also included.

The November release includes "Tie Me to Your Apron Strings Again," "Everybody Loves a Lover," "That's the Glory of Love," "Sweet Georgia Brown," and "Fortune in Dreams."

To enroll, call Harmony Marketplace at 800-876-7464 x-8410.