

Singing Valentines	3
Get Northern Michigan singing	6
The SPEBSQSA Charitable Mission	7
Marquis hangs up pitchpipe	17
Harmony Round-Up	18
Dapper Dans truly a show to see	22
How I got hooked	24
Spring convention preview	26

# Chorus Coaching Clinic a hit!

**O**n Saturday, February 24, 2001, three well-known Barbershop coaches came to Lansing to help nine choruses raise their level of singing and performing in the Pioneer District's first Chorus Coaching Clinic.

"It was an unqualified success," said Acting Administrator Al Bonney. "We asked each chorus participant to fill out an evaluation sheet after the sessions. The positive responses were almost unanimous in their praise of the program. Nearly all of them recommended that we hold these sessions on a yearly basis — some suggested that we hold them two or three times each year.

"I'm always amazed at the energy level and the willingness to work hard by the participants and coaches," Al added. "Everyone worked their fannies off and enjoyed doing it."

Saginaw-Bay Chapter's Chris Carland said, "It was a great learning experience. I know my chorus has improved as a result."

"It definitely reinforced what we and our directors have been working on," said Kalamazoo's Raleigh Bloch. "We also picked up some additional ideas that will certainly help our chorus."

The idea for the clinic came out of a discussion of contest judges and district officers following last

fall's Pioneer District chorus competition. Singing Judge Ken Buckner noted that the choruses had many fine singers and, with a little coaching, could improve their contest scores measurably.

"As district music & performance VP, this project fell into my lap and we decided to go with it," said Dan Bezaire. Dan then secured Brian Barford, Ken Buckner, and Adam Woods as coaches.

Brian has been a member of the SOUTHERN GATEWAY CHORUS in Cincinnati since 1973, spending most of those years as assistant director. He is a certified singing judge and has been in several quartets, notably BANDWAGON, which went to International a few times. Brian has coached numerous quartets and choruses, including several district champions.

Ken joined the Society in 1962. He has sung with the LOUISVILLE THOROUGHBREDS in all seven of their International championships and directed them to a third-place finish in 1987. He sang with the

CITATIONS quartet in 10 International competitions, placing as high as seventh in 1972. Ken is currently district VP for events in the Cardinal District and is chairman of the Society Events Committee.

Adam is a third-generation Barbershopper, joining the Society at age 12 after hearing four young guys from the Pioneer District —



**Coach Ken Buckner (right) gives valuable ideas to members of the LIGHTHOUSE CHORUS to improve their performance.**

THE IVY LEAGUE — impress him with their "energy and cool music."

Adam joined the NEW TRADITION CHORUS at 18 and became Illinois District VP of chapter development at 21. He has served as Northbrook Chapter's presentation

*(Continued on page 21)*



# Pioneer Troubadour

Official publication of the Pioneer District,  
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Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc.



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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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# Singing Valentines



*Many of our Pioneer District chapters participated in Singing Valentines. Here are a few of their stories.*

## Grand Rapids Chapter

**By Singing Valentines Chairman Dan Casamatta**

The Grand Rapids Chapter delivered more than 200 Singing Valentines over a four-day period, most on Valentine's Day itself. We sang in schools, nursing homes, businesses, and private homes. Ironman Jack Schneider took orders for a number of weeks from two continuously ringing telephones at his house, especially in the last week. His wife, Jean, should be awarded a medal and quieter telephone ringers.

Most importantly, we had eight quartets out on Valentine's Day ... 32 guys who had the pleasure of spreading Barbershop harmony throughout the Grand Rapids area.

My quartet, FOOLS' GOLD (with district champ tenor Pete Westers substituting for Bill Mousel who was teaching his fifth-grade class that day) enjoyed a whirlwind day singing in downtown Grand Rapids itself and, by the end of the day, delivered 23 Singing Valentines. However, the highlight for the quartet was the last valentine we delivered.

We sang to a man named Clyde (clearly in his eighties) ... both for Valentine's Day and for his fifth wedding anniversary. His beautiful white-haired wife Emma, also in her eighties, had ordered Clyde's third Singing Valentine in four years, and stood holding his hand while the quartet sang. Clyde brushed back a tear after "Let Me Call You Sweetheart" and, during "Heart of My Heart," mouthed the words "It would be" to Emma when the quartet sang "Life would be naught without you."

Before we left, Emma showed us a picture taken at their wedding five years earlier, showing seven grown children on her side and seven grown children on his side. Emma said that both of their spouses had passed away, but that the families had been friends for some time before. The most gratifying thing for the quartet was that Clyde said he was a musician who played guitar in a big band and that he loved our harmonies and especially our modulations. Tell that to the judges!

Oh yeah, the rest of the community has a better

idea that we're around, too. We sang on numerous radio stations, got coverage on many more, had a TV crew follow us around for an evening news broadcast, appeared on the local CNN station, and had a number of articles in local newspapers including a front page article with photos in the *Grand Rapids Press* on Valentine's Day itself.

While we're all worn out and have tired voices, I think we all secretly look forward to singing again next year, just to see a little bit of tears and lots of smiles.



**A Singing Valentines quartet from the Huron Valley Chapter gives Stephanie Ruiter's pre-school class their first lesson in Barbershop harmony.**

## Saginaw Bay Chapter

**By Bob Winters**

Three HARBOR SOUNDS CHORUS quartets delivered a total of 40 Singing Valentines and, while all of them were memorable, one really stood out.

A quartet composed of Josh Biggs (tenor), Dave Deming (lead), Randy Meldrum (bari), and Bob Deming (bass) took a break from delivering valentines, roses, and personalized cards in order to have lunch. They went to a local pub in Bay City known for its great burgers and, of course, they were noticed because of their bright red vests and red bow ties.

Some patrons asked the quartet to sing a song for the waitress and, three songs later, a guy at the bar called them over and asked if they would deliver a valentine to his grandmother who was recovering

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Singing Valentines

(Continued from page 3)

from an illness. As the guys were taking the order, another man came up to them and asked if they could deliver a valentine right then. The guys looked at their schedule and, after checking with headquarters, decided they could do it.

They followed the young man (Harvey) to a nearby address and an attractive young woman let them all in. As the quartet sang "Let Me Call You Sweetheart," the young man dropped to his knees and pulled out a box with a diamond ring and proposed to his girl (Victoria) right on the spot. He hadn't told the quartet this was going to happen, so they were as surprised as she was.

Harvey had planned to propose to Victoria on Valentine's Day, but hadn't figured out how to do it dramatically. The quartet "answered his prayers" and Victoria was overwhelmed. She did manage to get out a teary-eyed "yes."

The quartet delivered 15 other valentines that day, but this is the one they will always remember. Unfortunately, no camera was available. We're hoping that we get asked to sing at the wedding!

### Wayne Chapter

By Music & Performance VP Mark Pritchard

Emily is a woman at our main plant in Illinois whom I have spoken to for many years while working for my company, Miller Fluid Power.

During one of our occasional non-work conversations (Don't tell my boss!), I shared my affection for Barbershop singing with Emily, and she told me that she is a big fan! It turned out she had attended many shows put on by THE NEW TRADITION CHORUS and enjoyed them greatly. To boot, her daughter was in a Sweet Ads chapter and sang in a quartet herself!

Well, I kind of forgot about my conversation with her, and then one day while I was working away in my office (well, I LOOKED busy, anyway), a gent from shipping laid a small package on my desk. I opened it up and, to my surprise and delight, it was a tape of a Christmas show put on by the NEW TRADITION CHORUS!

I have gotten a lot of listening pleasure from that

tape and it has always been in the back of my mind that I ought to reciprocate (in some sort of Barber-shop fashion, of course).

Well, as we prepared to make our calls early valentines week, it occurred to me that there was no reason I couldn't phone in a Singing Valentine! So, during a lull in the schedule, our quartet slipped over to my office and placed a call to the 800 number in the Bensenville, Illinois, plant.

Emily was at lunch, but with co-operation from other employees in her office, we were finally able to get her on the phone.

She was somewhat shocked, to say the least, and sounded quite appreciative afterward, but I wasn't quite sure how it was received. The following is an e-mail response I received:

Her subject line read: *The Beautiful Surprise*

"Hi Mark,

I sure was thrilled with the song you and your quartet sang over the phone for me. It sure sounded good. I am still smiling. And it's 1:30 in the afternoon. Not too many really pleasant things happen at work; this one was among the best things that ever happened to me. Thanks ever so much. Emily"

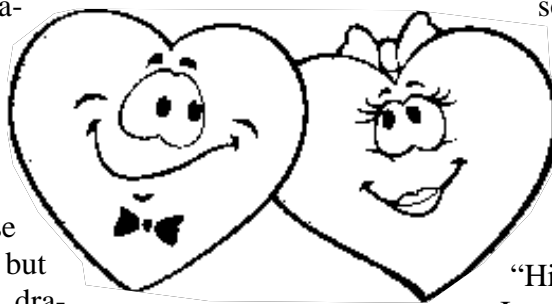
### Grosse Pointe Chapter

By John Wade

Valentine's Day turned into a two-day celebration at the Grosse Pointe Chapter as our first quartet of Steve Pauling, Hank DeMars, Mike Sullivan, and Paul Calhoun surprised a woman swimming referee at the East Detroit swimming pool at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday. Preceding that valentine, a quartet of Jim Kinner, Neil Hampton, Don McCoy, and Jack Nathan sang to a HAVC employee doing work at the Clintondale High School and another lucky soul out in their territory, so that by the time our regular meeting began on Tuesday night, we had three valentines already completed, with glowing reports from those involved!

That initiation was followed by a busy day on Valentine's Day as IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD sang 14 valentines, the SILVERDOMES sang eight, and a quartet of Gordy Dubrul, Howard Masters, Doug Wheeler, and Frank Maranzano sang four.

Each group carried a red silk rose, a small bag of



candy hearts, a beautiful calligraphic personal valentine (thanks to Barb Grogan), and a song from the heart! One valentine was delivered by Al Cole, Mike Proffitt, Tom Smeltzer, and Jim Grogan to two painters painting a client's house in Grosse Pointe Park.

Another valentine client saw four guys in new red coats and called his wife to tell her that "the carpet guys are here!" And at an inner-city beauty salon, the SILVERDOMES was compared favorably to THE FOUR TOPS.

The true value of the day was to see if we could do what we advertised we could do — exposing chapter quartets to live, "on demand" performances and creating another opportunity to promote this great hobby of ours in its true format — The Barbershop Quartet!

We left some people "OUT" along the way, some inadvertently, but we learned a great deal about ourselves. If we are going to be an awe-inspiring chorus, we are no better or no worse than our weakest link! Good quartet singing will make a chorus sound so much better because each person must "carry, carry your part."

We also learned how to go about the process of setting up an event like this. That experience will be recorded and put into the plans for the next valentine day chairman so that he will have a track to run on.

Above all, Singing Valentines is a quick method of creating public awareness of the chapter in the community. Let's do it again next year!

## Lansing Chapter

By Doug Pearson

It was 7:30 a.m. There were lingering shades of darkness plus rain mixed with snow. Outlined against Lansing's cold, gray February sky, the four PATCH CHORDS rode into a milestone Barbershop day filled with high anticipation of spreading valentines' love and happiness through four-part harmony.

If you grab the concept of making people happy, then Singing Valentines offers the perfect prescription — a simple prescription at that. For us, "Let Me Call You Sweetheart" and "Caroline" filled the bill. Oh, and we replaced the word "Caroline" with "Valentine" and it seemed to work. On occasion we also threw in "Book of Love" and a few other upbeat songs to help the mood of the moment.

Armed with trusty map and address list, we crisscrossed a wide swath, sometimes in a fairly frenzied dash, to meet requested deadlines.

Just a few highlights of our day:

- Singing for Bill and Mary Chapman, both in their 70s, Bill on a kidney dialysis regimen 4 to 5 hours a day. A former Lansing chapter member and quatter, Bill wanted to — and was able to — sing "Down Our Way" with us.
- Watching the expressions of four- and five-year-old kids gathered around their teachers at a Montessori school, and a fourth-grader proudly dedicating a Singing Valentine to his teacher.
- Becoming part of two high-level executive sessions at Lansing Community College and at the Department of Agriculture as we proved through song that the heart can be equally as mighty as any business meeting.
- Through our valentine songs, being the messenger of love to several newly engaged couples.



Singing to three honored Montessori teachers (foreground) are the PATCH CHORDS. (From left) Larry Best, Doug Pearson, Rich Harlow, and Roger Cahaney. Listening attentively are a number of future Barbershoppers.

Singing Valentines? It's a stimulant. It's a "fix" for us. We were keyed for the moment.

Almost before it started, it was over. Thirteen hours, 19 gigs put on fast forward.

Like past Februarys, four guys in tuxes helped deliver a very special message of love. We were witness to the gamut of emotions from surprise and laughter to misty eyes and even a tear or two.

Taking a break from the routine of everyday life, we opened our hearts and in the process tugged on a few heartstrings.

All in all, not a bad way to spend a cold, gray February day. ■

# Get Northern Michigan singing ... again!

By Al Bonney, VP of YMIH

In 1995, the Music Educators National Conference, a professional association of over 65,000 music teachers, joined with the Barbershop Harmony Society (SPEBSQSA) and representatives of other musical organizations to discuss singing in America. They decided to launch a campaign to "Get America Singing ... Again!" The campaign had two main objectives:

- To establish a common song repertoire that Americans of all ages know and can sing
- To promote community singing

In 1996, MENC published the first edition of the "Get America Singing ... Again!" song book containing 40 songs aimed at the two stated objectives,

In early 2000, the Traverse City Chapter learned of this project and decided to embrace it in addition to its support of educational programs for speech and hearing disabled children. For years, the CHERRY CAPITAL CHORUS has conducted an active Young Men In Harmony Program with the goal of increasing the number of young men singing in school vocal music programs because the Society states that our vision is to *"lead the cause of encouraging vocal music in our schools and communities."*

Support of vocal music programs in elementary schools will build singing confidence in the children. Additionally, the elementary programs are the "farm teams" for the music programs in the upper grades. The more joy the children experience from hearing

their voices along with others early in their education, the greater chance they might choose choir over other activities in the upper grades ... and all of this leads to more singing in the communities.

As a result of a generous grant from the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation, the Traverse City Chapter purchased 1,300 "Get America Singing ... Again!" song books and delivered them to 32 elementary schools in the five-county area prior to the Christmas holiday break.

The participating music teachers selected six songs from the book to teach the children between January and May. Additionally, during this time, THE THIRD COAST, a Traverse City Chapter quartet, presented musical programs to any of the 32 schools that wanted them. By March 1, the quartet had sung to over 8,000 children in 18 schools. These programs had several objectives:

- To show support for the new songs
- To bear witness to the fun men can have while singing close harmony
- To expose the children to the excitement of Barbershop singing
- To promote the capstone event in the overall program — Finale!

Thanks to a grant from Harmony Foundation, the CHERRY CAPITAL CHORUS can sponsor two programs for nearly 2,000 participating students to sing their six songs all together. Called Finale!, this exciting program will take place on May 15 at a theatre in Traverse City. The CHERRY CAPITAL CHO-

RUS, selected high school vocal groups, and some chapter quartets will also perform for the children at this event. The grant will not only enable the event venue, but will also pay for buses to bring the students to the program — a vital element in the program's success because of reduced funds available to the music teachers.

This project addresses two basic music education needs.

First, students are leaving the sixth grade without knowing many of the standard American songs that are part of our national heritage.

Second, through successive budget cuts, general music programs in most elementary schools have been reduced and can afford only limited vocal music skills as part of their programs. One of the results is that the upper schools' vocal music programs suffer — especially among the male population — because the children bring neither experience nor skills from their elementary education and subsequently elect other activities in junior and high school.

Another result is that many children leave sixth grade never having experienced the joy of hearing their own voice within a vocal ensemble.

The project has several key educational objectives:

- Support the teacher's initiative to create a body of standard American songs that students leaving the sixth grades know and can sing together. (Traverse City school's teachers had already identified this issue as one

*(Continued on page 15)*

## A View From The Top

### Don Bazely, President

# Operation Bootstrap

Continuing the theme for the year 2001, here is what I am requesting from each Pioneer chapter president: I would like you to send me a list of three goals of what you and your chapter are going to do to enhance your Barbershop life for 2001.



Don Bazely

The three items should be based on improving (1) membership, (2) singing, and (3) an item of your choosing.

The third item will vary from chapter to chapter because each Pioneer chapter is unique. The third item could run the gamut from entering competition to sending your people to Harmony Round-Up to using Standing Ovation.

The field is huge and I would like to see some thought going into this. I know, I know, the year is half over, but the optimist would say, "Hey! We've still got six months to go!"

To set a target date, let's say that I would like to see your submissions on or before May 15,

2001. If you have already done something other than just survive, include that item. Make your goals attainable. E-mail me at <donbaz@sympatico.ca> or send me snail mail. My address is on page 2. Identify your chapter and who your correspondent is.

Actually, nine (29 percent) of our chapters have already taken a major step in implementing OPERATION BOOTSTRAP. They participated in our recent Chorus Coaching Clinic.

Was it worth it? Why don't you ask one of them?

The district owes a debt of gratitude to Dan Bezaire, Al Bonney, and Larry Parker, who organized and ran the event. We also send sincere thanks to the three terrific coaches who so unselfishly gave of their time.

Will there be other, similar events? I hope so. I believe so.

Let me reiterate: The district Board and the Society can only provide the opportunities for each chapter and each individual member to get more out of this terrific lifestyle that we call Barbershop-ping. Whether you do or not is up to you. It is a shame to pass up any of the opportunities. ■

## The SPEBSQSA Charitable Mission

On November 4, 2000, the SPEBSQSA Board of Directors made a very positive step in solidifying the Society's Charitable Mission. This was done by approving nine recommendations offered by the Charitable Mission Task Force, composed of five members — two Society past presidents, two district past presidents, and a Society past board member. The task force members were Jim Eldridge, Tim Hanrahan, Bob House, John Krizek, and Dick Shaw.

The essence of the approved recommendations are:

- The SPEBSQSA Charitable Mission is an integral part of our organization's core purpose. It is an equal partner with our quest for improving singing and performing, nurturing fellowship, and increasing membership. The Charitable Mission is *to preserve our musical legacy through support of vocal music education in our schools and communities*. To provide unity and simplify the means of support for this Charitable Mission, Harmony Foundation is the Society's own charity. This essentially eliminates service projects as we have known them. All projects which fulfill the Charitable Mission may request support through a Harmony Foundation grant.
- It is extremely important to the overall image, reputation, and public appreciation of the Society that this Charitable Mission be supported on a Society-wide basis. It is a clear and compel-

*(Continued on page 12)*

**We sing ...**

*That they shall speak!*

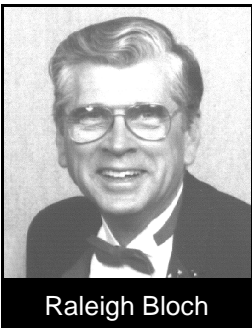
## Here's the Society Pitch

Raleigh Bloch, Society Board Member

# Mission Control: We have a problem!

For the last two months, LO'L, Dixie, and Pioneer districts have had membership growth.

*Wow! That's great! You call that a problem?*



Raleigh Bloch

Well, these are the only districts that had growth out of the 16 districts in the Society.

*I'll bet it's not a big change, though.*

It averages out to about one percent a month.

*I guess that is a problem. Any thought on what is going on?*

Well, let me tell you about a recent survey of chapters. Two out of four (that's 50 percent) don't have a membership goal or plans for a membership drive.

**MISSION CONTROL: WE HAVE A PROBLEM!**

*After all that has been said about membership?*

Yup.

*Wow, that's hard to believe.*

Does your chapter have a membership goal?

*You bet. We want to grow by 10 men.*

That's great. How are you going to do it?

*Ah, well, er, we haven't talked*

*about that.*

**MISSION CONTROL: WE HAVE A PROBLEM!**

Remember when NASA had a goal to go to the moon?

*Yes, and they made it!*

You see, it was a goal, not just a wish. A goal without any next steps or plans is just a wish and wishes just don't cut it. So NASA had to plan how they were going to accomplish this goal.

*Yeah, you're right. Then they had something to work with.*

That's right. You'll recall not everything went smoothly for NASA, but they stuck to their goal. They used a little saying, Plan – Do – Review, Plan – Do – Review, Plan – Do – Review.

*I think I got it. We establish a goal (10 new members for 2001). Then we PLAN, or put together, how we're going to accomplish this goal. (Like get some of the ideas from Member Services, make some assignments, establish some dates, etc.) Next we DO physical work in the plan. Once it's all over, we REVIEW how things went, right?*

Well, almost. It would be a good thing to REVIEW while we are in the DO part so we can adjust as we go along. That way we'll have a better chance of hitting our goal.

*Then we're done?*

Not quite. Whether we hit the goal or not, we want to REVIEW. If we didn't hit the goal, then we've got to start the process all over. If we did hit the goal, it's good to know what went right for future work.

It's not going to be easy, but do you think we can make this Society grow?

*It won't be easy, but if we use this "PLAN – DO – REVIEW" stuff, it will be easier. I'm headed for my chapter board 'cause we've got some work to do.*

Yeah, and based on the numbers, we all do.

**MISSION CONTROL: WE HAVE A PROBLEM.**

But we can do something about it. Will you?

*You bet!*

I thought you left.

*Well, I didn't.*

You always have to have the last word.

Yes.

Get out of here.

*I will.*

All right.

OK. ■

*Note: The monetary figures for the Pioneer District chapter charitable giving for the year 2000 were received too late from the Society to be included in this issue.*





## Here's the District Pitch

### Brian Dunckel, Member Services VP

## Chapter growth not accidental; it's a result of hard work

**H**ave you ever decided it was long past time that you tackle that home improvement project? If so, you probably didn't run out to the local Home Depot and pick up one of these, a couple of those, and a few of these, then return home to start.



Brian Dunckel

Most people would do a lot of thinking about what they would want the completed project to look like, and then plan to make it happen. They might also talk to others who had taken on a similar project, or read how-to books and study similar plans.

After much planning and deliberation and armed with a shopping list of materials, we can make an intelligent shopping trip to purchase the needed materials and then begin our task.

Sadly, many of our chapters are going about membership growth with no goals or plan of action — much like the shopper without a list of materials — just hoping to find some here and there. A goal can be as simple as we want “x new members” or “y-percent membership growth,” but the key is “it is in place to allow measurement against.”

It also serves as a constant reminder to the chapter of how they are doing. If a chapter sets six new members as its goal and by the end of June has only gotten two new members, it doesn't mean it has failed; merely that the chapter is a bit behind and needs to work harder for the rest of the year.

Successful do-it-yourselfers tackle jobs that are within their capabilities. Successful chapters in the area of membership growth must do the same. All of the Society's membership programs are rated in their degree of difficulty. Make sure your chapter chooses one that is within your abilities.

Like the do-it-yourselfer who talks to people with the needed know-how and reads books to learn more about the project, your chapter must consult with others as well to ensure that your chapter is as successful as it can be.

Talk to the membership experts on the Kenosha staff, talk to your Pioneer Membership Services Team, talk to other chapters and find out what has worked for them — all of these will give you the best chance possible to succeed.

You then must make sure that the entire chapter is involved. Membership growth is not the sole responsibility of your chapter's vice president for chapter development. He needs to be the driving

force behind the program, but must receive the full support of the board and every chapter member's help and involvement to ensure that it happens.

Get behind them and their efforts, offer to assist — don't sit back and say, “Let others do it,” because, sadly, that's what many Barbershoppers **are** doing!

Chapter growth is not an accident; it is the result of hard work — work that we all must do if we are to be, as our Society vision statement says, “an **ever-growing** fraternity of Barbershop singers.”

If not, then **nothing else matters!**

Be a pioneer in Pioneer, and help us set the example in terms of membership growth that others will follow, and remember: **if you're gonna dream ... dream BIG! ■**

### Pioneer not on WDVR-FM

**P**ioneer District quartets and choruses will not be heard on worldwide Web radio in the near future.

In the *Troubadour* and on Pionet, the district e-mail list, Barbershoppers were invited to send in CDs and tapes. They would be used on a special Pioneer night on the weekly “APPLAUSE” Barbershop show on WDVR-FM, which is heard throughout the world on the Web.

However, no CDs or tapes were received.

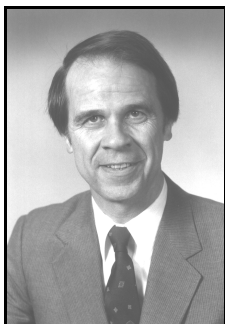
If sufficient interest is expressed sometime in the future, Battle Creek Barbershopper Jim Styer will make another attempt to coordinate a Pioneer night on the show.

## Public Relating

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

### Chapters turn Singing Valentines into some great district promotion

If you didn't participate in a Singing Valentines activity this year, you missed a great opportunity to promote your chapter, your district, and your Society. Take it from those of us who have delivered these singing love notes, it's a winning proposition.



Doug Pearson

- The recipient is happy (and those around the

recipient are happy).

- The quartet is happy for the warm reception it receives.
- The treasurer is happy when the receipts start rolling in.
- And very importantly, the media is happy to cover a new angle on the valentines

Take it from your columnist, a guy who did 19 gigs with his quartet on February 14: When you add the special attraction of a live quartet singing four-part harmony to songs that have lyrics of special love, the combination is practically unbeatable.

It's been my experience that Singing Valentines is one of the easiest programs to sell as a chapter. And a number of our Pioneer District chapters turned in blue ribbon efforts when it came to telling and selling the barbershop story through Valentines.

Let's get specific and start with our Grand Rapids Chapter. As they've done so many times, they seized the moment and turned it into a PR bonanza.

Briefly, the chapter had a quartet on WOOD-AM, a quartet on WRTV-FM, a quartet on WGVU-FM, a quartet on WLAV-FM, and a spokesman on WOOD-TV, plus paid ads on radio and a number of articles in local newspapers including a front-page article with photos in the *Grand Rapids Press* on Valentine's Day.

In addition, FOOLS' GOLD quartet had a local TV crew follow them around for an evening news broadcast and appeared on the local CNN station.

Our two daughters and their families live in the Grand Rapids area and when I asked them if they'd seen, read, or heard anything about the Singing Valentines program, they said, "Have we! We couldn't get away from it even if we wanted to!" Indeed, that was music to my ears.

In total, the Grand Rapids Chapter delivered some 200 Singing Valentines over a four-day period, and had eight quartets out on Valentine's Day.

Meanwhile, the LIVINGSTON LAMPLIGHTERS, a chorus of 23 members, fielded three quartets (more than half of their chorus) to serenade with Singing Valentines. Livingston's local newspaper, the

*Argus*, featured one of these quartets on the front page, headlining the valentines efforts of the chapter.

Back west in Kalamazoo, the MALL CITY CHORUS did a first-class public relations job. On its noon news, Kalamazoo WWMT (Channel 3) aired a one-minute segment of a quartet singing to a woman at work, then giving her roses and a card with appropriate promotional commentary. The chapter did on-the-air Singing Valentines promos on WKMI, WKZO, and WMUK. Ads were run in the *Kalamazoo Gazette* and commercials on WKZO. "Media response was great," said chapter PR Officer Alex Boltenko.

On the east side of the state, Grosse Pointe Chapter's SILVERDOMES was featured on the metro front page of the *Detroit Free Press*. A photo showed the quartet singing to a waiting room full of people at the CHASS Health Center in Detroit after serenading employee Christine Milewski.

The story quoted quartet member John Wade: "Here we're putting someone in the limelight, and we get to see their reaction. It's been just great."

From a communityrelations standpoint, our own PATCH CHORDS quartet spread the Barber-shop message from high-level executive sessions at Lansing Community College and the Department of Agriculture to four- and five-year-old kids gathered around their teachers at a Montessori school.

Singing Valentines: a message personalized far beyond what mere words on a card can convey. A good public relations opportunity? You bet! ■

## Chapter Coaching

**Doran McTaggart,** Chapter Support/Leadership VP

# Early chapter planning key to successful year

### MUSICAL PERFORMANCES

What good is practising songs over and over each week if there is no



Doran McTaggart

performance somewhere along the way? All that learning, rehearsing, and polishing our repertoire must lead to one end — a performance.

The annual show is a perfect time to put your best foot forward. Your friends and relatives can enthusiastically applaud your efforts and at the same time add to the chapter treasury.

Another good way to enjoy singing in your community is promoting a "package show." Local organizations can hire you to put on a mini-show for them. They sell the tickets, do the publicity, and take all the risk. You perform, enjoy the applause, say "thank you," and cash your check. What a win-win situation!

Each year, our district provides you with two opportunities not only to perform, but also to receive an honest evaluation of your work. Our spring and fall conventions offer the chorus contest as an opportunity to show the rest of the

district what you can do and how much you've improved.

### MUSIC EDUCATION

Your individual chapter members, quartets, chorus, and music team would be wise to consider the fine musical experiences that are offered throughout the year.

Harmony Round-Up in May is for everyone — directors, quartets, and Joe Barbershopper.

The Chorus Director Workshop Incentive (CDWI) has been held in all areas of the district. Frontline directors can hone their skills and gain confidence to deliver a good musical program at the chapter level.

A Chorus Coaching Clinic (CCC) was held in Lansing in February. Nine chapters benefited from this experience. Perhaps another opportunity will be available in the fall so other chapters can participate.

Harmony College is open to everyone. Over 700 Barbershoppers spend a full week in a state of euphoria. This is Barbershop heaven right here on earth.

### INTERCHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Interchapter activities offer many wonderful opportunities to meet singers from other chapters. There are some great singers and super individuals out there. You might

even find a fourth for your quartet. Plan to attend special events like Canada Night at Detroit-Oakland, Uncle Sam Night in Windsor, Kwazy Kwartet Kontest at Macomb County, Pontiac-Waterford Woodshed Contest, and the Bush League Contest in Gaylord, to name a few.

Special nights like the Return of the Jug to Detroit-Oakland and the Pioneer District Send-Off Show in Windsor provide funds for our quartet and chorus representatives to the International convention.

Octet contests, comedy quartet contests, mini-chorus, and VLQ contests all help to make our Society membership more enjoyable. Your chapter coach can help you keep track of the many great things that are happening in our Barbershop world. When was the last time you asked him to attend your chapter or board meeting?

Give him a call and make use of his expertise. You'll be glad you did. ■

## WOW!

I just got home from another fantastic Barbershop weekend, the MAD convention! It never ceases to amaze me that more Barbershoppers do not attend these conventions. Perhaps they believe they need to be a competitor. I don't know.

Where else can you get to hear our best quartets, meet old and new friends, and harmonize together to the wee hours of the morning.

Take the time and have a ball at a contest near you. You will have the time of your life!

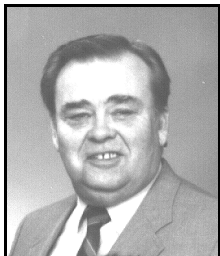
**Frank Walton, President**  
**Mahanoy City (Penn.) Chapter**

## Take Note

**Fred Kienitz**, Chorus Director Development VP

# Directors' College scholarships available

I have received several requests for information on how to apply for a scholarship to the Directors' College in St. Joseph, Mo., this coming July.



Fred Kienitz

I am including this article in the *Troubadour* in order to get this information into your hands and also to remind you of

the district Board's decision to fund two scholarships of \$450.00 each to two Pioneer directors who apply for a scholarship.

To be eligible, you must write or e-mail me of your desire to be included in this drawing. You must currently be a frontline director or be in the process of taking over as a chapter chorus director.

The amount stated above will cover only your tuition and room and board for the week of Harmony College. Travel expenses to and from the college will be your responsibility.

Now, I might add that the fact that you are going to become more astute as a director through this experience means your chapter might well consider contributing toward the additional expenses you will incur.

To be eligible for one of these scholarships, simply send me a

card stating you would like your name placed in the "pot." Two lucky names will be drawn; these two will be eligible to have their tuition paid at the 2001 Harmony College.

This drawing will take place at the Pioneer Board Meeting in Battle Creek on April 27.

Now, for some additional news in the same vein.

International has decreed that they will offer 25 scholarships to people enrolling at Harmony College as a student in the Chorus Director classes at the same school.

The bad news is that it is open to all Society members and not just Pioneer people. Also, only first-time Harmony College students will be eligible. I will be sending a personal letter to all known Pioneer directors and will include directions on how to apply for one of these scholarships.

Each applicant will be required to submit his or her name to be eligible for one of 25 scholarships being offered. Contact:

**Jerry Knickerbocker**

**515 West Elm St.**

**Titusville, PA 16354-1424**

or e-mail: <jerrykn@csonline.net>.

You may very well get my letter before you get this edition, but either way you will know what to do. ■

## Charitable Mission (Continued from page 7)

ling cause that ties together our educational and charitable purposes.

- Chapters are encouraged to seek causes which support the chapter's and Society's vision and mission statements, including support for local charitable activities. A balance of chapters supporting the Charitable Mission Statement in their local area and the national projects through Harmony Foundation will provide the local and organizational goals and recognition.
- To focus the Society's charitable support on its Vision Statement and Charitable Mission Statement and in consideration of government and societal changes during the past 30 years, charitable support of Heartspring is to be focused on research and education linking vocal music to the treatment or improvement of multiple mental and physical disabilities in children.
- The maintenance of the Society's Archives is a vital part of the Society's past, present, and future. Therefore, the cost of the daily operation of the Archives and its staffing will be part of the Society's annual work plan and budget. Special archival outreach projects, however, may be funded by Harmony Foundation grants.
- The Society's "Keep a Melody Ringing" Endowment Fund will be used for projects which support outreach activities or otherwise serve to create an impact for the Society. ■

## Yours 4 A Song

**Dan Bezaire, Music & Performance VP**

# Trying to sing better should be everyone's goal

**T**hose of you who regularly participate in our contests, whether in a chorus or quartet, are familiar with the judging categories.



Dan Bezaire

We are judged according to music, presentation, and singing. But you know what? It all boils down to just one category: singing. That's what we do, we sing! Trying to sing better should be everyone's goal in this hobby.

On Saturday, February 24, nine Pioneer choruses had the opportunity to improve their singing skills at our first-ever Chorus Coaching Clinic. The idea came out of the last contest when some of the judges expressed the thought that the level of performance of the Pioneer choruses would greatly improve if they had some outside coaching. It sounded like a worthwhile idea, so the district decided to give it a try.

The services of three coaches were attained: Ken Buckner, Brian Barford, and Adam Woods agreed to come from Louisville, Cincinnati, and Chicago, respectively, to work with our choruses. We selected eight chapters on a first-come, first-serve basis, plus Grand

Rapids (our International reps) to get some first-class coaching. Each chorus had one hour with each coach.

The weatherman had everything but the kitchen sink in store that day, but more than 160 Barbershoppers came to be a part of the day — four choruses in the morning and four in the afternoon. The evening was reserved for Grand Rapids.

It was a grueling day for the coaches, who put in 11 hours working with these choruses throughout the day and evening. Was it worth it?

The coaches thought so. Every chorus there was singing better at the end of its session.

The choruses thought so, going by the evaluation forms we asked the Barbershoppers to fill out.

It worked so well that the general feeling is that this should be repeated on an annual basis. What we hope to accomplish is to raise the level of singing in the Pioneer District. As I said in my opening paragraph, this is what everyone wants — to sing better!

Another occasion to improve our singing is coming soon. I'm speaking of our annual Harmony Round-Up, to be held May 18-20 at MSU. This is a great opportunity for individuals, choruses, and quartets to get some great coach-

ing and instructions in various aspects of Barbershop singing.

If you go to this event, and participate, there will be one result: you will be a better singer.

More information about Harmony Round-Up is found elsewhere in the *Troubadour*, but it should be mentioned that our 1998 International Quartet Champs, REVIVAL, will be here as part of that terrific Barbershop weekend.

Plan on attending if you can. I guarantee you will have a fantastic time. ■

## The chorus director

**T**he chorus director is a man (or woman) who must wait while we talk and laugh between songs. He must "steel" himself to put up with the frustration with the men or section who miss their attacks and releases. He teaches pronunciation and produces sounds of which we did not know we were capable.

He patiently makes the members realize that it is not enough to produce the right notes, but they must also be sung on the vowel with each note complementing the other.

This man deserves our respect, our attention, our cooperation, and especially our attendance.

We expect him to attend every rehearsal, to be on time, and to stay to the bitter end.

What of his feelings when we leave early or don't show up at all? As the old Indian adage goes ... walk a mile in the other man's shoes.

## Young Men in Harmony

Al Bonney, District Chairman

# Bring your kid!

Or your nephew ... or your grandson ... or your neighbor's kid, but whatever you do, don't leave him at home and miss **A Cappella Blast!** — the greatest youth singing experience outside Harmony College (which is very much for the kids, too, you



Al Bonney

know!).

As part of Harmony Round-Up May 18-20, 2001, there will be a festival for young men called **A Cappella Blast!** It's designed for teens between the ages of 14 and 18 who are interested in learning more about singing Barbershop harmony. Participants will come from schools all over Michigan's Lower Peninsula.

We are also inviting teachers to attend with the boys and will offer special opportunities for the teachers to learn more about using Barbershop music as effective additions to their broader vocal music curriculum.

We've received grants from Harmony Foundation and the Michigan Council for Arts & Cultural Affairs to defray the costs of **A Cappella Blast!** for the young men and the teachers. A

\$350 value, we are charging only \$25 per attendee for all meals, lodging, souvenir t-shirt, music, and coaching. We will also make a video of the event.

The weekend will be a wonderful experience, a whopping good time, and totally focused on young men having fun singing good music together.

**A Cappella Blast!** will begin on Friday with registration at 4:00 p.m. followed by a welcome pizza party, general session and orientation. Saturday will be devoted mostly to the festival, conducted by two professional music educators and two championship-level quartets. The festival will focus on learning two or three songs in a large ensemble setting, directed by the clinicians and assisted by the quartets.

The chorus will perform three songs on Saturday night before the general attendance. Sunday will be wrap-up time and include participating with the adults in the tag-singing class for an exciting finish to the weekend.

The clinicians leading the festival are experienced and successful Barbershop directors and teachers. The quartets are also of the highest artistic calibers, attested by their district and international championship medals. Each is experienced and skilled in working with

young voices as well.

Marketing **A Cappella Blast!** effectively is the key to getting a full contingent of 40 young men on the risers. We will market this festival throughout the Lower Peninsula using several tools.

In every case, we will aim at high school vocal music teachers as the target audience. As our objective is ultimately to support the effectiveness and population of school vocal programs, it is necessary to use teachers as the targeted advocates of our program.

**Mailing to Teachers:** Using address lists obtained from music educator organizations like Michigan School Vocal Music Association, we will mail letters and flyers to the teachers inviting them to submit applications for their students.

**Promotion through Member Chapters:** We will provide our existing Young Men In Harmony chairmen with promotional materials. Using their existing relationships with school music teachers, they will personally deliver the flyers to the local schools they work with on a regular basis.

**Promotion through District Publications and Events:** The district has a newsletter and a Young Men In Harmony publication that goes out periodically. We will include information on the event in these publications as well as include information in the promotion of the larger Harmony Round-Up that will take place the same weekend at the same venue.

We've retained the services of several exceptionally qualified artists to design and run the content

(Continued on page 21)

## The Judge's Corner

### Ed Fritzen, Contest & Judging VP

Hello to all of my brothers in the Pioneer District! By the time you read this, I'm sure most of you will be well into final preparations for our spring convention and contests.

I would like to take this time to remind everyone who wants to compete that they must register with me at least 14 days before contest. Chapter secretaries and/or chorus directors should make sure I have your chorus's registration no later than April 13. You can mail me your registration, fax it (616-833-8729), or go the Society's Web page: [www.spebsqsa.org](http://www.spebsqsa.org) and submit the registration online. Quartets who are planning to compete can do likewise.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to give me a call (616-323-8127) or e-mail ([ELFritze@net-link.net](mailto:ELFritze@net-link.net)).

I encourage everyone to perform for all your Barbershop brothers in Battle Creek, either as a quartet or as part of a chorus. There is no greater audience to perform for than the Barbershoppers and friends of the Pioneer District. No matter how you score, all the competitors are winners.

Speaking of the convention, we have a fine panel lined up for the quartet and chorus contests this spring. Judging in the music category will be Russ Foris (LO'L) and Tom Gentil (JAD). Many of you know Russ from his work on our Society staff as well as from his fine arrangements. Tom Gentil is also a fine arranger and chorus

director, having won an International chorus championship with the SOUTHERN GATEWAY CHORUS.

In the presentation category, we'll be honored to have Judd Orff (LO'L) and Dale Thomas (MAD). Both of these gentlemen have been in the Pioneer District many times as judges and as COTS faculty members.

Finally, judging in the singing category will be Dale Comer (CSD) and Bob Moorehead (JAD). Both of these men have sung in many quartets and bring a wealth of experience with them to the judging panel.

Keeping the contest running smoothly will be our contest administrators, Ernie Nickoson (CAR) and David Kannberg (SUN).

Please welcome all of these gentlemen to Pioneer, and if you get the chance, thank them for giving up a weekend so that we all can benefit from their expertise.

\* \* \*

As promised in my last article, I would like to take a few lines to describe some aspect of the judging program. This issue I'd like to introduce the judging system we currently use.

Under the present system, there are three scoring categories: music, presentation, and singing. Each judge can award up to 100 points per song, so for a two-song performance, a perfect score

*(Continued on page 17)*

## Get Northern Michigan singing ... again!

*(Continued from page 6)*

of their joint objectives for this year — our project enables their work.)

- To initiate a program that the CHERRY CAPITAL CHORUS can continue to support in future years so subsequent classes continue to benefit from the curriculum addition
- To allow the children to experience the joy of hearing their own voices join with others in a vocal ensemble.
- To show the children that adult men's singing is cool!

Young Men In Harmony projects come in a variety of shapes and sizes. Any project that works must fit the communities and the chapters involved. This one really fit in the Grand Traverse Area. The music teachers enthusiastically embraced the books and welcomed the opportunity to include the six common songs in their curriculum.

The question-and-answer sessions held during each concert always included questions from the students like, "Are you guys really barbers?"; "How did the music get the name Barbershop?"; and "How long have you been singing together?"

The Traverse City Chapter has put together a "how-to" document available to any chapters interested in considering such a project in their area. What they have discovered is that the program is ultimately flexible to handle four or 40 schools — totally depending on the resources and energy available from the chapter. ■

## Quartets Champions Association

### Al Fisk, Secretary

## Raleigh Bloch in spotlight

**L**et's put the spotlight on Mr. Raleigh Bloch! Raleigh lives with his beautiful bride, Jean, in Kalamazoo.

He is the president of Bloch Consulting Group that provides "consultation to management to improve businesses and facilitate creativity sessions to develop new ideas for products, services, processes, etc."

Raleigh's quartet, UPSTAGE SOUND, won the Pioneer District 1998 Quartet Championship.

Raleigh has 32 years in the Society, sings tenor, and currently holds the office of Society International Board Member and Pioneer District VP of Member Services. He has also had membership and presidential chapter positions in Kalamazoo, Appleton (Wisconsin), and Scranton (Pennsylvania).

In Kazoo, Raleigh stays busy by being the chapter show chairman and tenor section leader, and by getting involved with the membership committee and music committee. He has also served as a quartet coach at Harmony College North. Other Barbershop kudos include Barbershopper of the Year — Kalamazoo Chapter; Mr. Barbershopper — Danbury (Connecticut) Chapter, and 10 Man of Note Awards. Wow! Raleigh has done it all!

Professionally, Raleigh has been written up in *Industry Week* magazine for "management style used in managing a very success-

ful manufacturing operation in Iowa," and was selected and served as consulting editor for Aspen Systems (a management education publishing firm).

In Raleigh's own words: "During my business career, I ran manufacturing plants for American Can Co. in Scranton and for James River Corp. in Iowa City and in Kalamazoo. I also ran a research and development facility that housed 400 scientists and technicians and a pilot plant located in Neenah, Wisconsin.

"In 1993, I decided to start my own business in management consulting. I worked for companies such as Kellogg's, Eaton Corp., and Georgia-Pacific. I did this full time until 1997 and then decided to semi-retire.

"I'm currently on the board of directors of Wonder Makers, Inc., and do consulting and provide management seminars.

I have also served as the chairman of the Missions Committee at my church for the past four years.

"I have been a member of the LO'L, NED, MAD, CST, and PIO districts. I was born and raised in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, and have lived in the LO'L District two additional times. I was a member of the Neenah/Manasha (Wisconsin) YACHTSMEN and the Appleton (Wisconsin) FOX VALLEYAIRES.

"As a result, I have a broad experience of Barbershop throughout the country and have made numerous Barbershop friends." ■

## In Memoriam

### Harold Seely

... and then there were four!

The passing of Harold Seely marked the second of the "Six Singing Seely Brothers" to have deceased this past year. Last year, Ray also passed away.

Hal was the first musical director of Grosse Pointe's LAKESHORE CHORUS as well as chapter president in 1964.

Hal formally became a Barbershopper in 1953 with brothers Ron and Russ when these three Seelys teamed up with neighborhood buddy and bass, Chuck Geyer, to join the Society as a quartet.

Following his stint as GP director, Hal became the bari with his oldest brother Art's truly "Pioneer" quartet, THE PROGRESSIVE FOUR.

Although recently inactive with the Society, Hal devoted his musical talent as a director to a quite large and accomplished Episcopal Church Choir.

Hal is survived by his wife, Lynne, daughter, Jenny, and was predeceased by his son, Ron. Of the immediate family, four brothers and three sisters remain.

The family graciously thanks Hal's fellow Barbershoppers for their many condolences and especially the extremely large number of LAKESHORE CHORUS members who paid musical tribute to Hal the night before the funeral.

What would we do without "our musical family"?

**From Russ Seely**



# Marquis hangs up pitchpipe

By Denny Gore

**I**nternational Champion Quartet MARQUIS (1995) gave its last performance on Saturday, October 22, in Charleston, West Virginia. It was the weekend of the Johnny Appleseed District Convention. (Coincidentally, it was also the weekend of the Pioneer District Contest.)

We performed on Friday night at the informal JAD All-Champs show in the headquarters hotel. On Saturday, we were given a segment after the chorus contest to present a final district performance.

After the first two songs and before a seven-minute medley of MARQUIS songs that we had done at the Association of International Champions show in Kansas City, the guys told me that we'd take a break to "thank a few people."

On the break, Jay (Hawkins) and Paul (Gilman) did thank the district, our coaches, and a number of others who helped the quartet. Jay ended by honoring our families.

Then Dale (Fetick) walked out with this picture frame in his hand. He started by saying that we'd thanked a lot of people and that there was one more person to thank. He said, "Let me tell you about Denny Gore. This guy is truly a champion. He was second four times at International ... and you know how heartbreaking that can be."

The moment was interrupted when Jay Giallombardo, who was a judge of the chorus contest, said,

"Tell me about it." That got a huge laugh, which broke the tension.

After we all recovered from that, Dale went on to say, "Denny has made a great contribution to



MARQUIS and we want to thank him. We consider him a true champion and the only thing he doesn't have is a gold medal. Well, we decided that he should have one. Thanks, Denny."

Then he turned and handed me the frame. In the frame on a velvet background was a gold medal and a plaque. I was caught totally off guard.

The plaque read: "DENNY — THANK YOU FOR SHARING YOUR GOLDEN VOICE WITH US AND KEEPING THE MUSIC OF MARQUIS ALIVE. YOU ARE A TRUE CHAMPION. SIGNED JAY, DALE, AND PAUL."

I was so stunned I couldn't speak. I was fighting back tears when Paul brought me back to re-

ality by leaning over and saying, "Don't forget, we still have to do the medley."

I'm very proud of this award because it comes from three guys I've grown close to over the past three years, and three guys I'll miss singing with in the future. I know that it also comes from the heart of each of those guys.

Thanks to you, guys, for all of the memories. It's been a great run. I've attached a picture taken that day by another of my "buds," Wendell Pryor from CENTER STAGE. Thanks to you, too, Wendell. ■

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## The Judge's Corner

*(Continued from page 15)*

(assuming a double panel) would be 1,200 points. Each judge brings to the judging panel his own unique lifetime experience of listening, enjoying, and adjudicating Barbershop performances.

In addition, each judge is highly trained in his category, having been tested and reviewed by his peers and category specialists during the certification process held every three years at Category School.

In future articles, I'll spend time describing in more detail each of these scoring categories. Until then, I hope to see all of you in Battle Creek this April.

Good luck to all of the competitors. ■

# Harmony Round-Up 2001

*A 5-star weekend with YOU  
in mind to enrich your barbershop experience*

**Friday thru Sunday, May 18-20, 2001  
Michigan State University**

## \$99.00

**(Same as last year!)**

### Barbershop Classes

- Vocal Techniques
- Sight Reading
- Tag Singing
- Woodshedding
- History of Barbershop
- How to be a great ... Lead, Tenor, Bari, Bass
- How to be a judge

**Quartet Coaching (10% discount)**

*Novice quartets or established performers*

**Chorus Directors' Workshops**

*Front line or director "wannabes"*

**A Cappella Blast!**

*A YMIH experience*

***And much more!***

### Harmony Round-Up Faculty

**Larry Deters**

Longtime director, coach, and quartet man

**Ron Knickerbocker**

Gold medal-winning baritone - REGENTS

**David Krause**

Quartet man, director, coach, and certified presentation judge

**Bill Rashleigh**

Our man from Kenosha - music specialist

**Plus ...**

Some of Pioneer District's best coaches and instructors

**And our featured quartet  
1998 International Champs**

***REVIVAL***

# What do you get for your \$99?\*

(Quartets: 10% discount = \$89.90)

Shared room in an MSU dormitory

Four meals: Breakfast, Lunch, & Dinner Saturday; Breakfast Sunday

Individual Quartet Coaching

Courses to improve Barbershop craft

*And, of course, a great  
AFTERGLOW featuring:*



## REVIVAL

*Note: A deposit of \$30/person must accompany this form.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Quartet/chapter \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Prov \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Bus. Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Individuals:** Please check classes preferred. Check all that apply. Depending on numbers, not all classes may be offered.

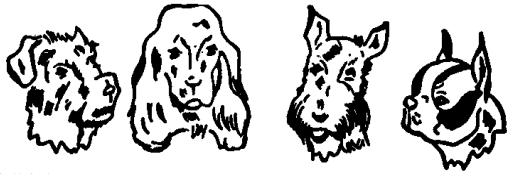
Vocal Techniques \_\_\_\_\_ History of Barbershop \_\_\_\_\_ Sight Reading \_\_\_\_\_

Tags, Tags, Tags \_\_\_\_\_ How to be a judge \_\_\_\_\_ Woodshedding \_\_\_\_\_

How to be a great: Lead \_\_\_\_\_ Tenor \_\_\_\_\_ Bari \_\_\_\_\_ Bass \_\_\_\_\_

**Send form to: Harmony Round-Up**  
**7626 Barnsbury**  
**West Bloomfield, MI 48324**

For additional information, contact: Dan Bezaire - 519-727-5842 or DBezaire@wincom.net



## THE HARMONY HOUNDS

Pedigree: Barbershoppers

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

Art Cardy - Tenor  
David Hundt - Lead

Larry Wise - Bass  
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## FOUR-MAN FISHIN' TACKLE CHOIR

Bill

Neil

Kurtis

Tracy

Hooked on Harmony

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Tracy 231-348-1178



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>

Quartets: Your business card can be displayed in the *Troubadour* for only \$55 per year.  
Don't hide under a rock. Let the Pioneer Barbershop fans know you're out there!

## Coaching Clinic

(Continued from page 1)

team leader for the past five years, and has been a certified judge in the presentation category for the past two years.

The judges were equally impressed with the clinic's results. "I was really pleased to be a part of this ground-breaking multi-chorus coaching day," said Brian. "I felt that each chorus made measurable progress while we were working. The choruses and directors were very attentive and very receptive to new ideas."

Ken added, "From my perspective, the clinic was an unqualified success. The chorus members were like sponges, leaning on every word. My hat is off to those Pioneer choruses that attended."

"I found the coaching sessions

we would have loved to have spent more time with each group to reinforce ideas and tackle more opportunities."

The nine participating choruses at the clinic were Battle Creek's CEREAL CITY CHORUS, Grand Rapids' GREAT LAKES CHORUS, Gratiot County's MID-



**Brian Barford suggests singing improvements to the MALL CITY CHORUS as Musical Director Gene Hanover observes.** Photo by Paul Howe.

STATESMEN CHORUS, Grosse Pointe's LAKESHORE CHORUS, Kalamazoo's MALL CITY CHORUS, Lansing's CAPITOL CITY CHORDSMEN, Michiana Metro's LIGHTHOUSE CHORUS, Saginaw-Bay's HARBOR SOUNDS CHORUS, and Wayne's RENAISSANCE CHORUS.

Because of its success, future coaching clinics are being considered. "If the contest scores improve for the coached choruses, we'll undoubtedly

provide similar programs in the next few years," Dan concluded. ■



**The MIDSTATESMEN CHORUS is given presentation tips by Adam Woods.**

to be a wonderful experience," said Adam. "The gentlemen worked hard during the one hour they spent with me. Of course,

## YMIH

(Continued from page 14)

of ***A Cappella Blast!***

The two clinicians, Ken and Vicki Gibson, are recognized both throughout our Society and in Michigan state educational circles for their acknowledged skill as teachers, directors, and performers at the International contest level.

Quartet FOUR MAN FISHIN' TACKLE CHOIR, Pioneer District Champion in 2000, will work with the young men throughout the day as section leaders.

The 1998 International Champion Quartet, REVIVAL, will be at the event and will work with the boys as well.

The featured artist for Harmony Round-Up is Mr. Bill Rashleigh. He is a trained and experienced music educator employed by our Society. He makes his living working with young men all over the country, putting on festivals, running camps, judging at adjudications, and making presentations in schools.

Additional information on Harmony Round-Up and the festival ***A Cappella Blast!*** is available on the Pioneer Web site.

You don't want to be left out of this fantastic event for young men. Talk to every educator you know and, if you don't have any flyers, call me — I'll send you some (see full page ad elsewhere in the *Troubadour*). I have registration materials and will send them to anyone interested. Registration deadline is April 18; the size of the chorus is limited.

Come to Lansing and enjoy ***A Cappella Blast!*** It will be the best party this year! ■

# Dapper Dans truly a show to see

By Chris Lewis,  
Grand Rapids Chapter

As a recent Barbershop member, I enjoy any interactions that I have with other Barbershoppers, as it pushes my knowledge and experience in singing, blending, and, above all, learning.

Thus, after reading a recent issue of the *Harmonizer* and when planning a trip to Florida over a break between Christmas and New Year's, I made the conscious decision to stop by the

Street USA, but upon asking, I found out an approximate time that they would be out and about. Later that day, I returned to Main Street USA and, as luck would have it, the group was out in the street, but not performing. I went up to one of the members and talked to them about the *Harmonizer* article, and, to my surprise and delight, they invited me to a rousing rendition of "My Wild Irish Rose."

After singing, they went into their routine and it was a treat.

The showmanship and rapport they showed was nothing less than outstanding. Not all members of the group are members of SPEBSQSA, but, when they can, they sing with the local WINTER PARK CHORUS.

It would be easy to commercialize the

Barbershop style in a place as frequented and as well known as Walt Disney World, but the DAPPER DANS have stayed true to the Barbershop standards and style and I, for one, wish to commend them!

One final word, from the DAPPER DANS themselves – they look forward to seeing many of us in Nashville this July! ■

Magic Kingdom at Disney World to pay a visit to the DAPPER DANS. I knew that this would not be too difficult because of my parents works for Disney. But catching the DAPPER DANS while they were performing was another task altogether.

After reading the article about the group, I wondered how many of them may or may not be members of SPEBSQSA. I also did not know how they would react to a person out of the blue coming up and interrupting their routine to ask questions.

Well, upon arrival to the Magic Kingdom, the group was nowhere to be seen on Main



## Yea, team!

By Don Horton

Convention host Lansing Chapter has decided to use a college theme for the weekend of the spring convention.

On Saturday, we are encouraging all convention goers to wear a hat, sweatshirt, or other attire from their "favorite" college. Our ticket sellers will be wearing Michigan State or University of Michigan attire, so they will be clearly identifiable.

We plan to have a ticket sales contest for the weekend MSU/UM. I plan to have a tote board in the lobby and play college fight songs and alma maters.

The grand prize for the raffle is a JVC MX-J800 Dolby Pro



Logic CD/dual cassette sound system valued at \$400.00. The system has 300 watts of total power, 120 watts per channel. ■

## Philatoga Township

Award-Winning  
Barbershop Quartet



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Portage, MI 49002  
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E-mail: gaconitz@netzero.net

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THE ARROWHEAD BARBERSHOP CHORUS - John Noteware, Director

and  
**SPECIAL  
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QUARTETS -**



**FOUR MAN FISHIN' TACKLE CHOIR**  
Spring 2000 District Champions



**POWER PLAY**  
2000 International Medalists



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**TICKET ORDER FORM** - Mail orders received after April 25, 2001, will be held at the door.

Wheelchair accessible seating is available - Please check here \_\_\_\_ number required.

Performance	# Tickets	Total
2:30 p.m.	_____ X \$12.50 ea. =	_____
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Postage & handling - add 50 cents		_____
<small>(No handling charge if self-addressed, stamped envelope is included)</small>		
Total Remittance \$		_____
Make checks payable to <b>Flint Chapter, SPEBSQSA</b>		

Mail order to: David Smith  
855 Whisperwood Trail  
Fenton, Michigan 48430

Mail tickets to: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_



# How I got "hooked"

By Ken Gibson, Lansing Chapter

I can't remember a time in my life when I did not enjoy singing and listening to recordings of vocal groups, beginning with old 78s and 45s. Yet, I never sang in any kind of organized choir, glee club, or other ensemble until after high school.

Then, as an 18-year-old college freshman (September 1964), I had the opportunity to join a mixed choir. It was only a couple hours per week and ONE big whopping credit! Within six weeks, I found myself in three more ensembles: glee club, madrigals, and a quartet! Four guys were selected to sing one Barbershop song in the fall/winter concert. A ladies quartet was also formed. I auditioned for and was chosen to sing tenor ... with the guys, that is.

We were clueless about this thing called Barbershop — and it sounded like it! However, it was great fun. Besides, some of the girls thought we were great. They were clueless, too!

That October, an old high school buddy from Lansing Eastern asked if I wanted to go to a show featuring quartets. His folks could not use their tickets (front row center) and thus gave them to us. I had no idea what I was about to experience, but it seemed like a good idea, so I went.

Needless to say, I was blown out of my (front row center) seat. I loved the chorus opener. Next came the MERRI-MEN and the AIRE MALES, two Pioneer District

Champs from the 50s and 60s back when we were known as the Michigan District. They were great singers and outstanding showmen. About the time I thought the show was over, they brought out the headliner.

It was the BUFFALO BILLS, fresh off their run in the "Music Man." I was so awestruck I could hardly stand it. I knew one thing for sure — I was going to do this! I still have my program with the autographs of Vern Reed (tenor) and Al Shea (lead).

The high lasted for months. I visited the Lansing Chapter meeting the following week and never looked back. I joined, became part of a chapter quartet, and soon after took over the directing chores.

In 1969, I was blessed with the tenor duties in my favorite quartet, THE VAGABONDS. We had a great decade, seven in the top ten, with three in the medals which included a second-place silver finish in 1976. Ironically, my wife Vicki and her quartet, THE FRONT OFFICE FOUR, had just won International in late 1975. We almost had overlapping championships! Does close count?

Oh well, I wouldn't trade my last 36 years in this hobby for "All the World and its ... ." Sorry!

By the way, Vicki was the bass in that ladies quartet back in college. And for those other three guys, they never joined — or even sang — in another quartet. How sad! They'll probably never knew what they missed. ■

## In Memoriam

Dean Fischer

June 14, 1926-January 25, 2001

Dean Fischer passed from this life after a long illness.

Born in Durand, Michigan, he married Annette in 1972, who survives.

Through the years that I knew him, I found Dean to be a hard working, dedicated Barbershopper who devoted a major part of his life to this beloved hobby. He could be seen at many conventions and afterglows passing his judgment on to the performers. He seemed critical to some, but his only desire was to help others sing better.

The CHERRY CAPITAL CHORUS sang at his funeral as a way of saying goodbye to a beloved friend. Maurie Allen said at his eulogy, "Dean was one of the charter members and founders of the Traverse City Chapter 35 years ago. He was instrumental in providing an opportunity for literally hundreds of men in our area to share his love of singing four-part harmony, build wonderful, lasting friendships, and help develop this organization. It has contributed mightily to the cultural and educational community through our performances and philanthropy."

Along the Barbershop trail, I learned much from him. He was always doodling on little scraps of paper, showing and telling me about the finer points of Barbershopping.

I'm not ashamed to say that I loved him and will miss him dearly, and I'm sure many others would say the same.

From Elbert Ford

**Sing ... for life!**



## Election of Pioneer District officers

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

### Notice of nomination procedures

The election of the district officers listed above will take place at the House of Delegates Meeting at the District Fall Convention on Friday, October 19, 2001. The president will be elected to serve a two-year term. Election of persons to all other offices will be for one-year terms. The executive vice-president will not be a separate office, but will be filled by one of the other vice-presidents serving in a dual capacity.

The district by-laws, in effect since January 1, 1997, require that all nominations of persons for district office be reviewed by and be acceptable to the appropriate Society committee. This procedure must be followed for nominations anticipated to be made from the floor at the fall House of Delegates Meeting as well as for nominations by the District Nominating Committee. Persons nominated for district office must be active members of a district chapter. Persons who belong only to the Frank Thorne Chapter are ineligible to run for a district office.

Therefore, nomination from the floor at the fall House of Delegates Meeting of any person to fill

a district office must be preceded by submission of the potential nominee's written permission, résumé, and credentials to the Pioneer District Nominating Committee by June 1, 2001, for forwarding to the appropriate Society committee for review and acceptance. Nomination from the floor of any person for any district office will be disallowed if this procedure has not been followed.

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

SPEBSQSA, Inc.  
 Pioneer District Laws and Regulations Committee  
 March 1, 2001

## In Memoriam

**Mike Bourgoin**

**July 9, 1928 - January 29, 2001**

Mike died unexpectedly in his sleep after spending Super Bowl Sunday with family members. He leaves his wife, Marilyn, five children, and five grandchildren.

Mike will be remembered by Barbershoppers as a prodigious lead singer. He probably knew more songs from memory than any other Society member in history, and was willing to share them with any three guys who assembled in need of a good lead.

Mike sang with many quartets over the years, among whom were THE AFTER SHAVES, CHORD ENCOUNTERS OF THE 7TH KIND, IN CAHOOTS, and the INTERLOCHENS. He also served the Wayne Chapter in many offices, including two terms as president.

He will be missed by many, especially the Wayne Chapter and the Redford Harmony Club.

My experiences with Mike — personal, business, and in our hobby — are too many to recount in this writing. He was a good friend and I will miss "my buddy."

**From Gene Beaty**

## Thank you

I want to thank everyone in the Pioneer District who kept me in their thoughts and prayers after my recent mild heart attack. The get-well cards helped me immensely.

May God bless you.

Bob Wolf, Wayne Chapter

# Spring convention preview

By Staff Writer Jim Styer

Besides the singing competitions, the Pioneer District spring convention will feature two off-stage rivalries just for fun — a Harmony Foundation competition and a Sunday-afternoon baseball game, with lots of .

The convention will run from Friday through Sunday morning, April 27-29, in Battle Creek. Headquarters is the McCamly Plaza Hotel downtown.

Host Lansing Chapter's convention theme is "The Great State Rivalry."

Lansing Chapter members will wear MSU or U-M attire. On Saturday, convention attendees are encouraged to wear the colors and insignia of their favorite college. (It needn't be U-M or MSU; it could even be MTU way up North.) The convention could be very colorful!

The Harmony Foundation raffle will follow the same theme, with a hotel lobby scoreboard updated every so often based on how many U-M or MSU backers are buying tickets. "The winner of the 'game' will be announced Saturday evening," said raffle chairman Don Horton.

Top raffle prize will be a JVC portable sound system, which will be used to play Barbershop and college fight songs during the convention. Other prizes are two-nights lodging at the next convention and two all-events tickets. Proceeds will go to the Society service projects, Heartspring and SingAmerica/SingCanada.

## Baseball Barbershop Day

Barbershoppers and their families who can stay after the convention are encouraged to participate in "Barbershop Day" at the Michigan Battle Cats baseball game.

The Cats will play the Dayton Dragons at 2:00 p.m. Sunday at Bailey Park, 1392 N. E. Capital Ave., a three-mile drive on Capital from the headquarters hotel. If you're going to the game, please arrive by 1:30 p.m.

Barbershoppers will sing the National Anthem before the game



and "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" at the seventh-inning stretch. Quartets also are invited to sing throughout the stadium between innings, and to invite fans to sing along with them.

"Each Barbershopper can get up to four free game tickets at the convention registration desk," said Event Chairman Dick Schlee of Battle Creek. Additional tickets will be half price. Parking is free.

Dick needs advance reservations to determine how many tickets will be needed. Call him at 616-964-0173 or e-mail <RSchlee581@aol.com>.

## Other activities

Competitions will be at noon Saturday to determine a district cho-

rus champ, and at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday to select quartet representatives to the International convention in Nashville in July. All will be held at W. K. Kellogg Auditorium, a few blocks from the headquarters hotel.

POWER PLAY, fifth-place International medallist in 2000, is expected to compete again.

A group sing-along will be held about 20 minutes before each competition session.

The quartet semi-final on Friday is to include a Collegiate Quartet Contest, open to men aged 17-25 as of the International contest date. Contact person is Al Bonney <albonney@aliens.com> of Traverse City, district VP for Young Men in Harmony.

Mike tester for the chorus contest will be the JOE BARBERSHOP CHORUS, open to all district members, whether competing or not. The nucleus will be Grand Rapids' GREAT LAKES CHORUS singing "Chordbusters March" and "From the First Hello to the Last Good-bye." Rehearsal will begin at 10:30 a.m. Saturday in the auditorium gym.

The GREAT LAKES CHORUS will also present a show at the headquarters hotel about one-half hour after the quartet semi-finals. Quartets performing there will be PRIZM, FOOLS' GOLD, and a special guest.

A \$5 admission fee to the show will help pay for the chorus's trip to represent the district this summer at International. Show tickets

*(Continued on page 27)*

## Spring convention preview

*(Continued from page 26)*

can be requested in advance when you submit your convention registration.

Other convention activities include:

- A district afterglow in the headquarters hotel after the Saturday quartet finals.
- A gospel service with Barbershop harmony at 9:00 a.m. Sunday at the headquarters hotel.
- A Barbershop Shop, open throughout the convention, with CDs, tapes, books, clothing, and other items.
- A ladies' hospitality room at McCamly Plaza Hotel.
- A district Board meeting at 9:00 a.m. Friday and House of Delegates meeting at 2:00 p.m. Friday.
- A chapter presidents' meeting at 7:00 a.m. Saturday at Porter's Steak House on the top floor of the headquarters hotel. Dick Campbell of Battle Creek will preside.

### Registration

Convention registration deadline is April 14. Cost is \$20 until then, \$25 thereafter. Forms are on the district Web site: <http://www.harmonize.com/Pioneer/pio.htm>. The deadline for hotel reservations was March 27.

Registration by competitors must be done separately from convention registration. It is handled by Ed Fritzen <elfritze@net-link.net>, district VP for contest & judging. A link to the entry form is on the district Web site. Deadline is April 14, which will be immediately followed by the draw for order of appearance.

District convention chairman is Larry Parker of Lansing <LParker437@aol.com>. Host chapter chairman is Bruce Fitzpatrick.

Any late details on the convention will run on the PioNet, the district's e-mail list. For a free subscription, send an e-mail request to <jimstyer@home.com>.

Please note that all schedules of events are tentative. ■

## The Holland Windmill Chapter Welkoms You:

### BARBERSHOP ON PARADE

Friday, May 18, 2001, at 7:30 p.m.

Christ Memorial Auditorium

595 Graafschap Road, Holland, Michigan

FEATURING

**PLATINUM**

2000 International Champion

**Fools' Gold**

Grand Rapids Comedy Quartet

**And the HOLLAND WINDMILL CHORUS**

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Best Front Section Tickets

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TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Glow at Holland Chapter's Park Theater, 248 River Ave., Holland)

Make checks payable to Holland Chapter, SPEBSQSA. Send with stamped, self-addressed envelope to:  
Box 1403, Holland, MI 49422. Questions? (616) 394-0364. Thanks!

# Chapters in Action

## Gratiot County

By C. W. Kocher

**M**id-Michigan was ringing with Barbershop chords as the MIDSTATESMEN CHORUS hit the bricks with romantic tunes on Wednesday, February 14 — St. Valentine's Day.

During the week of Valentine's Day, 24 guys sang at 61 different places in five days. On Monday, we started at 8:00 a.m. and got home about midnight. We sang at eight different classrooms for a gazillion kids and their teachers, and in 11 restaurants (some of them more than once, even to the waiting-for-a-table masses), and to many appreciative individuals in homes and businesses.

We found that in the case of one couple, HE had hired us through one MIDSTATESMEN contact to sing to HER and SHE had hired us through another MIDSTATESMEN contact to sing to HIM, unbeknownst to each other — a "Gift of the Magi" sort of thing.

But folks, the real highlight of our day occurred as we were preparing to leave The Embers Restaurant in Mt. Pleasant. The manager mentioned to us that, while we were singing, one of the customers popped the BIG question to his girlfriend. We were so touched that we returned to the couple and gave them a special rendition of "Heart of My Heart."

After paying for the chocolates and flowers, we have a substantial sum for donations to various charities and for music scholarships.

Four Midland-based MIDSTATESMEN and their CHORDIALLY YOURS quartet colleagues spent Valentine's Day singing greetings from Bay City to Midland to Sanford, making people cry all day. There were 20 scheduled greetings and eight spur-of-the-moment sings in about 12 hours. They sang to at least two different guys, giving each a rose and candy.

CHORDIALLY YOURS didn't score any proposals of marriage, but from the looks SHE gave to HIM at one place, there might well be another youngster in the family before next Valentine's Day. We'll try to keep track and let you know.

This kind of endeavor brings heaps of goodwill and favorable exposure to the chapter and to Barber-

shopping in general, of course, but it also does great things for us as individual singers. We're required to bring a set of songs to performance level in quartets and VLQs which are not the same as our usual chorus venue and, in some cases, we even find one or more people singing other than their normal parts. It's a great challenge, and the nicest thing about it is that we all enjoy it. Face it, folks: isn't it great to sing for an audience?

On Saturday, February 24, 19 MIDSTATESMEN took part in the district's Chorus Coaching Clinic in Lansing. We were fortunate to be coached to a greatly improved unit sound. If we can remember all we learned, we'll sound much better in the future. We expect to enjoy our singing even more than we did before this session. It was well worth the time and we are grateful to the coaches and the district for organizing this event.

We expect to see many of you at the April contest in Battle Creek.

## Windsor

By Bill Strong

**C**hapters from across Michigan and Ontario had a great time at Windsor's annual "Uncle Sam Night" in January. The evening was highlighted by a "chorus" competition and, though the material was suspect, the outcome was even more questionable.

The SILVERDOMES were also present and, as usual, entertained the gathering royally.

This night, in particular, is what Barbershopping is all about: a bunch of guys getting together and singing the old songs, some of which they can hardly remember, and having the time of their lives. Make plans to attend next year. You won't regret it.

The 2000 Windsor Chapter's "Barbershopper of the Year" award was presented at Uncle Sam Night and this year it was a tie. Congratulations to co-winners Sam Cornett and Andy McCann. Well deserved, guys.

Our chorus is preparing for the upcoming convention in Battle Creek. However, we've been thrown somewhat of a curve in that our fearless leader, Dan Bezaire, had the misfortune of doing great damage to his leg and was out of action for a while. It didn't slow us down too much because of the depth of talent our chapter possesses. Many thanks to the individuals who stepped up and filled in during Dan's absence.

Spring continues to be a busy time for us with many performances planned as we continue to spread the word about the greatest hobby in the world.

## Grand Rapids

By Chris Lewis

**O**n Tuesday evening, February 27, 25 members of the GREAT LAKES CHORUS got together for their annual Pick-Up Quartet Contest. During this event, 18 quartets were formed and were judged by all who attended. Quartets selected either one song or two tags to be judged on. This event allowed Barbershoppers of all ages, even as young as 14, to sing in a quartet in front of an audience (even if it was for the first time).

After much time and painstaking effort (as well as some re-examination of dimpled chads), the following were selected as the top five quartets of the night: #5 - FLOWER POWER — Steve Wheeler, Jamie Carey, Tim Duman, and Mark Kettner; #4 - D&W — Tim Duman, J. T. Duman, and Steve Wheeler; #3 - THE VACUUM TUBES — Chris Lewis, Paul Slack, Steve Wheeler, and Jeff Chesnut; #2 - THE VAGABUMS — Mark Kettner, Joel Mills, Tim Duman, and Steve Wheeler; and the #1 quartet for this year's Pick-Up Quartet Contest was (Can I have a drum roll, please.) HARBOUR LIGHTS — Jim Vaughn, Paul Slack, Chris Lewis, and Jeff Chesnut

Thanks to all who came out. We hope to see even more of you next year. We had a great time and know you would have as well!

## Flint

By Guy R. Hisson

**H**ello, fellow chord ringers. The FLINT ARROW-HEAD CHORUS has been busy tuning up for our 60th annual show, "River Reminiscing." Guest quartets will be FOUR MAN FISHIN' TACKLE CHOIR and POWER PLAY. The show will be on Saturday, May 5, with a 2:30 matinee and a 7:00 evening performance at Grand Blanc High School's Howard Pepper Auditorium.

See our show ad elsewhere in the *Troubadour* and visit our Web site at <http://community.mlive.com/cc/flintbarbershop>.

Our winter retreat was a smash as usual at Higgins Lake with lots of singing and great food. Music V.P.

Ed Boychuk has made quite the difference in producing a better quality sound from the chorus, attempting to make Director John Noteware's job a little easier.

Our Barbershoppers of the Month were Ed Boychuk for January and Don Wills for February.

To all of the chorus snowbirds, we look forward to your safe return.

## Huron Valley

By Tom Peirce

**H**uron Valley has had an enjoyable and successful winter! Certainly every chorus has a goal to create more opportunities for quartet singing, increased fraternity, and increased income and fun. Like many other choruses, we found a single wonderful "new" program to help us achieve those objectives: Singing Valentines. We had a successful first try with 27 valentines being delivered to a diverse audience ... everyone from an elementary school teacher to a biker named Snake to our director, Lynne Peirce!

Four quartets represented the chapter after spending many hours during and away from chapter rehearsals, practicing and polishing their performances. A huge thanks to our Music & Performance V.P. Del-russ Wolff and all of our men who took personal and work time to participate. We already have several more men lined up to participate next year, each looking to create memories for their audiences and themselves ... and each looking to top that Snake story!

Upcoming activities include another "first-ever" for Huron Valley. John Hohl, music judge and former International silver quartet medalist (VAUDEVILLE) and director (ALEXANDRIA HARMONIZERS) will be returning for our weekend retreat at Camp Storer in Jackson County, and we continue our coaching with Jack Slamka and Linda Liddicoatt. They make for an effective and awesome coaching team.

Our board of directors, under the wise leadership of Hal Thompson, and our music team continue to work our strategic plan and have a new joint planning session scheduled for the Sunday after Harmony Round-Up! What a better time to do long-range planning ... the bodies may be tired, but the lights will definitely be on!

Other coming events include our November 10 Vaudeville Show at Washtenaw Community College. Modeled after a vintage Vaudeville show, we will

*(Continued on page 30)*

## Chapters in Action

### Huron Valley

*(Continued from page 29)*

feature an array of talent from the chorus and beyond. We will be looking for traditional acts. If you have one and you are looking for just the right venue, a great stage, and an even better audience, look for our "casting call" flyers at convention. If you would rather be entertained than be an entertainer, that can be arranged as well.

Best of wishes to all in Battle Creek! We look forward to seeing you in good health and hearing you in good voice.

### Livingston

By Ralph LeRoy

**V**alentine's Day. What a wonderful day. This was our first excursion into Singing Valentines. The LAMPLIGHTERS, a chorus of 23 members, fielded three quartets to serenade our local sweethearts. All three quartets learned the same three songs so that, in case of an emergency, we could switch members. This did happen as one of the leads had to make a pick-up at the airport and couldn't make it back in time for the last gig. Singer #24, Pete Berton, was substituted immediately and the new team went on to fulfill our commitment.

We sang to men as well as women in schools, nursing homes, private homes, dinner parties, banks, restaurants, and to many of our yearly sponsors. Our local newspaper, the *Argus*, featured one of the quartets on the front page, headlining a valentine story.

All three groups kept in constant communication through cell phones. Later in the evening, we all met at a local restaurant to relax and recap the day. Many of us had never done a Singing Valentine and we all thought it was what our hobby is all about — bringing happiness and love to people through our music.

Our quartets accounted for 33 presentations of our singing style. We sang to over 1,000 people when you add the children in the classrooms and the folks in the offices that came out to hear what was going on. It

was great for our chorus and great for our community.

We are currently rehearsing for our spring show "Do You Remember," which will be held May 19-20 at the Lake Shore Manor in Howell, Michigan. The show will feature our famous quartet, BY APPOINTMENT ONLY, along with the LAMPLIGHTER CHORUS and some local female talent who we are currently auditioning.

The chorus will also be performing a spiritual concert called "Thank You, Dear Lord, for Music." It will be held in two locations in September.

We had our installation of new officers at our Sweethearts Night in February. Clay Jones installed the officers and Fred and Joan Kienitz and Don Bazely were our guests of honor.

The officers for 2001 are: Dr. Ray Jones, president; Gary Gordon, treasurer; Mel Jenkins, VP of music, assisted by Jerry Place; Mark Hawley, secretary; Ralph LeRoy, VP of public relations; Dave Campbell, Heartspring chairman; and Cal Bock, VP of membership.

Ralph LeRoy was awarded the Barbershopper of the Year by President Ray Jones.

### Holland

By Art Lane

**F**ive quartets from the Holland Chapter delivered 130 Singing Valentines in Holland and nearby cities this year. The effort was again led by our own patron saint of Singing Valentines, Steve Foster, who worked endless hours making arrangements and taking orders. After the quartets were through delivering the valentines, our singers, headquarters workers, and wives were treated to a dinner grilled by our cookin' president, Jack C. Oonk.

You're invited to the HOLLAND WINDMILL CHORUS'S annual show, held in conjunction with the Tulip Festival, on Friday, May 18. We'll have a western theme, maybe cowboys in wooden shoes, and we'll have PLATINUM. See our ad elsewhere in the *Troubadour* for details.

Two brothers will reign jointly as Barbershopper of the Year for 2000 in the Holland Chapter. Jack C. Oonk and Mike Oonk are the honored Barbershoppers. Jack was president in 2000 (and again in 2001), directed our 2000 Preservation Through Performance shows and our Christmas show, and worked hard on the Park Theater. Mike was music vice president, or-

ganized learning quartets, made learning tapes, was assistant director, and helped write the Christmas show.

The Holland Chapter has purchased a small building adjoining the Park Theater to improve lobby space and stage access when the theater is renovated in the next few years. The chapter has benefited recently by grants from the Community Foundation of the Holland-Zeeland Area and the City of Holland.

## Saginaw-Bay

By Ralph Brown

**H**a! Ha! Giggle, Roar! Chuckle, Ha! Ha! and you have CHORDIAC ARREST. What a great SHOW! Sweet Adeline Chorus MOTOR CITY MIX, the HARBOR SOUNDS CHORUS, and an enthusiastic crowd and you have all the ingredients for a wonderful time.

The Saginaw Valley University setting was absolutely superb. Those of you that missed it should make a special effort to join us next year.

It seems of late that we just have one huge success after another. Our Singing Valentines program went as smooth as it could possibly go. We had three quartets this year and sang over 40 gigs as apposed to last year when we only had one quartet and sang 13 gigs.

Over and above singing a song for the wife of one of our local radio personalities on-the-air, we had a gig where the sponsor proposed to the subject of our song right on the spot. It was unplanned as far as the quartet knew and they just couldn't believe their eyes and ears. We are hoping that everything goes well so he doesn't come looking for the quartet later. The quartet consisted of Bob Deming (bass), Randy Meldrum (bary), Josh Biggs (tenor), and Dave Deming (lead).

We had three great sessions at the Chorus Coaching Clinic and expect to apply what we learned to our regular rehearsals in preparation for competition in Battle Creek. It is hoped that the clinic will be expanded next year and the participation will at least double; the price can't be beaten anywhere. Every time I attend a training session, I hear a lot of what every chorus needs and so I don't feel that our chorus is alone. There is always something new that I haven't heard before.

A special thanks is in order for all those that helped organize the program.

See all of you in Battle Creek and look forward to wonderful times and the building of memories.

## Detroit-Oakland

By Tom Uicker

**I** hope you all took advantage of our annual show in February to see BANK STREET in a setting other than contest. They were just great both on the show and at the afterglow.

Unfortunately, they have decided to call it quits after all these years. So, if you missed them you have missed them forever.

As for our other guest quartet, FREESTYLE will be coming back to Pioneer this fall to perform in the Rochester show. It will be well worth a trip to Rochester to see this comedy group again.

As for the GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS, I'm told that we did a terrific job with our part of the show. The theme was a college course, "Science History 101." Professor G. B. Work, in a sometimes difficult German accent, reminded us of some well-used, but little-praised inventions brought to light in our songs. We had three chapter quartets on stage as well as the chapter ensemble and, of course, the GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS CHORUS. Great work, everyone!

A special thanks to our stage presence coach and choreographer, Sue Gleason, for all of her help in staging and running the show.

And finally, congratulations to show chairman David Kemp for taking on a difficult job and pushing us through to a successful conclusion.

Mention should be made of a dedicated music team and our chorus director, Steve Sutherland. We have been working on improving the level of singing within the chorus while still keeping at least some of the choreography for which we have become known. It is starting to show, and our numbers are starting to grow.

Despite a couple of last-minute illnesses, we had 48 men on the risers during the show, the highest number in the last 10 years. We are continually grateful to those chorus members who put off their trip to warmer climates until after the show is over.

Special congratulations to Chapter President Herb Hebner who was named Barbershopper of the Year for 2000. Herb was suitably honored at our C.O.I.N./Ladies Night in January.

We also had occasion to honor Al Davenport, who joined Bill Juchartz and Bob Marshall, as a 50-year member of our Society.

*(Continued on page 32)*

# Chapters in Action

## Detroit-Oakland (Continued from page 31)

And I'm saddened to report the loss of long-time chapter member and quartet man Frank Heffernan. Frank was probably better known to those who attend Redford Harmony Club, but he did maintain membership in Detroit-Oakland Chapter with 32 years in the Society.

There are two other items I want to mention: (1) If there is a quartet or quartet coach that would like some help in attending Harmony Round-Up this May, there is money available in the Bill Butler Quartet Coaching Scholarship Fund for just that purpose. You can apply through Steve Sutherland <sps@mediaone.net> or any of Detroit-Oakland's music team. We have paid full tuition for at least one quartet or coach each year since the fund was started in 1990.

2.) Friday, June 1, is the date that the Traveling Jugs are due to return to Detroit-Oakland Chapter. You are all invited to the party to sing our International-representative quartet(s) on to victory at Nashville. Right now, I can't tell you where it'll be held, but we should have fliers up at spring convention. See you there.

## Grosse Pointe

By Nick Piccione

**T**he Grosse Pointe Chapter is off and running this year with a new project — at least for us — Singing Valentines. John Wade spearheaded the endeavor. You didn't have to be an award-winning quartet to participate, but an award-winning smile was important to show you were having as much fun as the valentine recipients.

Almost a dozen quartets, prepared with love songs including "Let Me Call You Sweetheart," "I Love You Truly," and "The Story of the Rose," were dispatched by John for both daytime and evening calls.

On February 23, our ladies auxiliary held their annual pot-luck dinner ... another grand event by those

who make Barbershop singing even more enjoyable. In an effort to thank them for all they do, in March, we hold our annual Ladies Night ... a more than festive evening crowded with exceptional food, a full orchestra, cheek-to-cheek dancing, and Barbershop singing, of course.

Our Grosse Pointe spotlight falls on our treasurer of the last few years, Bob Kramb. Having been a treasurer myself, I can attest to the fact that it is one of the most difficult and time-consuming jobs in the chapter. Just when you think you're caught up with the endless deposits, check writing, and account balancing, it's time to prepare statements for the Society and the chapter.

Bob makes it all look easy by not just taking all of this in stride, but also handling the accumulation and distribution of all of the music for the chapter and sale of *Entertainment* books, a chapter fund raiser.

Because of all of this, we must say:

*Bob always has time to find a way  
Despite the tasks that make up his day.  
Never seeming to battle with catch-up  
With happy smile, you will find him there  
As our treasurer extraordinaire  
And his debits and credits all match-up.*

## Lansing

By Paul Howe

**W**hat? You weren't able to make it to our annual performance at the Wharton Center on March 3rd? For shame (!), and boy did you miss a great show! The audience was treated to great performances by the CAPITOL CITY CHORDSMEN, Haslett High School Select Men's and Women's ensembles, and chapter quartets RENAISSANCE, GALLERY, and the PATCH CHORDS. Our headline quartet, PLATINUM, clearly demonstrated why they are deserving of their title as International champions, with an awesome performance that left the rafters ringing and the audience wanting more.

This has been a busy couple of months for us. Obviously, much of our time was spent polishing our performance for our show. We also had a very successful Singing Valentines program this year, with more opportunities than our available quartets could handle.

We recently completed a chapter-wide planning session to evaluate our current position and to more



clearly define the goals and direction for the chapter. The session was very well attended and produced some interesting and thought-provoking results. Many of the suggestions stemming from this meeting will be implemented in the coming months.

We were also privileged to participate, along with eight other choruses, in the district's Chorus Coaching Clinic held in February. Almost every comment I heard from our chapter members was resoundingly positive. The biggest complaints I heard were from some of the bigger eaters in the chapter who wanted dessert with the meal!

## Macomb

By Russ Dyer

Given my propensity for suffering massive writer's block each time I sit down to write this column, my usual difficulty is *how* to start. This time I have the pleasant problem of merely deciding *where* to start. In the past two months, the Macombsters have been as busy as a one-legged man in a field goal kicking contest. First, there was the annual show, then a successful guest night, then the announcement of a new director, and, finally, the creation of a new Web site. Top that, anyone.

Sincere thanks are in order for all who attended our annual show in early February. By all accounts, it was an overwhelming success. FRED tickled our funny bone, POWER PLAY sent chills up our backbone and the Sweet Adelines' SUCCESS EXPRESS supplied "bone"ified listening pleasure. The evening provided one family the opportunity for a happy reunion when EXPRESS baritone Kerry Denino was able to spend some time with her dad, our premier baritone Roy Gurney. His pride was strikingly evident when I spotted him in the wings watching his daughter during their performance.

Ten days after the show, we hosted a guest night at which six newcomers appeared — some because they had attended our show, others having seen our new Web site. Five of the six guests returned each of the following two weeks and, at last count, one had submitted a membership application and others had spoken their intentions to do so. Our goal of doubling the chorus size this year is well underway. Two more monthly guest nights are scheduled.

In March, Carl Dahlke became our musical director. Long-time Michigan Barbershoppers remember

Carl as the bass in the 1966 International Quartet Champions, THE AUTO TOWNERS. In later years, he directed choruses on the international stage ten times — five times each with Barbershoppers and Sweet Adelines. Few in the district have international competition experience and skills as vast as Carl's. He promises his best efforts to lead Macomb once again to the international stage.

With Carl's appearance, however, we said goodbye to Matt Coombs, our director since late 1999. He took over then with the clear understanding that he would serve as an interim director until a permanent one could be found. The entire chapter owes Matt a sincere and heartfelt "thank you" for keeping the chorus alive and well during this period with his superb leadership and musical skills.

As to our new chorus Web site, it was the first item on my "to-do" list when I returned from the COTS seminar last December. Little did I know at the time how quickly this task would be completed — not because I know much about computers (I can successfully turn mine on seven out of 10 times), but because we soon learned of a computer whiz in our midst. Jeff Wilson, a young man with less than a year in the chorus, answered our call for help and, within two weeks, we were "on the Web."

Jeff is now our Webmaster and we owe him a great deal of gratitude for his willingness to tackle the job. Check us out at [www.harmonyheritagechorus.org](http://www.harmonyheritagechorus.org).

## Muskegon

By Frank Scott

The high point of last year was the production of "Radio" on October 7 at the Mona Shores High School auditorium. Special thanks are overdue to District Treasurer Stan Williams, who volunteered to do the special sound effects, and to Mark Savage from Grand Rapids, who did the announcing with great style. The audience loved the show and FOOLS' GOLD thoroughly enjoyed its role as the "Jingle Quartet."

In December, we had our installation of officers at the Lincoln Golf Club. Arrangements were made by Dave Buchan. John Tyler, president; Bob O'Brien, secretary; Chuck Kitchka, chapter development, and treasurer Steve Aiken were all re-elected. Webb

*(Continued on page 34)*

## Chapters in Action

### Muskegon

*(Continued from page 33)*

Scrivnor is past president, Mart Bomers is quartet activities chairman and music V.P., and Mike O'Donnell continues as our chorus director. Barry Hall, Ken Hampel, and Ray Luce are our members at large. Ken Zeck has taken over as Heartspring chairman as Mike Wittkop moves to bulletin editor. Frank Scott and Dave Buchan are working on youth outreach.

In January, member-at-large Barry Hall was appointed treasurer as Steve Aiken had to under go a bone marrow transplant to treat a life-threatening bout with leukemia. We are pleased to report that the procedure was a success and Steve is now convalescing in Franklin, Michigan. He plans to back in Muskegon and up to full speed by summer.

Chapter President John Tyler and his wife, Patty, scheduled our Singing Valentines this year. HARMONY TRANSFER — Mike O'Donnell, Joel Prather, Al Coombs, and Dave Cutter; ACT FOUR — Dick DeWitt, Mart Bomers, Brian Dunn; and sub Tim Koepp; and WHATEVER FOUR — Dave Jones, Mike Wittkop, Chuck Kitchka, and sub John Tyler, made up our Singing Valentines quartets. The event brings great community exposure and many members feel that it is one of the best experiences a Barbershop singer can have.

This year's annual show is scheduled for October 13 at the Mona Shores High School auditorium. Show chairman Mart Bomers, along with Mike O'Donnell and Webb Scrivnor, are currently selecting the music. The theme is "Everything Old is New Again." Shawn Lawton, vocal music instructor at Mona Shores, has agreed to have 30 members of his choir sing with the SHORELINE CHORUS on the show. ■

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**When:** May 18-20, 2001

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How many Barbershoppers does it take to change a light bulb? Five. One to actually change the bulb and four to sing about how great that light bulb used to be: "... and if someday we ever meet again, I will smile and stand in line, just to sing one song just one more time, 'bout that old light bulb of mine, of mine."

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## Upcoming Events

### 2001

April 7 - Sault Ste. Marie Show.

April 21 - Grand Rapids Show.

Apr. 27-29 - Pioneer District Spring Convention in Battle Creek.

May 6 - Flint Show. Hotline: 810-762-3578

May 12 - Michiana Metro Show.

May 18-20 - Harmony Round-Up at MSU.

May 18 - Holland Show. Contact Steve Foster:  
1-800-827-2296; or Jack C. Oonk: 616-392-4794

May 19 - Wayne Show. Contact Don Bohnwagner:  
248-474-1054

May 20 - Hillsdale Show.

June 8 - Windsor Send-Off

June 8-9 - Traverse City Show. Contact Jeff Belanger:  
231-933-9900 or tcdoughboy@hotmail.com

June 30-July 2 - SING! An *a cappella* celebration in Nashville, Tenn.

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

July 11-15 - Harmony Explosion Camp, Ball State College, Muncie, Indiana.

Aug. 16-19 - Buckeye Invitational, Columbus, Ohio.  
[www.SingingBuckeyes.org](http://www.SingingBuckeyes.org)

Sept. 15 - Alpena Show.

Sept. 28-30 - Bush League 2001. Contact Hank Hedges:  
517-731-1169

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

Oct. 27 - Rochester Show.

Nov. 3 - Pontiac-Waterford Show.

Nov. 10 - Huron Valley Show. Contact Bob Taylor:  
734-728-2453

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

Dec. 7, 9 - Grand Rapids Show.

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