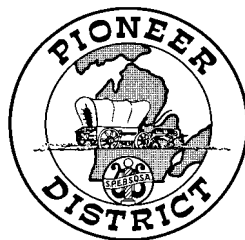


Pioneer Troubadour

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

Volume 52, Issue 5



Oct/Nov/Dec 2001

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Fall convention may be best yet

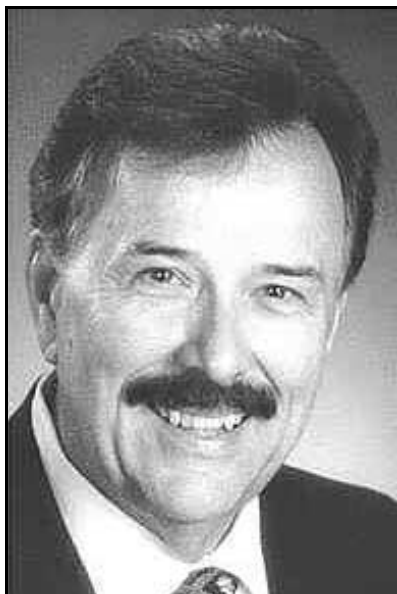
By Staff Writer Jim Styer

The JOE BARBERSHOPPER CHORUS at the Pioneer District fall convention this year will be led by one of the most prominent directors in the Society — Society Executive Director Darryl Flinn.

Darryl, who directed the chapter chorus in Canton, Ohio, for 20 years, will be the Society's representative to the convention Friday through Sunday, October 19-21, in Battle Creek.

The JOE BARBERSHOPPER CHORUS will be mike-testers for the chorus contest and will sing "Teach the Children to Sing."

"The message is wonderful but, more important, it is vital that we



**Society Executive Director
Darryl Flinn**

make a concerted effort to keep this thought at the forefront in our Barbershop functions," said Fred Kienitz, district VP for chorus director development.

"Each of us needs to keep this concept in mind so that our children and grandchildren have the same opportunity to 'Keep the Whole World Singing' as we have had for the past 50-plus years," Fred added. "I cannot imagine that there could come a day when our offspring might witness the decline of this wonderful organization."

The JOE BARBERSHOPPER CHORUS is open to any Barbershopper whether he's singing in another chorus or not. Rehearsal will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at the gymnasium in the auditorium building.

Winds of change in district

By Al Bonney,
District Executive VP

The winds of change are blowing across Pioneer. Your district Board intends to be the leadership team required to make that change possible. We're unified by the realization that the district Board's job is to make Barbershopping more fun for every member of the district.

Understanding that we only do this by working with chapter lead-

ership, we came together on August 9 in Lansing for a groundbreaking meeting to shape the plan for moving the district forward toward this ambitious mission.

Expanding the group from the usual 10 members to include the slate of officers for 2002, the meeting swelled to a total of 17, including Society President-elect

Top personnel

Darryl will be one of two top Society personnel at the convention. The other will be Roger Lewis of Battle Creek, Society executive vice president, who will become Society president in January.

Darryl, Society executive director for five years, also will speak to members at the House of Delegates meeting at 2:00 p.m. Friday. Delegates are to consider a budget proposal and elect new officers. A district Board meeting will be held

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

PRESIDENT

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

EXECUTIVE VP

Al Bonney
12660 Sundown Lane
Traverse City, MI 49686
231-223-4064 (R)
AlBonney@pentel.net

SOCIETY BOARD MEMBER

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

CONTEST & JUDGING VP

Edward Fritzen, Jr.
4075 Prestwick Drive
Portage, MI 49024
616-323-8127 (R) 616-833-2516 (B)
ELFritze@net-link.net

CHORUS DIRECTOR DEVELOPMENT VP

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

MARKETING/PUBLIC RELATIONS VP

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

SECRETARY

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

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

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

MEMBER SERVICES VP

Brian Dunckel
5872 Green Road
Haslett, MI 48840-9783
517-339-3422 (R) 517-625-3143 (B)
MSUDunk@aol.com

EVENTS VP

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

CHAPTER SUPPORT/LEADERSHIP VP

Doran McTaggart
890 Buckingham
Windsor, ON N8S 2C8
519-948-0637 (R)
DoranMcT@aol.com

MUSIC & PERFORMANCE VP

Dan Bezaire
354 East Puce Road, RR #1
Belle River, ON N0R 1A0
519-727-5842 (R) 519-728-1212 (B)
DBezaire@wincom.net

TREASURER

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

YOUNG MEN IN HARMONY CHAIRMAN

Al Bonney
12660 Sundown Lane
Traverse City, MI 49686
231-223-4064 (R)
AlBonney@pentel.net

Next Copy Deadline December 5, 2001

There are four methods of submitting information to the *Troubadour*:

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

Troubadour Advertising Copy Size ■ Rates

Rates quoted are for scanner-ready copy or properly formatted electronic files. Please send check with copy, payable to "Pioneer District."

Ad sizes available:

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| Full page | \$100 |
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| 1/3 page | \$50 |
| Quartet-size card | \$13 |
| Quartet-size card (annual) | \$55 |

TROUBADOUR PUBLISHING INFORMATION

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

Subscription rate for non-members: \$6.00 annually, \$1.50 for single copy. Remit check, payable to "Pioneer District," to editor.

PioNet subscriptions

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

Visit Pioneer District Web site:
www.harmonize.com/Pioneer/pio.htm

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So ...

Are you interested in the future of your chapter?

Pretty silly question, isn't it?

OF COURSE YOU ARE!

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

COTS

(Chapter Operations Training Seminar)

**On tap are some 60 sessions offering something for
every chapter officer, board member, committeeman,
and Joe Barbershopper**

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

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

**Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 1-2
at Gull Lake**

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

Editorial**Troubadour to publish five issues a year**

As you read in this issue's front-page story, the Pioneer District is re-evaluating its financial status. At its annual meeting in August, the Board of Directors adopted several proposals to improve its financial position.

One of the ideas was to reduce the number of issues of the *Troubadour* from six issues annually to five. This move alone will save the district more than \$2,000 per year.

Several of the other Society districts have also felt a financial pinch and have reduced the number of their district newsletter issues as well.

I will also try to keep the number of pages of each issue in a smaller range: 20-28 pages instead of 28-36.

The breakdown of future *Troubadour* publishing is as follows:

- Issue 1 - January/February
- Issue 2 - March/April
- Issue 3 - May/June/July
- Issue 4 - August/September
- Issue 5 - October/November/December

As in the past, the deadline for articles and photos will be the fifth of the month prior to publication unless otherwise noted. This date will be listed in the top right-hand corner of page 2 of each issue.

Chapters wishing to place annual show ads should plan carefully to determine which issue would best suit their needs.

I will try to include every feature that has appeared in recent issues. However, a difference might be that the articles will be more condensed and the number of photographs fewer.

Recently, I have asked those of you who submit articles to "write tight," i.e., keep them short and focused. Now I'm asking you to "write tighter." If you wrote 400-word articles in the past, try to write 300-350 words in the future. If you wrote five or six paragraphs before, try to condense your writing to three or four now.

I realize that this can be a challenging request to achieve but, working together, we will succeed.

Gary

25 years ago**Foreign Policy wins district championship**

In 1976, FOREIGN POLICY won the Pioneer District Quartet Championship with a score of 1,728 points. Finishing second was GREAT LAKES EXPRESS (1,578 points) and in third place, SOUND SPECTRUM (1,568 points). Held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Dearborn, the October contest was hosted by the Grosse Pointe Chapter.



FOREIGN POLICY: (Clockwise from top) Bass Thom Hine, tenor John Wearing, bari Don Humphries, and lead Russ Seely.

The Wayne Chapter's WONDERLAND CHORUS took first place in the district's chorus competition held in April in Lansing. Grosse Pointe finished second and Grand Rapids was third.

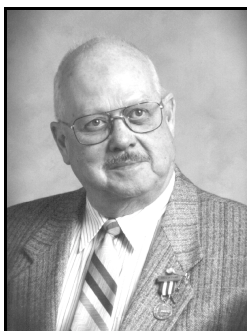
The following Barbershoppers were selected to the Pioneer District Hall of Fame in 1976: Michael Amone, Hal Bauer, Merle Clayton, Leonard Field, Wally Joure, and Robert Walker. ♪

A View From The Top

Don Bazely, President

Important events coming up

I have decided, just this once, to abandon a column with any kind of theme and concentrate instead on a couple of really important district events that should be marked on your calendars.



Don Bazely

House of Delegates (H O D) meeting October 19 at Battle Creek. Your district Board is going to be asking chapter delegates to play an

ever-expanding role in the running of this district. We will ask them to review the district five-year plan; and to work with us in reviewing our cost-containment measures and our fund raising plans.

COTS – December 1-2. It is distressing to see the number of chapter officers who believe that COTS is a waste of time and that there is nothing more they can learn. What a misguided attitude. I know ... “you can lead a horse to water ...”; I am familiar with that saying.

I also know that you can pick

out the chapters that send their officers to COTS. They are usually the ones that are doing well.

This is probably my last article as district president. Has it been a picnic? Not at all. But I wouldn't have missed it for the world. Your district board — past, present, and future — is the greatest bunch of guys that you could ever hope to meet.

Now listen up! I got ALL or nearly all of my jollies by participating in district (and Society) events. That's what Barbershoping is all about. You cannot get the best bang for your buck by acting as though the Barbershop world is confined to your city boundaries. How about making an effort to be a conventioneer this October? We would all love to see you there.

One final thought. The district Board will be going through several changes for 2002. I can promise you that, with the continuing support of the guys who stepped down, we are certainly in very good hands. If I can claim credit for one thing done right, it is that I persuaded Al Bonney to run for district president!

Sing from the heart ... or don't bother. ♪

Here come the jugs!

By Jim Kunz,
Detroit-Oakland Chapter

One of the long-standing Pioneer District traditions has been Return of the Jug Night each June. This process typically starts in late summer, with the Detroit-Oakland Chapter making surprise visits to chapter meetings, sending two jugs on journeys throughout Michigan and Ontario. Each chapter visited is encouraged to make a modest contribution to the Jug Fund and then pass the jug on.

This tradition was started to: help defray the expenses our quartets incur when they represent us at the international convention and to promote inter-chapter activity. This past year, only about half of the chapters were visited by chapters exchanging the jug.

While we still had a wonderful evening last June with great attendance at our Return of the Jug Night, we had less than \$500 available for POWER PLAY. Many of us missed that chance for a little inter-chapter camaraderie during the year as well.

We're hoping this is a tradition we can preserve. To do that, we need your help in:

- Supporting your leaders as they ask you to spend an extra evening visiting another chapter
- Encouraging your leaders to contribute to the Jug Fund

The jugs will be moving soon. If you have any suggestions regarding what we can do to improve this tradition, feel free to send me an e-mail at <KunzLeigh@yahoo.com> or give me a call. ♪

Singing is Life ...
the rest is just details

Here's the Society Pitch

Raleigh Bloch, Society Board Member

COTS, DOTS, & "Joe Barberstopper"

Well, it's that time again. I wonder what kind of help I'm going to get with my article.



Raleigh Bloch

I'm here, as usual, but I've brought along my friend, Joe Barberstopper.

Y E A H, I'M HERE AND WE DON'T NEED NO ARTICLE, SO DON'T EVEN BOTHER.

Where did you ever get that name, Joe Barberstopper?

I DON'T KNOW. IT'S SOMETHING SOMEBODY HUNG ON ME FOR SOME REASON AND IT JUST STUCK.

Anyway, we need to talk about COTS 'N' DOTS.

I know what COTS is, but what the heck is DOTS?

HEY, IT'S NOT THAT DOTS COM STUFF, IS IT? IF IT IS, JUST FORGET ABOUT IT.

Well, COTS is Chapter Operations Training Seminar, so I thought I would call District Officer Training School DOTS.

Isn't that what the forum is supposed to be?

Yes, but I thought COTS 'N'

DOTS would make a catchy title.

WELL, WE DON'T NEED THESE DUMB SCHOOLS; THIS IS A SINGING ORGANIZATION, NOT A BUSINESS.

Well, to tell the truth, it is a business. In fact, just at the International level, it's a \$6,200,000.00 business. If you add to that the local chapters, it's significantly higher. Some chapter budgets are over \$200,000.00.

We need an organization to handle all our purchasing of music and equipment, PR, correspondence, organization of performances, directing of the chorus, establishing plans to get new members, scheduling of events, coaching sessions, contests, organizing fun events, etc.

OK, BUT WE DON'T NEED ALL THESE SCHOOLS. THEY COST MONEY. JUST SELECT THE GUYS AND LET THEM DO IT.

Why wouldn't we want to give them all the help we can so they and our organization can be successful?

When I was a kid, I tried to tie my shoe and what a mess of knots I had. Then my Dad showed me how.

So that training session helped you?

You bet.

WELL, OUR GUYS IN OUR CHAPTER KNOW HOW TO TIE THEIR SHOES AND HAVE BEEN TO COTS, SO WE FIGURE WHY SEND THEM AGAIN? IT COST MONEY.

So you remember everything that you've ever been trained?

WELL, WHAT I FORGOT I DIDN'T NEED TO KNOW TO BEGIN WITH.

You don't think there is anything new to be learned?

HEY, I GOT THIS FAR ON WHAT I KNOW. NOW BLOW ME AN A-FLAT AND LET'S SING "MY WILD IRISH ROSE."

Um, that's B-flat, Joe.

AND FURTHERMORE, SOME OF THOSE DISTRICT GUYS HAVE GONE TO THAT FORUM THING TWO YEARS IN A ROW NOW.

Well, aside from learning some new things to help them do their jobs, they learn about new plans that the Society has for the coming year. They also have a voice in developing those plans.

We need to coordinate our efforts and have the best trained leaders on the local, district, and international levels so that we can be successful. If we have one weak link in that chain, we definitely will not do as well. Let's be as good as we can be. So you see, COTS 'N' DOTS are important.

OK, OK, I GET THE MESSAGE. ALL OUR GUYS NEED TO GO TO COTS 'N' DOTS (FORUM) AND WE WILL DEFINITELY BE BETTER FOR IT.

Sounds good to me.

NOW LETS HAVE THAT B-FLAT AND SING "WAIT 'TIL

(Continued on page 12)

Here's the District Pitch

Brian Dunckel, Member Services VP

Will you be "Mr. October"?

Play ball, plaaaaaaaaaay ball.

That's how the GREAT LAKES CHORUS began the second song in the baseball package that we performed in Nashville. As most of us know, the major league season is



Brian Dunckel

about to close with its fall classic, the World Series. Each year a hero emerges from the winning team, perhaps a dominating pitcher or a player whose bat de-

stroys the ball.

In 21 seasons in the American League, most notably with the Oakland Athletics and the New York Yankees, Reggie Jackson hit 563 home runs. An outspoken player who starred in clutch situations, he became known as "Mr. October," especially after his performance in the 1977 World Series where he hit five home runs — three of those in the deciding game — en route to his second World Series MVP award.

Our Pioneer District needs to become larger than life — the stuff legends are made of — in terms of recruiting new members to join our fraternity of singers. In Nashville, four members of our district attended a presentation on membership orientation that was given

by the VOCAL MAJORITY.

Now please don't say what I'm sure some of you are thinking, "We can't use that — we aren't the VM"; only part of that is true.

Part of the reason that the VM is successful is that they have planned for success. Their plan can assist any chapter; it's not something that is unique to them. It does however require work to make it happen, assisting the chapter's leadership in planning, implementing, and supporting the membership drive activities. It's not the boards' problem, nor that of the VP of chapter development; we must all be on the team and must work together to ensure the team's success.

Baseball teams rely on scouting reports to know what to expect from their opponents. Your chapter has many "scouting reports" available at the Society Web site, many "scouts" and "coaches" (Pioneer Membership Team Area Coordinators Ev and Dick at Kenosha, your chapter coach, and even other chapter's leaders) are available and more than willing to give extra help, but the MVP is you — the greatest asset your chapter can have.

Do you wear your membership pin with pride? Do you look for opportunities to ask people if they sing? (Notice I said "people." You can even ask women because, if they sing, they may have a man that sings.) Our own Roger Lewis

does this as well as anyone I know! I'm sure he would also "coach" you on how to do it.

We can't continue to be passive; we must ACTIVELY seek out others to join us. You don't have to hit a home run every time, but you do have to go to bat!

Will you be the next "Mr. October"? Like young Billy in the GREAT LAKES CHORUS parody of "Wait 'Til the Sun Shines, Nellie" who dreams of his career as a major leaguer, **if you're gonna dream ... dream BIG!**

"Now batting for the New York Yankees" ♪

Harmony Foundation grant application deadline is near

The next application deadline for Harmony Foundation grants is November 1. Download the guidelines and application from the Foundation Web site at www.spebsqsa.org/HarmonyFoundation/ or contact the Foundation office at 1-800-876-7464, x-8447.

Grants are for projects that strengthen vocal music education in schools and keep singing alive in communities. ♪

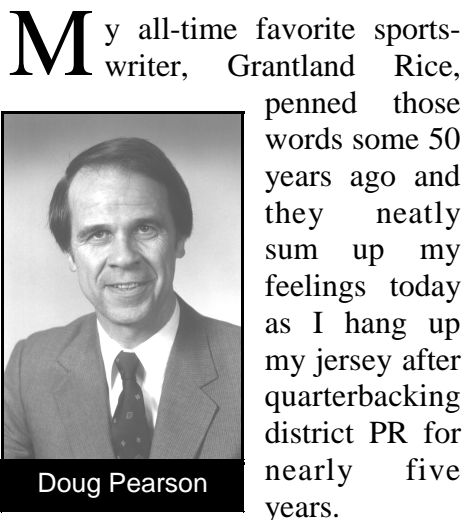
**Quartet
singers
make
better
chorus
singers.**

Dr. Greg Lyne

Public Relating

Doug Pearson, Marketing & Public Relations VP

*“Where the old dreams move along,
Shadows that drift to and fro,
Moving on back through years,
I’ve seen a pretty good show”*



Doug Pearson

“As the curtain falls, I’ve seen a pretty good show.”

This good show for me has been spiced with a number of indelible Public Relations Moments. As I move on back through the years, here are just a few of them:

- Singing Valentines have consistently given our district a slam-dunk PR boost. A number of our chapters have turned in blue-ribbon efforts in telling and selling the Barbershop story through Singing Valentines. The built-in community relations are incredible. As just one positive example among many, this past February our Grand Rapids Chapter delivered some 200 Singing Valentines over a four-day period.
- As I’ve preached, yelled, and screamed to you during my ten-

ure, a successful PR program or project can be relatively simple to plan and execute. Just about any one of you can do it if you follow the right formula. A PR Moment for me here is COTS. In the past, we had been hurting for attendance at this annual activity. This year we revitalized our PR efforts. From a district standpoint, we placed a full-page ad and ran several major stories in the *Troub*. We also made extensive use of e-mail to hype the event. Chapter officers did a good job of publicizing COTS and of talking it up among their members — important links to PR. The end result? We almost doubled our attendance over the previous year with a record number of participants.

- A district guy’s job is made a lot easier if he’s surrounded by pros. I was fortunate to have veteran practitioners such as Troubadour Editor Gary Simon and PioNet Administrator Jim Styer calling many of the PR/communications shots. If you throw a Hail Mary pass, you’ll want that twosome down the field as receivers.
- Let’s hear it for all of our performing quartets — most defi-

nately a PR Moment for me. Every time these foursomes are out in the community — entertaining all sorts of audiences — they serve as goodwill ambassadors for our singing fraternity of Barbershoppers. These quartets are not only selling a song, they’re selling our chapters, district, and Society.

- Chapter publications have provided me with good and challenging moments. Good because we have a number of quality district bulletins. Challenging because we need more of them.
- Plaudits go to Hammerin’ Hank Hedges. Now here’s a guy who deserves his own PR Moment — or as many moments as he wants to take. Hank has done a superlative job in promoting our annual Bush League activity. He’s taken it from near failure to a major league event. Hank’s PR formula: Frequent publicity on PioNet, catchy Bush League fliers, highly visible booths at district conventions, and articles in the *Troubadour*. They all go together to increase awareness and participation in this popular event.
- A lot of PR savvy went into the success of Huron Valley’s Guest Night a couple of years ago with close to 40 visitors. “We pulled out all the stops and took advantage of the creative approach,” said Director Lynne Peirce.

So there you have a few of my PR highlights during the past several years — true “Moments to Remember.”

Actually, they’re all part of a continuum. Thanks to you, my job has been fun and rewarding.

And, yes ... I’ve seen a pretty good show. ♪

Chapter Coaching

Doran McTaggart, Chapter Support/Leadership VP

COTS is ticket to chapter success

Now that chapter elections have been completed, your officers can learn how to do the right job at our Pioneer COTS on December 1-2. Your chapter leadership team will be taught by a world-class international



Doran McTaggart

faculty who will freely share its expertise to benefit your chapter. Don't miss out on this learning opportunity. We are looking forward to breaking last year's attendance record.

Pioneer COTS Coordinator John Gillespie has sent each chapter a COTS registration package. Please mail your completed registrations to the proper people before the deadlines. What classes will be available?

The president's class will stress improving leadership skills, chapter organization, utilizing resources, preparing agendas, conducting board meetings, and problem solving.

The music and performance (program) VP class will include yearly and weekly programming, the music leadership team, contest

and performance preparation, woodshedding, quartetting, gang singing, inter-chapter activity, and many other topics relating to the music program.

The VP for chapter development will have classes on the care and feeding of the member, proven guest night and membership recruitment programs, orientation and retention, and other membership-related ideas.

The secretary and treasurer will attend classes dealing with the nuts and bolts of their offices. They'll have hands-on activities using the actual forms and reports that they will use.

Your chorus director has a class, too. He can improve his skills in teaching, organizing, and presenting the chapter musical program with variety and interest.

The marketing and PR class will offer many ways to promote your chapter in the community. Internal and external public relations will also be explored. Your chapter will no longer be a secret in your area.

The Young Men In Harmony (YMIH) class is new this year. How to get started, supporting school music programs, and promoting the college quartet contest are only a few of the topics that will be presented.

A course for chapter coach applicants and practising chapter coaches will be held again this year.

Emphasis will be placed on an integrated product team (IPT) concept and the more officers attending COTS, the better prepared each chapter will be to implement this program.

There will be several general sessions filled with information, singing, learning a song or two, and enjoying a YMIH performance plus hearing our new district president give his charge to the troops.

Add to all of this, great accommodations, tasty meals, and the fellowship of your Barbershop friends, and you've got a COTS weekend that you'll not soon forget.

I'll be there! Why don't YOU join me? ♪

Sing ... for life!

Rube Goldberg's gym

Submitted by Fred McFadyen,
Macomb Chapter

If only people could burn lots of calories with little or no effort and/or while doing other tasks. Surely, you'd strike it rich if you invented an exercise machine that accomplished that. Here's a new patent described recently in the New York Times:

#6,118,064: Karaoke deep-breathing. Vigorous vocalizing can burn as many calories as a 100-meter sprint, according to the Japanese inventor of this machine that computes the number of calories burned while you sing. Hmm, sing while using the shower stepper? ♪

Take Note

Fred Kienitz, Chorus Director Development VP

You're in good hands with new Board

You may or may not know that I am writing my very last *Troubadour* article in that I have decided to retire from the Pioneer



Fred Kienitz

District Board of Directors and relinquish my DVP-CDD to a very capable replacement.

I will not reveal the name of this gentleman, but will only say that he — like me — is good-looking and very talented, plus he's younger and will do a bang-up job while serving Pioneer.

He will be named to this position officially at the Pioneer District Board of Directors' meeting in October and will take office as of January 1, 2002.

Before I ride off into the sunset, however, I would like to thank you — the members of this wonderful district for your kindnesses and cooperation on my behalf throughout these many years of service.

I was privileged to visit numerous chapters and work on your behalf to become even better Barbershoppers and to help you upgrade your status as performers. The cooperation on your part was, as always, the biggest factor in the out-

come and growth of your chapter performance and I'm sure your status within your community is and will remain in the forefront of musically talented ensembles in your locale.

The acceptance and friendly attitude of your members and officers only helped to make these trips successful, and even more important, memorable to me in that I was able to play a small part in your success.

I will cherish the memory of all of the Board members with whom I have served, the individuals I have met while visiting your chapters, and the fact that my retirement will in no way reduce the fond recollection of the hundreds of Pioneer people I've served and, as a bonus, who I can now fondly call FRIEND.

In closing, I would like to say that I attended the last Board workshop and we encouraged the NEW GUYS to sit in on their new prospective positions, in that they are the ones who will be making Board policy for your benefit in the future and, as an observer, I think it's fair to say that you (like All-State) are in good hands.

Now that I am becoming a Joe member again, I would still love it if you ask me to sing a tag now and then. ♪

COTS is coming!

By John T. Gillespie,
district COTS coordinator

Pioneer District COTS will be held December 1-2, 2001, at the W. K. Kellogg Education Center at Gull Lake, Mich.

Up until a few years ago, COTS was an acronym for "Chapter Officers Training School." It was later changed to "Chapter Operations Training Seminar," emphasizing that COTS had been expanded to offer something for everyone. It offers over 60 selections of sessions to choose from. This forum provides an opportunity for members to interact with one another and with a highly trained certified faculty.

You can study about specific functions within a chapter that interest you, receive a basic course in an office that deals with the bare facts, or study a variety of subjects from a multitude of instructors. You can develop and enhance your leadership skills that will benefit you in Barbershopping and in your career.

Registration materials and a list of course descriptions will be mailed to each chapter president and secretary about mid-October. Plan now to attend and enjoy a fantastic weekend! ♪

Yours 4 A Song

Dan Bezaire, Music & Performance VP

Opportunities for improvement

Last February, our Pioneer District hosted its first ever Chorus Coaching Day in Lansing. We hope to repeat that event on the first weekend of next March.

This will be a great opportunity for your chorus to get some



Dan Bezaire

outstanding coaching from some of the Society's greatest coaches.

The plan is to have three choruses attend the three-hour morning session, spending one hour each with three coaches.

After a common lunch attended by all participants, three other choruses go through the same routine. The evening session is reserved for our international chorus representatives, unknown at this time.

This is a great and inexpensive way to improve the quality of some of our district choruses. Details are not finalized as yet, but the cost including lunch should be around \$20 per man. This is something that could easily be subsidized from your chapter budget. (You do subsidize coaching/education, don't you?) Tentative date is March 2, 2002, at MSU.

We also hope to hold a similar event for the northern choruses. I

will keep you informed as soon as we get things firmed up.

It's not too early to plan to attend Harmony Round-Up. We hope that our annual district school will be the biggest and best ever.

It will be the same weekend as before: between Mother's Day and Memorial Day (Victoria Day weekend, my Canajun brothers), May 17-19, 2002. Mark the dates on your calendars and urge your chapter to budget something for that as well.

I hope that more information about these two events will be available by fall convention or at COTS at Gull Lake. ♪

Register for the mid-winter and international conventions

It's not too early to think about registering for the midwinter convention in Riverside, California, January 20-27, 2002, and the international convention in Portland, Oregon, June 30-July 7, 2002.

To register: call 1-800-876-7464, x-8462 or on-line at www.spebsqsa.org/midwinter and www.spebsqsa.org/Portland. ♪

Harmony Weekend in Harrisville

By Craig Pollard

Another successful Harmony Weekend in Harrisville has ended. The weather was awesome and the singing was even better.

We were very close to a record attendance with over 365 people who signed in.

The town did a great job for all who attended. The Art Fair was bigger than ever and the parade for the kids was exciting.

On Saturday evening, 16 quartets and choruses performed at Maria Hall; two of the quartets had formed during the weekend. Also exciting was the first performance by a Young Women in Harmony quartet with an average age of 14.

Sunday featured 21 groups performing in a two-hour show.

Thirty-three Barbershop chapters were represented at Harrisville. The Arts Council of Harrisville presented long-distance trophies to first-time attendees from Tennessee and California.

Next year's Harmony Weekend will be the 40th anniversary of this event. We'd love to have all of the Pioneer chapters come up for that special occasion. If your chapter used to come to Harrisville, but haven't recently, plan for next year's event.

Thank you to everyone who helped "pitch in" to make this event so successful.

My father would be proud! ♪

Young Men in Harmony

Al Bonney, District Chairman

Today is the day!

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



Al Bonney

First: find a guy to be the YMIH spark-plug for the chapter. You must have a guy who thinks YMIH is just the thing to put the chapter on the map, or an ex-music teacher who really believes in the program. He is the perfect guy to lead the effort. Now make him a board officer — VP of YMIH — and give the program a voice on the chapter Board of Directors. Give a guy a title, a bit of power, and a budget to make things happen — then get out of his way!

Second: Send your new VP of YMIH to COTS. There WILL be an entire six-hour track for YMIH guys where he can learn what the

Society has to support him and your chapter's programs. He will learn about other successful programs and where he can go to get help and ideas. He will meet me (and Dave Anderson, the 2002 DVP nominee for YMIH) and many YMIH VPs from other chapters. Together we will share ideas and dreams with both new guys and experienced ones.

Third: Tell me who your new YMIH guy is. In my role as district VP of YMIH, I communicate throughout the year with the YMIH guys in the chapters to let them know about opportunities they might be interested in, good ideas that have worked in other chapters. I am always available to answer questions that might help a project get unstuck. If I know who your guy is, I can be sure he is "on my list."

Today is the day! You can do it or not. The move is up to you.

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

Good luck! ♪

Ladies Hospitality Room

By Chair Carole Parker

The fall convention will be here before you know it. The ladies hospitality room again welcomes you to join us in friendship, where chatting with old and new friends is encouraged.

Here, you can relax, have a cup of coffee or tea, and eat a "goodie" or two. You may also register for one of the many door prizes that will be given away on Saturday. The lovely gifts have been donated by several of our wonderful ladies. For that, I thank them with all my heart.

The hospitality room hours will be: Friday, October 19 - 1:00-5:00 p.m.; Saturday, October 20 - 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. and 3:30-4:30 p.m.

This will be my last time to host the hospitality room and will happily hand the reigns to Mary Bazely, who will be your hostess beginning in April 2002. I am confident that you will make Mary welcome and help her as much as you have supported me.

Again, "Thank you all!" ♪

Raleigh Bloch

(Continued from page 6)

THE SUNSHINES, NELLIE."

That's an A-flat, Joe.

Wait a minute. We only got three guys and I sing tenor. What do you sing, Joe?

BARITONE.

I sing baritone, too.

Two baritones and a tenor! I think I've lost it.

I DON'T THINK HE EVER HAD IT.

Maybe if he went to COTS or DOTS he could get it. ♪

**Sing from the heart ...
or don't bother!**

The Judge's Corner

Ed Fritzen, Contest & Judging VP

More competitors, greater showcase

Can you believe that it's fall already and that I'm in the midst of preparing for our district's fall convention and contests? I don't know where the summer went.



Ed Fritzen

We have a fine panel of judges lined up for the fall contests. Judging music will be Roger Payne, and Ray Schwarzkopf. In the presentation category we'll have Doug Miller and Gary Stamm, while our singing judges will be Tom Woodall and Dale Comer. Coordinating this fine panel will be past Society president Dick Shaw as the contest administrator and John Santora as the associate contest administrator.

If you see any of these gentlemen throughout the convention weekend, please say "Hi" and welcome them to the Pioneer District.

While I'm on the subject of conventions and contests, do you know that we have 31 chapters in our district along with 68 registered quartets? Of this number, only about 15 to 18 chapters are represented by a chorus in our chorus contest, and a similar number of quartets compete.

Wouldn't it be great to have a chorus contest with 20 to 25 choruses competing? Or how about a quartet semi-final round with 25-30 quartets? It would be a wonderful contest, and a showcase of Barbershop harmony.

As your vice-president of contest & judging, I would like to know what it would take to encourage a greater participation in our conventions and contests. I've always enjoyed coming to conventions and singing in the contests, no matter what the outcome. It's a lot of fun and a chance to sing in front of the greatest audience in the world ... your fellow Barbershoppers. How can you pass up an opportunity like that?

In addition, no matter where one places in the contest, each quartet/chorus gets some valuable advice and coaching in order to improve the next time out. I think that's a great deal.

So, let me encourage all the chapters, and quartets who haven't competed recently to consider it either this fall, or in the spring. Your chorus will be better for it, and if you sing in a quartet, you can't help but improve. There are no losers on the competition stage.

If there is any way that I can make the contest a more rewarding experience, for all of our competi-

tors, please let me know. I'll do whatever it takes.

Finally, I'm pleased to announce that our incoming Society president, Roger Lewis, along with Mike O'Donnell and me, all successfully completed category school this summer and have been re-certified in the judging program until 2004.

We could use a few more dedicated men from Pioneer to enter into the judging program. It's a lot of hard work, but the rewards are worth it. Please contact me if you are interested. I'd love to hear from you.

See you all in Battle Creek. ♪

Summer PROBEmoter on-line

The Summer 2001 issue of the PROBEmoter newsletter is online at the PROBE Web site, <http://www.harmonize.com/PROBE/>

It contains reports of PROBE activities in Nashville and some good articles for bulletin editors and public relations folk.

Those who aren't already PROBE members may join by having their secretary check them off for membership when they send in their new-officer reports to Kenosha. Annual membership is \$5.

Sign up now, as the cost will rise to \$10 beginning in January. By paying \$10 now, you'll be paid up through Dec. 31, 2002.

You also can sign up on the PROBE Web site. ♪

Quartets Champions Association

Al Fisk, Secretary

Spotlight on Bob Winters

Many moons ago (1976?), I bumped into the PATCH CHORDS as they were singing for a cabaret audience intermission at a Michigan State University Chorale/Lansing Symphony performance of "Porgy and Bess."

Having never heard a real Barbershop quartet before, I was enthralled! I immediately joined the Lansing Chapter. Their director? The one and only Mr. Bob Winters. Here is his story in his own words. Bob is one of many guys who mentored my Barbershop beginnings.

Thanks, Bob.

My Life (So Far) in Barbershop By Bob Winters

I got my first taste of Barbershop quartet singing in high school in Detroit. Our men's glee club had a continuous Barbershop quartet and as a high school sophomore, I was selected to take the place of the graduating tenor.

We had the same personnel for two years and performed for anyone who asked. Back in those days, the Detroit #1 Chapter had a Bob-Lo Barbershop Moonlight Cruise on the Detroit River every summer. A Barbershopper who heard us perform invited us to sing on the cruise.

We had no idea that we would be singing on the same show as a number of fine quartets from across the state. We thought we were going to be the headliners!

Needless to say, we were very impressed with what we heard and were thinking, "Maybe we don't belong here." We sang anyway and I learned for the first time what a great audience Barbershoppers make.

All four of the guys in the quartet attended Wayne State University, so we stayed together. A songwriter and record producer in Detroit heard us sing and wanted us to be the back-up vocal group behind a crooner named Hal Summers.

By that time, we had named ourselves THE STAGS and HAL SUMMERS AND THE STAGS made one record. Several Detroit deejays had Saturday shows they put on throughout the Detroit metropolitan area, usually in a movie theater. They needed live talent, so we were singing just about every week for several months.

Several years later, my wife, Kay, and I met a neighbor of a good friend at a party. He told me that he was a Barbershopper and that I should come with him to one of Detroit #1's MOTOR CITY CHORUS rehearsals. I wasn't sure I wanted to make a commitment to sing every week, but I did agree to go to a Barbershop party.

It turned out to be the annual Pontiac Corn Roast and I was immediately dragged into a group of guys singing tags. I later learned that their names were Bob Craig, Bob Whitledge, and Bob Lus-

comb. I wound up learning and singing tags until about 2:00 a.m. I attended my first chorus rehearsal the next week and was hooked for life.

While I was a member of Detroit #1, our chorus went to International twice. I was assistant director under Bill Butler and my quartet, the TREBLESHOOTERS, — tenor Bob Mulligan, baritone Cliff Jorgensen, and bass Bob Whitledge — won the district in 1964 and competed at International. I don't think anyone heard us at International because we sang right after the SIDEWINDERS and right before the FOUR RENEGADES.

After a couple of years, the TREBLESHOOTERS and the AUTOTOWNERS, who had won the International in 1966, broke up. Glenn Van Tassell and Dom Palmieri invited Bob Whitledge and me to try forming a new quartet.

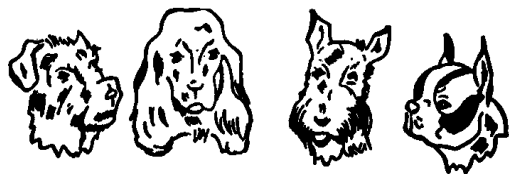
I remember that we got together several times, but I had to be gone most of the summer because of other commitments. I told the guys that if they could find another lead, I'd understand.

They found some guy from Ohio named Drayton Justus and the rest is GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT history.

Shortly after that, Kay and I moved to Watertown, N.Y., and I dabbled in directing the local chorus and singing in a foursome called the TUNESTERS UNION.

After three years, another job opportunity took me to Washington, D.C., and I joined the ALEXANDRIA HARMONIZERS. I became one of the lead section leaders, got to direct the chorus once in a while, and sang in a quartet named

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COTS - The best thing that could happen to your chapter!

How to prepare for competition

By Todd Wilson

Todd Wilson, of 1990 International champion quartet ACOUSTIX, has filed a fantastic piece to Harmonet with some real insight on how the quartet prepared for its first competition. None of us are (yet) ACOUSTIX caliber — POWER PLAY is closing in — and few of us have the caliber of coaches they had.

But I thought everyone, even first-time chapter quartets, could benefit from the concepts of mental preparation that Todd discusses here.

Jim Styer

As you know, nervousness tends to create distractions that get in the way of someone doing their personal best at “crunch time.” Things like sweaty palms, shortness of breath, racing heart, or worrying about someone else in the quartet are normal symptoms that can cause someone to “choke” on the contest stage. To me, this is more prevalent when someone is not as prepared as they should/could be.

When ACOUSTIX competed back in 1990 in the “big show,” before the prelims, we attended the very first “Top Gun” which was held in our own Southwest District. We worked with some great coaches like Don Clause, Larry Ajer, Steve Plumb, and Darryl Flinn to name a few. Don eventually came up with some great song ideas, a masterful interpretive plan, re-worked some chords here and there, and made

us (believe in ourselves), feel like we were capable of doing very well in San Francisco. Larry helped us to become mentally prepared so that there were NO distractions that could get in the way of our potential to “kick some butt” and execute the plan.

We didn’t even have a name for the quartet at this point and

all the right reasons.

We had four Ed Waesche arrangements prepared for the first two rounds and worked our butts off on those four songs. In mid-May, we got the Waesche chart, “The Masquerade is Over” and paired it with a repertoire song we already knew, “When It Comes to Lovin’ the Girls/Sweeties Medley.”

In the first two rounds, we scored a respectable fourth place. On Friday, when we made the “Ten,” we were elated, had nothing to lose, and didn’t have unrealistic expectations with regard to this “very unrehearsed” set left for Saturday night. Oddly enough, the “unrehearsed” finals set for Saturday scored much higher than the first two rounds, enough for us to move all the way from

fourth to first.

It’s hard to believe, but Saturday night in the finals was the public debut for “The Masquerade is Over.”

Among other things, the “key” ingredient to our success, in my mind, was when Larry introduced to us the importance of “imagineering” — going through every aspect of our three sets in our heads over and over again.

For example, what it will be like to hear our name announced by the master of ceremonies? What it will be like when we walk out to take our initial bow? Imag-



ACOUSTIX: (From left) tenor Todd Wilson, lead Rick Middaugh, bass Joel Rutherford, and bari Jason January.

didn’t settle on the name ACOUSTIX until the Friday of prelims. One of our friends, Nelson Coates, came up with the name and we liked it.

We rehearsed twice a week from January through the first half of June and, believe it or not, took a TWO-WEEK BREAK prior to the contest. Rick was out of town because of a prior family commitment. We didn’t see each other again until the night before the first quarter-finals round. The vocal break and the time apart did us a world of good. Because we weren’t sick to death of rehearsing and being together, we all truly looked forward to the contest for

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How to prepare for competition

(Continued from page 16)

ine what it will be like to walk back into quartet formation and prep for the start of the first song. What it will be like to hear the pitch. What it will be like to accept the applause and take our first bow. Imagine what it will be like to walk back into quartet formation and prep for the start of the next song. What it will be like to hear the pitch. "Perform" every phrase and breath of the first song in our heads from start to finish. "Perform" the second song in our heads from start to finish. What it will be like to accept the applause and take our last bow. Imagine what it will be like as we exit the stage.

So when we had any individual down time, like driving down the highway to and from work or lying in bed at night before falling asleep, we "imagined" what it would be like to perform all three sets from start to finish. We did this hundreds of times from mid-March through the day of the first competition round. I remember a few Saturdays where Jeff and I caught some rays by the pool and

did nothing but run the sets in our heads over and over again.

So, despite the newness of the quartet or the limited time we had to prep the finals set or the two weeks prior to International when we didn't sing together, when we got to San Francisco, were mentally/vocally PREPARED to do our individual best.

There were NO nerves or distractions to get in the way of executing the plan. We didn't have to worry about stage presence. We didn't have any real "moves" planned. Larry helped us with a few focal points, suggested a stance and attitude for each song, and strived to have our faces match the mood of every song.

Above all, the main focus was to sing each song as if it were our last time on stage together. Anything else was unacceptable.

No one was more shocked to hear ACOUSTIX announced as the International Champions than I was. My jaw was dragging on the ground all the way out to take our bow. Another surprise was hearing that the 139TH STREET QUARTET beat us in the SOUND category.

Go figure.

My gut tells me the reason we won was primarily mental and less about the singing. ♪

Collegiate champs head for East Coast A Cappella Summit

From SPEBSQSA Live Wire,
By Reed Sampson,
Public Relations Manager

Our 2001 MBNA America Collegiate Barbershop Quartet Contest champion, Reprise, will appear on the Friday night show at the East Coast A Cappella Summit, October 26-28. They also have a one-hour seminar slated for 10:00 a.m. Saturday.

The Summit will be held at Boston University. Best deal for tickets: Full-weekend pass price (\$50 regular, \$45 student) includes all events plus Friday and Saturday night concerts. To order tickets, call 1-800-827-2936. ♪



International Convention
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ACAPPELLA
QUARTET

Doug Morgan

Winds of change

(Continued from page 1)

Roger Lewis and Society Board Member Raleigh Bloch.

Working from 9:00 a.m. until after 6:00 p.m., the group covered a range of topics, including a new five-year plan for the district, goals for 2002, work plans for each member of the 2002 Board, and a draft budget for 2002.



Of particular interest to district Barbershoppers, the five-year plan contains five strategic goals which will provide a central focus for district Board activities and expenses for the next five years. These five goals are:

1. **Sing better.** Enable chapters and quartets to raise the quality of their performances so that the average of all competing units — district wide — is 60 points higher than in the fall 2000 competition by December 2006. Based on the scores of a single panel of judges (current is approx. 342 points). This would be an increase of two points per song per judge for 2002.
2. **Stronger membership.** Enable membership growth in existing

chapters and increase the number of active chapters in the district so that the total membership in the district is 1,430 by December 2006.

3. **Greater awareness.** Increase awareness of Barbershop-ping — its artistic merit and good works in Michigan and Ontario.
4. **Strong finances.** Bring the district to a point of sound financial stability while continuing and improving services to our members by creating a bank account reserve of 50 percent of the district's annual budget by December 2006.
5. **Understand membership desires.** Develop and implement procedures for continuous member feedback and implement visible application of that feed back to assess needs, evaluate effectiveness of programs, distinguish opportunities, and establish priorities for the district.

It will be unlikely that we will achieve these ambitious goals without a concerted and focused commitment from both district and chapter leadership. It will be critical that all of us embrace these goals and work toward them as a collective unit (district and chapter leadership with a unified direction!).

We plan to restructure the House of Delegates meeting in October to give delegates the opportunity to discuss these five goals among themselves and present comments to the Board. An-

nouncements and instructions for participation in this important meeting will be mailed to all chapter presidents prior to October 1 to ensure maximum participation.

I look forward to working with everyone to achieving these ambitious goals. We can do this if we work together toward a common end.

It is truly "great to be a Barbershopper in Pioneer!" ♪

The Barbershop bass's creed

By Earl McGhee

- I will always remember that basses are God's chosen people and will strive to convince others of that truth.
- Whenever the notes fall within my "power range," I will sing in a manner that conveys the message "I am a bass! Hear me roar!"
- Whenever there exists the slightest opportunity for a swipe, I will take it, whether the music is so written or not.
- I will, on rare occasions, allow the baritone to take a swipe.
- I will always remember that the bass establishes the sound of the quartet or chorus and I will not allow the bari, lead, or tenor to forget it.
- I will remember that the lead carries the melody and message of the song and so will show him a modest amount of respect. I will not overdo it.
- I will remember that the tenor, though he sings girlishly, is a rare and hard to find guy and so will treat him with grudging respect. I will not overdo it.
- I will do all of the above in a spirit of humility befitting one of God's chosen people. ♪

Chapters in Action

Detroit-Oakland

By Tom Uicker

Another summer is coming to a close. Last year at this time we talked about adding three new members and two reinstated members. Since that time, we have added six more new members and two duals. We have one more guest night before this newsletter goes to press, and we are expecting at least one more membership application by fall.

Let me remind you of "Canada Night" on the first Friday of November. It is one of only two remaining "first Fridays" that were celebrated in times past. (The other one is the "Return of the Jug" on the first Friday in June.) We want to invite all Detroit-area Barbershoppers, especially the Windsor Chapter. It will be held at the Sacred Heart Byzantine Hall at 29123 W 6 Mile, just east of Middlebelt, in Livonia.

Unlike Jug Night, this party has remained a traditional "stag" event, although we do want to encourage female chorus directors to attend.

We like to spice up the entertainment by having a mini-chorus contest. A mini-chorus is from 10 to 16 singers, all from the same chapter, and with or without a director. The prize for the winning chorus is the "Old Oakland Bucket" traveling trophy. Last year's winners were from Macomb Chapter. As the details become firm, we will post information on the PioNet and will have fliers posted at the fall convention.

I also want to remind you of our annual show next February. Featured quartets are gold medallists, NIGHT LIFE, and from a magical kingdom down in Florida, the HUMDINGERS. We will have all the information in the January/February issue of the *Troubadour*. Tickets will be on sale the beginning of December. Just contact a chapter member.

Good luck to all the competing quartets and choruses in the fall district competition. The GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS will be there with you.

And if you have time some Monday night, stop by Starr Presbyterian Church on the corner of Crooks Road and 13 Mile in Royal Oak. We would love to sing one with you.

Lansing By Paul Howe

It doesn't seem possible that summer has come and gone so quickly. Director Jeff Gougeon is back from his summer internship at Mystic Seaport and has the Lansing Chapter working harder than ever on new music.

On August 27, we took an evening dinner cruise with our wives/sweethearts to show our appreciation for their tolerance of our participating in this wonderful hobby. As is typical of Barbershoppers, we provided our own entertainment, with at least a few of the songs having a river or water theme.

Next up is a two-evening coaching session the second week in September and a performance for Pennway Church of God near the end of the month.

Of course, the next "biggie" is the fall convention and chorus competition. Needless to say, we're also hard at work on that. We enter the contest, not with the goal of winning, but merely to sing the best we possibly can and have fun while doing so. Here's hoping that your chorus also has fun at the convention.

Holland By Art Lane

"And we'll sing all we know tonight" was the motto for the HOLLAND WINDMILL CHORUS during its recent performance in a downtown park. The chorus and 12 quartets performed 41 songs during a two-hour show. Preparation for the show led to a resurgence of quartet activity this summer, with chords floating from all corners of the Park Theater during breaks.

The 16th Annual Chester P. Oonk Memorial Tag Contest, hosted by Mark Andrew on the bank of Lake Macatawa, produced some winners: First place in the pro division went to Mitch Hall, Jack Oonk, Mike Oonk, and James Hall. The novice contest was won by Chuck Kreun, James Hall, Bill McAndrew, and Art Lane. James Hall received the Bart Tillit Tag Hog Award for singing in the most quartets and the Bob Von Ins Gut Bucket Award for being the best bass.

More than 60 members, sweethearts, and friends said goodbye to summer with a "three-hour cruise" on the Port City Princess. The annual appreciation event for spouses, organized by Dale Bekker, included din-

(Continued on page 20)

Chapters in Action

Holland

(Continued from page 19)

ner and dancing on Muskegon Lake and sunset on Lake Michigan.

Pontiac-Waterford

By John Cowlshaw

There's a new sense of vibrancy (no, not vibrato) in the Pontiac-Waterford Chapter. Attendance has been high, even on those hot, muggy July nights, when the Crary Middle School music room had to be cooled by noisy floor fans.

The Pontiac-Waterford Chorus was featured on page 3 of the *Oakland Press* on Thursday, August 9, in an article written by Cindy Blaylock based on interviews with Mel Parrish, John Cowlshaw, Bill Pascher, and Chris Miller, and her visit to our chapter rehearsal on August 7. The article is available on-line at <www.TheOaklandPress.com>. Mel Parrish was Barbershopper of the Month for August for his marketing efforts leading to the article.

The chapter held its annual summer picnic Saturday, August 25, hosted by Walt and Margareth Bachmann at their Clarkston home. Fourteen of us Barbershoppers and our partners gathered despite storm threats.

The Pontiac-Waterford Chapter bulletin now has an appropriate name, *Smoke Signals*, and is available on-line at the chapter Web site (www.PontiacChapter.com). For his work in reinvigorating the chapter bulletin, John Cowlshaw was Barbershopper of the Month for July. Don't miss the interview with founding member Bill Pascher. In the first installment (August), Bill talked about the origins of the Pontiac Chapter in 1943. It's planned to make the complete interview available on-line soon.

Be sure to mark your calendars for the chapter's fall show, November 3, at 8:00 p.m. at Central United Methodist Church, Waterford, Mich. This year's theme is "Fortune in Dreams." Guest quartets will be

PHILATOGA TOWNSHIP and the SILVER DOMES. The BIG CHIEF CHORUS will be re-creating its hockey "shtick," last presented at Battle Creek.

The chapter Board has instituted a Big Chief Membership Contest to run through December 31, 2001. First prize of \$100 goes to the member sponsoring the highest number of new Society members. Second prize goes to the member sponsoring the highest number of guests. And a special bonus prize of two preferred-seating tickets to the 2002 international convention will be awarded to a member responsible for three new Society members joining in that time period.

Macomb

By Roy Gurney

Our Harmony Heritage Chorus has been working hard with our new director, Carl Dahlke, and the improvement is showing. It takes a lot of work on both sides to get locked in with a new director but, of course, it's all worth it.

Meanwhile, we've had a great summer with some of the regular summer outings, mourned the loss of a couple of old friends, and gained a few new faces.

Of course, we are extremely proud of our own POWER PLAY and the great things they did in Nashville, winning another medal, winning over the country crowd at the Grand Ole Opry, and winning the hearts of everyone who had the opportunity to hear them.

We'll see you at Bush League, then at the district convention.

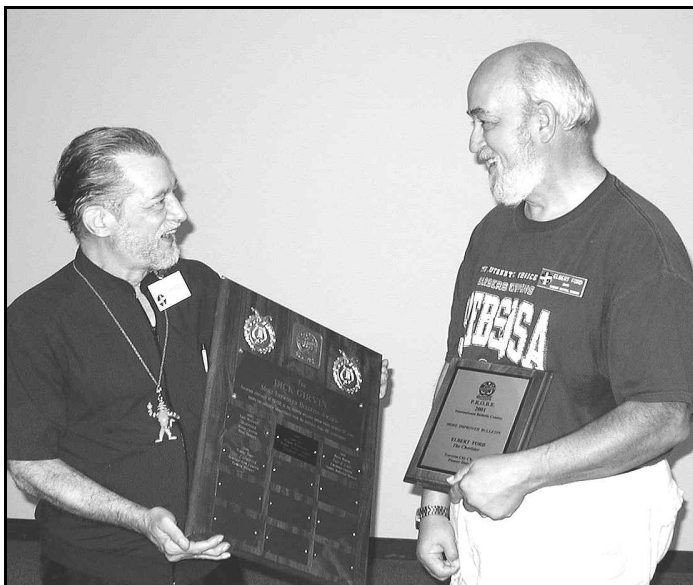
Traverse City

By Elbert Ford

We have had our first couple of rehearsals with Tom Stokes, our new director. I'm sure none of you are acquainted with him, although he's not new to music, only to Barbershop music. He has a master's degree in choral conducting, having retired from a long career as a school music teacher. He also went to St. Joe to Director's College in August. Both Tom and the CHERRY CAPITAL CHORUS are looking forward to the fall competition in Battle Creek.

Recently, the chorus sang for the Church-in-the-Park, an annual event sponsored by Central United Methodist Church. After singing, we gave a mini-

concert and then went to the home of Maurie Allen and his wife, Betsy, for our (I think) seventh annual "Betsy's Brunch." We were treated to some great food, fellowship, and song while there.



Pioneer District PROBE Coordinator Jim Styer (left) presents the Pioneer District Bulletin Editor of the Year award for 2000 to Elbert Ford, editor of the Traverse City Chapter's *Chorister*.

As planned, we didn't really have a very busy summer chapter-wise but, personally, everyone had a good summer, which probably comes fairly easy while living up here in tourist country.

Once again, come visit us if you get up this way, as many guys did. We meet on Tuesday evenings at 7:30. You can call Al Bonney (231-223-4064) or me (231-947-8714) for details or directions.

Saginaw Bay

By Ralph Brown

It is hard to believe that it is already time for competition again. Although our HARBOR SOUNDS CHORUS will not be on stage this time around, we will have a number of guys there to participate in the other activities and, of course, cheering for all those participating in the competition.

On September 2, over a third of our chapter was at Harrisville for Harmony Weekend and, for the seventh year in a row, we brought home the trophy for the chapter with the highest percentage of members in attendance. This year there were representatives from

32 separate chapters of SPEBSQSA and SAI, which is a new record high.

Next year will be the 40th year the event has taken place. It would be great if all chapter activities officers would look into this "Great Happening" in Harrisville and have their chapters get in on the fun.

Summer vacations and all the beautiful weather distractions are coming to an end and each week more bodies are showing up at rehearsal, which makes for a fuller, richer sound and makes singing a lot easier and more enjoyable.

If anyone is in our area on Wednesday evenings around 7:30 p.m., stop in and sing a few chords with us. We are at Bangor West Elementary School on Wilder Road.

Battle Creek

By Dick Schlee

The Battle Creek Chapter will be putting on a cabaret show November 9. We will be having a ham and chicken dinner, followed by a good time of harmonious singing. In addition to the CEREAL CITY CHORUS, we will have our registered quartets performing, plus some new quartets made up of singers who are quartetting for the first time.

Tickets will be available by contacting Dorn Burrell, Roger Lewis, or Dick Schlee. All are listed in the district directory.

Seating is limited to 125. If you want to come, get your tickets early.

Grosse Pointe

By Nick Piccione

Our annual show on Saturday, September 8, was a great success. With a script by Russ Seely, "Send in the Clones" exhibited all of the craziness you'd expect from Russ. Strange Dr. Von Cellphone (Mike Sullivan) created a Dracula/Frankenstein-type monster named Franky (John Wade). The doctor also altered a few other members of the cast.

Quartets featured on the show were FERMATA NOWHERE and POWER PLAY.

The Grosse Pointe spotlight falls on show chairman Dale Barber who put together a great, all-Pioneer show. Never a man to shrink from responsibilities for

(Continued on page 22)

Chapters in Action

Grosse Pointe

(Continued from page 21)

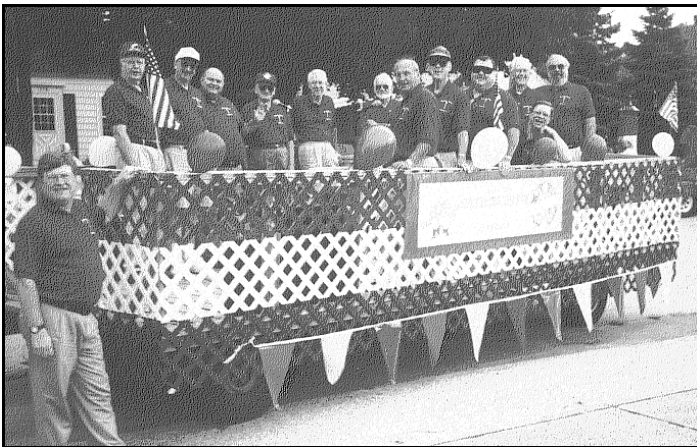
the chapter, Dale attacked the ever-so-many obligations attendant to his job.

*Taking charge of a Barbershop show,
One of the toughest jobs that I know,
Takes a selfless sorta guy.
One on whom you can rely,
Just like Dale who can make it all flow.*

Muskegon

By Frank Scott

This last summer, the chapter members sang five performances. We sang at the Roosevelt Park Gazebo, with a rehearsal and guest night at the Roosevelt Park Community Center after the show. Two days later, on



July 28, we entertained at the Fruitland Township "Blue Berry Festival." The chapter members sang "Pole Cat" songs on the chapter float for parade audiences at Muskegon's "Summer Celebration," Fremont's "National Baby Food Festival," and North Muskegon's "North Side Spectacular."

Chorus Manager Tom Porritt pulled the float with his van and manned the P. A. system. We are grateful to Tom Porritt, Dave Jones, Bob Weber, and Bill Tobias who have contributed their labor to building and

repairing the old farm wagon so we can use it safely.

With the cooperation of Mrs. Regina Schlaff, choir director at Reeths-Puffer High School, we were able to send six students to the Harmony Explosion Camp at Ball State University in July. The chapter received a \$500.00 donation for part of the tuition and the Reeths-Puffer Choir parents furnished the rest. We are hoping a good quartet will develop from this group.

The chapter's 61st annual show is scheduled for October 13 at 7:30 p.m. at the Mona Shores Community Center for the Performing Arts in Muskegon. "Everything Old is New Again" is the theme. Guest quartets are district champs, FOUR MAN FISHIN' TACKLE CHOIR along with TRI-COUNTY RECLAMATION PROJECT and NORTHERN CONNECTION. Long-time chapter member Henry Malmquist sings with the NORTHERN CONNECTION during winters in the Phoenix area and will rejoin them for the evening.

Our SHORELINE CHORUS will be joined on stage by a 35-man chorus from Mona Shores High School under the direction of Choir Director Shawn Lawton. Chapter quartets HARMONY TRANSFER and ACT FOUR will complete the program.

Call 231-722-2243 or 616-842-8904 for tickets. Credit card orders will be accepted. Afterglow Chairman Dave Buchan has arranged a buffet lunch at the Doo Drop Inn Restaurant.

Rochester

By George Schmidt

The chorus has been very busy this summer with performances at senior citizen facilities and in preparation for our annual appearance at the Rochester Art & Apples Fine Arts Festival.

Director Andy Brenz. is diligently working with the chorus in readiness for our October 27 show. Andy is getting support from Mike Hartrick who has recently returned, overflowing with energy and enthusiasm, after a week at Directors College. We also feel very fortunate to have the benefit of Lynne Peirce's chorus coaching.

This year we are working with a prepared script and theme entitled "Through the Years" provided by Kenosha and premiered at Harmony College in 1998. Guest quartets for the show will be international quarter-finalists FREESTYLE and RUMORS.

Wayne

By Gary Simon

Although our RENAISSANCE CHORUS performed many times throughout the summer, the highlight had to be on July 26 when we sang before more than 1,000 people at the annual Detroit City Retirees



luncheon at Burton Manor in Livonia. Assistant Director Hal Reid led us through a 20-minute performance that the audience obviously enjoyed.

We're readying our two-song package for the fall competition where we've been absent from recently. Many thanks go to our coaches Sue Gleason, Matt Coombs, and Jim Stephens for their expertise and encouragement. ♪

Fall convention

(Continued from page 1)

at 9:00 a.m. the same day.

The convention, headquartered at McCamly Plaza Hotel downtown, will be hosted by the Flint Chapter. (All event information in this story is tentative, pending a pre-convention planning meeting which was held after *Troubadour* press time.)

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

A Senior Quartet Contest will be folded into the Friday night semifinals. The winner will represent Pioneer at the mid-winter international convention.

The chorus contest, to select a district representative to the international convention next summer, will be at noon Saturday at the same auditorium.

Entry deadline for all quartets and choruses was set for October 5. Any questions can be answered by Ed Fritzen of Kalamazoo, district VP of contest & judging (Elfritze@net-link.net).

Other activities

A show sponsored by the Quartet Champions Association will begin a half hour after the Friday night quartet semifinals at McCamly Plaza Hotel. Cost is \$5. Past district quartet champions will showcase their talents and also sing in the QCA chorus.

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


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

The Flint Chapter will sponsor a raffle with proceeds going to the Harmony Foundation, which helps support activities including SingAmerica.

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

Convention registration forms can be printed off of the district's Web site (<http://www.harmonize.com/Pioneer/pio.htm>). Deadline for early registration at \$20 per person is Friday, October 5. After that, the price is \$25. Hotel reservations through the convention bureau were closed in September.

Other convention information also is on the district Web site. Also watch the PioNet, the district's e-mail list, for updates to the schedule. ♪



BILL
DAN

A BARBERSHOP QUARTET

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

JOEL
MARK

... New edit #10

Hard work has a future payoff.
Laziness pays off now.

The measure of a man's intelligence is inversely proportional to the amount of time he keeps his mouth open.

Rap is to music what Etch-A-Sketch is to art.

I want to die peacefully in my sleep like my grandfather ... not screaming and yelling like the passengers in his car.

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Upcoming Events

2001

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

Oct. 27 - Rochester Show.

Nov. 2 - Pontiac-Waterford Show

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

Dec. 1-2 - COTS, Gull Lake, Michigan. Contact John Gillespie: 616-343-4188

Dec. 7, 9 - Grand Rapids Show

2002

Jan. 20-27 - Mid-Winter Convention at Riverside, Calif.

Feb. 15-16 - Detroit-Oakland Show. Contact Tom Uicker:
248-559-7082

March 2 - Wayne Show. Contact Mark Pritchard: 734-422-7468

March 9 - Kalamazoo Show.

March 9 - Lansing Show.

April 6 - Monroe North Show.

April 12 - Grand Rapids Show.

April 26-28 - Pioneer District Convention.

May 11 - Macomb Show.

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

Spotlight on Bob Winters (Continued from page 14)

the OLDE TOWNE FOUR. I could see then, back in the mid-70s, that the HARMONIZERS were going places. Talk about organization!

I came back to Michigan in 1979 as deputy superintendent of the East Lansing Public Schools. The CAPITOL CITY CHORUS in Lansing was looking for a director, but I turned them down, thinking I was too busy and besides that, they met on Monday nights when I had to attend school board meetings.

One of the chapter members whom I had known from my earlier years in Michigan invited me out to lunch. I was surprised when six other members of the chorus showed up at the restaurant and sat down with us. They were there to inform me that they had changed chorus rehearsal night and that I had no excuse not to direct them. What followed were three of my happiest years in Barbershopping with a great group of guys in Lansing.

My career eventually took me to Essexville, Michigan, where I became superintendent of schools for 17 years. (Finally found a job I could keep!) I joined the Saginaw-Bay Chapter and have been there ever since.

I have had the privilege of singing in some pretty good quartets with guys like Len Johnson, Jim Gross, Dick Mueller, Frank Bateson, and others, and also directed the chorus for several years. Now I'm "just a singer," but I'm still having fun.

Barbershopping continues to enrich my life. ♪