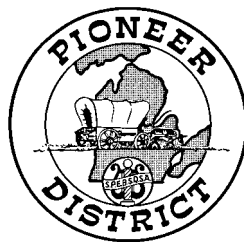


Pioneer Troubadour

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

Volume 53, Issue 1



January/February 2002

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Philatoga Township, Party of Four, and New Wrinkle win fall quartet contests



The third time was a charm. After second-place finishes in 1999 and 2000, PHILATOGA TOWNSHIP (left) — tenor Tom McCoy, lead Larry Reinhart, bass Phil Haines, and bari Gary Nitz — won the Pioneer District 2001 Quartet Contest by scoring 1,719 points.

FERMATA NOWHERE — tenor Jeff Gougeon, lead Tom Conner, bass Pete Burns, and bari Steve Pauling — finished second with 1,647 points.

The remaining finalists were (3rd) CROSSFIRE, (4th) PRiZM, (5th) GRAND PRIX, (6th) LAKE-SHORE HARMONY FOUR, (7th) NEW WRINKLE, and (8th) PARTY OF FOUR.

Formed in 1999 and with nearly 60 years of combined quartet experience, none of PHILATOGA TOWNSHIP'S members had previously won a district quartet contest. Their four-song competition package consisted of "Let the End of the World Come Tomorrow," "Tin Roof Blues," "Bye Bye to Shanghai," and "With a Song in My Heart."

NEW WRINKLE — tenor Jack Frucci, lead J. Kelly Brummett, bass Walt Quick, and bari Don

Great Lakes Chorus repeats as district reps to International

By Staff Writer Jim Styer

After winning the 2001 fall district contest, the GREAT LAKES CHORUS expects to have some more fun at the Society international convention next summer. "We are keeping things a bit of a surprise," said chapter PR Officer Dan Casamatta. "But be assured that the chorus will be putting on another entertaining set

for those of you who venture to Portland." The Grand Rapids Chapter's chorus, with 51 men on stage, scored 905 in the fall contest, its highest qualifying score in five years.

The chorus reprised the baseball parody that brought cheers when it was showcased the first

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Next Copy Deadline February 5, 2002

There are three 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. 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:

Full page	\$100
2/3 page	\$75
1/2 page	\$65
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@attbi.com**.

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

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2001 COTS biggest ever!

COTS Coordinator John Gillespie was concerned. With just days of registration left, he had received only a handful of applications from Pioneer Barber-shoppers despite pleas on the Pioneer Net and contacts to individual chapters.



Instructor Clark Abrahamson discusses methods of raising chapters' awareness in the community in the Marketing & PR class.

But John needn't have worried. When the registration period closed, he had collected more applications than ever before. The actual attendance was 103 Barber-shoppers, a new Pioneer District COTS attendance record!

"I thought it was the smoothest running weekend operation I have ever been involved with after 10 years as district COTS coordinator," John said. "The new education center director was most cooperative and pleasant, making my job a heck of a lot easier — a really grrreat weekend!"

Many said it was the best COTS they had ever attended. Lynne Peirce, musical director of the HURON VALLEY HARMONIZERS, said, "As a director, I valued

every moment I spent with faculty member Ron Knickerbocker and the other participants in the directors' track. I have taken away some new tools and insights that will help me better serve my chorus.

"It also meant so much that I was able to be there with one of my assistant directors. Not only did we strengthen the spirit of teamness between us, we can reinforce the learning with each other, compounding its value."

Led by COTS Dean Chuck Hunter (Far West), the faculty consisted of:

- Art Maynard (Mid-Atlantic): Presidents
- Gary Denton (Cardinal): Member services.
- Mel Knight (Evergreen): Music & performance
- Russ Mauch (Southwestern): Secretaries
- Pete Bermel (Mid-Atlantic): Treasurers
- Ron Knickerbocker (Mid-

Atlantic): Chorus director development

- Clark Abrahamson (Far Western): Marketing & PR
- John Marshall (Central States): Chapter coaches
- Mike Banish (Johnny Appleseed): Young Men In Harmony

One of the highlights of the weekend was the performance of two quartets from Franklin High School in Livonia, Mich. Working with the Wayne Chapter's YMIH chairman Bob Wolf, the school's vocal music teacher, Ann Marie Goodwin, has introduced the Barber-shop-style of singing to her students.

The underclassmen quartet, MINUTE MEN, was comprised of Wesley Sanborn, Christopher Olsen, Brandon Czarnowski, and Corey Tinsky. The members of the senior quartet, INDEPENDENCE, were Kevin Hartley, Jamison Hartley, Erik Anderson, and Rob Den Hartog.

At the Saturday night afterglow, our 2001 district champ quartet, PHILATOGA TOWNSHIP, sang several of their signature songs to close the day's activities. ♪



Franklin High School quartets MINUTE MEN and INDEPENDENCE join hands in singing "The Prayer of the Children." Photo by Paul Howe

Healing Through Harmony

In what may have been the largest Healing Through Harmony gathering of Barbershoppers, several hundred singers participated during the district fall convention in Battle Creek.

Immediately after the final chorus competed Saturday afternoon, Barbershoppers left the downtown auditorium and gathered on the large front patio. Many were dressed in red, white, and blue. Many held U.S. flags and some waved Canadian flags. They sang eight patriotic songs under a sunny sky and a canopy of fall-colored trees.



The district accepted an offer to direct by Music Judge Roger Payne of Manhattan. He selected and led the first number, "Let There Be Peace on Earth," which he said has become "New York's theme song."

Directing the other songs was Kerry Foley of the Michiana Metro Chapter. Also participating was Society Executive Director Darryl Flinn, who was the Society's representative at the convention.

Accepting a district invitation, two Battle Creek fire trucks framed the scene from the street. Many participants walked to the trucks afterward to shake the firefighters' hands and thank them. The event was organized by incoming district VP/PR Greg Humbel. ♪

Photos by Paul Howe

End of an era, start of the future

By Staff Writer Jim Styer
<jimstyler@attbi.com>

After writing for virtually every *Troubadour* in the past 16 years, this may be the last time I write a *Troub* piece from within the Pioneer District.

Our house burned down a week after the fall convention. While Peg and I got out safely, we lost most of our possessions.

However, this simplifies life. We don't have to sell or move 30 years of accumulations. We can move near my parents in Sarasota, Fla., by spring, much earlier than planned. This move is not just our personal affair. It affects many of you, too.

Bulletin & PR contests

Elbert Ford of Traverse City has agreed to be my successor as district coordinator for PROBE, the association of Public Relations Officers and Bulletin Editors. He'll run the district's chapter bulletin and PR contests and generally promote PROBE.

Elbert placed fifth and was named most improved editor at the 2001 International convention. Contact information for Elbert is in the PROBE article elsewhere in this issue.

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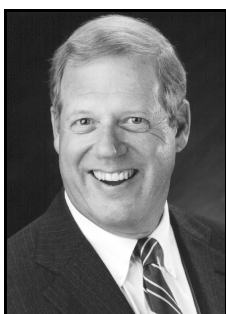


A View From The Top

Al Bonney, President

It's great to be a Barbershopper ... in Pioneer!

If it were NOT great to be a Barbershopper, why would we do it? Our hobby can be expensive, it takes a lot of time and energy —



Al Bonney

time during which we could well be doing a hundred other things. But we DO do it, and we KEEP doing it because it is a great hobby.

As the Leadership Team and

I worked through four months of planning, listening, and more planning to get the strategic objectives right (check them out on our Website: www.harmonize.com/pioneer/pio.htm), I spent a lot of time thinking about the real bottom line: "What does it take for it to be great to be a Barbershopper?" I came to understand that there are five dimensions to our Barbershopping experience. As each is enhanced or diminished, our overall experience gets better or worse.

1. **Barbershoppers meet together.** We like meeting and greeting each other. We build lasting friendships and look forward to the next opportunity to come together and renew these friendships. Friendships from my Barbershopping adventures have taken me to

places and allowed me to do things I never would have done otherwise. **We must have better meetings!**

2. **Barbershoppers sing together.** Well, this is no surprise! Singing with the guys I meet expands my Barbershop fun. Sure, I like singing with my chapter buddies, but finding a quartet at 1:00 a.m. in a hotel lobby (or in the laundry room at Harmony College) to sing just one more song is also a joy I will not willingly forgo. Singing is also my artistic outlet, and the quality of my singing experience is important. As Greg Lyne says, "Singing is fun, but good singing is even more fun!" **We must learn to sing better.**

3. **Barbershoppers grow together.** Whether it is singing, directing, leading, or organizing, Barbershopping offers me the opportunity to grow as a man, as a leader, and as a musician. Personal growth is satisfying and justifies the hard work and time spent on this hobby of ours. Jim Henry, another of my heroes, says, "Hard work is fun if improvement (growth) is evident." **We must provide opportunities for our members to grow.**

4. **Barbershoppers feel to-**

gether. I know I am not the only guy who cried the morning of September 11, or had difficulty getting through my first singing of "Little Pal." Jim Clancy says Barbershop singing makes us better men, husbands, lovers, fathers, and leaders BECAUSE we have learned to feel and express those feelings on stage and in our personal lives. **We need more men sharing these feelings.**

5. **Barbershoppers do good works.** One of my first impressions of the value of Barbershopping beyond my own enjoyment ringing chords was that my singing went to further a cause bigger than myself. Most chapters do considerable good works within their communities by singing for and donating money to worthy charities. **We must perpetuate our hobby and its influence on young singers through our philanthropy and our good works.**

The strategic objectives for our association of chapters were built to support these Barbershopper's needs because we think that the more fun we all have in our Barbershopping experience, the better life will be for all of us — today and tomorrow.

I welcome comments and suggestions on this column or on any point you want to discuss. E-mail me at AlBonney@pentel.net, and let's all help making it truly **Great to be a Barbershopper ... in Pioneer!** ♪

Sing ... for life!

Here's the Society Pitch

Raleigh Bloch, Society Board Member

Psst! Looking for a good time?

What are we going to talk about in this article?

You mean it's time to write another article?

Why don't you tell our readers about the Society budget?



Raleigh Bloch

O h , w o w ! There's an exciting subject. I'll bet they're just sitting on the edges of their chairs waiting to read

about that subject.

Well, there must be something about it that would be of interest?

Actually, there is. We had to tighten up the budget again.

Again? Why was that?

September 11.

How the heck can the World Trade Center terrorist attack affect the Society budget?

We scaled down the projected attendance for the Portland convention. People are not flying as much, so we cut the planned attendance 10 percent.

Wow, that much? That will change the revenue significantly and affect programs and possibly jobs at our headquarters in Kenosha.

You're right. Along with that and reduced membership, they're looking at the possibility of cutting jobs through attrition.

Is there anything we can do?

Yes, go to the convention. The KING'SINGERS are going to be there.

Hey, they're great!

Not only that, Portland is gearing up for us. I sat on a convention bus in Kansas City next to a guy who was from Portland. He was in Kansas City two years in advance of his convention to see what needed to be done and what problems to anticipate. He extended all of that effort so that we may have a better time in Portland.

September 11 was not something he or any of his team could have anticipated. So we need to support their effort.

Is there anything else we can do besides have a good time?

Yes, help others to have a good time.

Help others to have a good time?

Yes. If you recruit a new member, you'll help him have a good time just as you'll have.

Hmm, I never thought of it like that.

Do you want me to say more about the budget?

Ah, no. That's enough.

I thought so. By the way, where is your friend JOE BARBERSTOPPER?

He, ah, thought you were too negative and decided to take a bye on this article.

Oh. ♪

PR & bulletin contest deadlines near

The deadline is near for two district contests which recognize the efforts of chapter bulletin editors and PR officers. Even if you don't think you can win, consider submitting your entry anyway — judges' comments can give you some help in doing your job better. Even if you disagree with the judges, they still probably will have something positive to say that will get you thinking.

District winners will be announced at the spring convention. If you win either contest, you can be entered in international competition. Entries are for efforts in the calendar year 2001.

All entries must be received by January 15, 2002.

Mail them to Pioneer's new PROBE coordinator: Elbert Ford, 11138 S. West Bayshore Drive, Traverse City, MI 49684.

In your entry, include your e-mail and postal addresses along with a brief biographical background on you as a Barbershopper and as a bulletin editor or PR representative.

If you have any questions, contact Elbert at 231-883-2955 or elbieham@aol.com.

Bulletin Editor of the Year (BETY)

All bulletin editors who will have at least six monthly issues this year are eligible for the district contest. Eight issues are required for a Society-level award.

To enter the contest, submit three copies each of three consecutive issues. One copy of each publication date must be off the press; the others may be copies. (For weeklies, submit three copies

(Continued on page 14)

ZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZ ... Wake up!

Each year that I have been a Barbershop officer, I have chosen a motto for the year. Last year was no exception, but I think too many have taken “If you’re gonna dream ... dream BIG!” too literally because, as a district, we



Brian Dunckel

seem to have
fallen asleep!

The latest numbers show yet another loss Society wide. And, unlike early in the year, Pioneer, like many other districts, also

shows a loss. Despite the efforts of the Member Services Team, we are (as of October 31) down 2.4 percent.

It's not solely my job as DVP, nor that of the Membership Team, nor your chapter development vice-president — we **ALL** as Barbershoppers must share in preserving what we have, and that **MUST** mean growth!

Sure, it's easy to say, and I've heard it too often, "I can't get anyone to join." But we all **CAN** and **MUST**.

Whatever it was that hooked us still has the power to hook others! Some of us know the joy of receiving a Man of Note award, but sadly many do not!

My membership theme for this year is “**Membership Growth? Y**

KNOT!” At the Leadership Forum, I passed out a knot in the shape of a “Y” to all district vice-presidents for member services, the entire Membership Committee and membership staff, as well as our district Board. I have also passed them out at COTS as well as at the two COTS in districts that I have taught in.

I urge each of you to make a “Y” knot yourself and carry it with you on a daily basis. The idea is to let it serve as a reminder of the need for membership growth.

Keep it in your pocket. Each time you reach into that pocket and feel it, you can be reminded of our task at hand and, hopefully, you will be willing to do something about it.

The seriousness of our predicament is reflected in the following portion of Ev Nau's last trip report sent to me as I prepared to head to COTS: "I am not asking for the help of the members to grow the Society, I am expecting it."

“We have long since passed the point where people should have been concerned. We are close to a point where without action; there may be no future needs for any other programs in the Society. ‘Ever growing ... or nothing else matters’ is more than a slogan. It’s a fact!”

Membership Growth? Y
KNOT! ♪

District directory joins 21st century!

Beginning in 2002, the Pioneer District directory has a new and improved format. The printed directory has been eliminated in favor of an on-line version available through the Pioneer Website at www.harmonize.com/pioneer/pio.htm. Since all of the information in the printed directory has been available on the Web site for the past several years, the Board of Directors voted in October to eliminate the printed version.

The Leadership Team views this change as a significant improvement in services to members. The printed directory had only a limited distribution – 10 to each chapter and one to each quartet in the district. As over 50 percent of Society members have Internet access, and EVERY chapter in the district has a designated “chapter contact” with Internet access, more members will have greater access to this information through their computers. Those without computers can have a hard copy printed for them.

Additionally, the information will be updated from the Society records throughout the year so that the information will always be up to date.

Chapter secretaries: Because the records making up the district and chapter officer listings are taken from the Society's "Members Only" site, it is ESPECIALLY important that you keep your records updated and accurate. If you have any questions on how to do this, please contact District Secretary Marvin Skupski at MarvinSkup@wwnet.net, or call him at 734-525-2968. ♪

Public Relating

Greg Humbel, Marketing & Public Relations VP

Awareness - Does your community know of your chapter, its goals and mission?

Gentleman, start your engines! The 2002 Pioneer Board is at the starting line — a group of devoted individuals committed to the success of this great district.



Greg Humbel

By way of introduction, I have been Barbershop- ping for over 16 years and a member of three districts: Land O' Lakes, Dixie, and Pioneer.

After several promotions to more challenging positions over the years, we ended up settling in Ann Arbor during the children's school year. Matt and Josh, senior and junior respectively at Michigan State, are glad we did just that.

I transferred to the Huron Valley Chapter in 1989. I took a break in 1994 when the pressures of owning my own business took their toll. As of last summer, after several notes from the chapter and an invitation to a guest night, I'm back!

I've been in sales all my life and enjoy it very much. So when Larry Parker asked me to consider this position, I thought long and hard. After several conversations with district President-elect Al Bonney, it was an easy decision.

My new product is the Pioneer District. It's a GREAT product. However, whether your community or mine, not enough people know of us.

We came up with the objectives at the House of Delegates meeting at the fall convention. Question #8 involving public relations was answered by me. I stated that I thought our image needed to be handled by the individual chapters, as they have control as to the quality of the product presented to the community. If we present a not-so-good quartet or an unprepared chorus, that's what the public remembers.

In 2002, I intend to showcase several events district wide that will create media exposure from which each local chapter can draw or attach their chapter to. Upcoming events are the State Music Educators Conference in Ann Arbor (the district is presenting a workshop), Singing Valentines, the Society's birthday in April, and some mass singing opportunities.

I've had a lot of help during the transition, thanks to Doug Pearson and Jim Styer! I will need a great deal of support from each chapter and its PR guy to make it all work as I envision. Thanks in advance for your support.

It's going to be a GREAT year in Pioneer! ♪

Spring convention changes

By Events VP Larry Parker

The plan to move to Lansing for the 2002 spring convention will present a couple of changes from our usual convention/contest format. Let me tell you the story.

The year 2000 was my first year as your vice-president of events. Everything was in place for the spring 2002 convention sites in Lansing. We had a headquarters hotel (Holiday Inn West) and a contest site (Waverly High School).

Then this past fall, I received a letter stating that Waverly would be undergoing major renovations, making the site unavailable for our spring convention.

I was then fortunate to acquire Grand Ledge High School's auditorium. The auditorium is lovely and the acoustics are as good as we have ever experienced. It will make a wonderful place to sing. The specification I couldn't find was seating as large as Waverly. Grand Ledge seats about 800 people.

Grand Ledge, a small town about eight miles due west of the Holiday Inn, has a fine school facility that is easy to get to and has ample free parking.

To make the program work, I had to take a leaf out of the format used for international competition. We won't have access to individual school rooms for dressing or rehearsing as we did at Waverly and Battle Creek. Like the competitors at international, quartets and choruses will dress and pre-

(Continued on page 9)

Chapter Coaching

Doran McTaggart, Chapter Support/Leadership VP

District Board listens to membership

Our Pioneer COTS attendees broke the attendance record for the second year in a row. Over 100 Pioneer Barbershoppers are much richer because the world-class international COTS faculty shared their talents and expertise with us. Over 20 chapters benefited from this excellent training weekend.



Doran McTaggart

Why is the Pioneer COTS held on the first weekend in December? Many sincere Barbershoppers have given their PRO and CON comments on this topic on the PioNet. Some have asked if the district Board listens to these comments.

YES, THEY DO!

Because something doesn't change does not mean that discussions and decisions have not been made. The status quo probably has won the day.

Twenty-five years ago, our COTS was changed from November to December because of the Michigan hunting season. The legions of hunters and all those who provide services and supplies to this civilian army pleaded for the change so that they could attend COTS.

As a matter of fact, our fall convention was also changed because the Michigan-Michigan

State football game was held on the old date nine out of 10 years. The Board has listened and continues to listen.

Chapter coaches selected

Dorn Burrill, Fred Kienitz, and Darl Wiley have successfully completed their chapter coach training at COTS. Terry Grimme and Russ Seely will be trained at the Ontario District COTS in January.

We now have a cadre of 10 chapter coaches who will be proactive in assisting your chapter to be the best it can be. Welcome these men and make good use of their talents.

The following are the Pioneer Chapter coaches and their assigned chapters for 2002:

Don Bazely: Gaylord and Traverse City; **Dorn Burrill:** Grand Rapids, Muskegon, Holland, and Kalamazoo; **Ed Fritzen:** Benton-Harbor/St. Joseph, Allegan County, and Michiana Metro; **Terry Grimme:** Saginaw Bay, Swan Valley, and Hillsdale; **Dale Hanson:** Alpena, Sault Ste. Marie, and Gratiot County; **Clay Jones:** Flint, Detroit/Oakland, and Battle Creek; **Fred Kienitz:** Lansing and Livingston County; **Russ Seely:** Pontiac/Waterford, Huron Valley, and Rochester; **Darl Wiley:** Wayne, Motor City Metro, and Monroe North; and **Doran McTaggart:** Grosse Pointe, Macomb County, and Windsor. ♪

Spring convention (Continued from page 8)

pare at the hotels. Unlike international, we cannot provide busses, so transportation will be private cars.

Here's how it will work: For both quartet contests, quartets will dress in their respective hotel rooms and then travel to the auditorium. Once at the auditorium, they will be assigned a warm-up room. Photographs will be taken Friday at the auditorium following their performances.

For Saturday's chorus contest, Barbershoppers will dress in their respective hotel rooms. Rehearsal rooms will be at the Holiday Inn West Hotel. Photographs will also be taken at the hotel. Each chorus will receive a matrix listing their rehearsal room location, a timetable of usage, photograph time, and auditorium reporting time.

Each chorus member is responsible for his own transportation to and from the auditorium. Once at the auditorium, each chorus will be given ample time to again warm-up before going on stage.

As at international, the key to this mechanism is explicit timing. Everyone **MUST** follow the schedule and be at their appointed place on time.

The seating for Friday's quartet preliminaries and Saturday's chorus contest should be ample. The Saturday night show may require a few people to stand. As a courtesy to fellow Barbershoppers and guests, the "blocking" of seats will not be permitted during this convention.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call or e-mail me at LParker437@aol.com. ♪

Take Note

Gene Hanover, Chorus Director Development VP

In the beginning ...

That's where I am — in the beginning of what could be either one of the greatest or worst experiences I have had to date. Becoming the Pioneer District VP of chorus director development is an awesome responsibility.



Gene Hanover

To be the one responsible for putting together the initial and ongoing training for our chorus directors can be an overwhelming challenge.

I know what I need to accomplish and what it will take to see it through, but I also know that I can't do it alone. It will take the work of a team of dedicated men and women. Yes, men and women who are willing to help each chapter have the opportunity to grow musically.

The obvious place to begin is with those people who make the difference in our chapters, the director and the music team. There will be several opportunities for them to become better at what he or she does every week.

We are planning three workshops throughout the district in 2002 as well as our first Directors' Retreat which will be part of Harmony Round-Up. The workshops may be in the way of a Chorus Directors Workshop Intensive (CDWI), or they may be general

sessions geared towards those members who would like to know "Just what does a director do, anyway?"

The retreat will have very specific goals for all levels of director. There will also be sessions for your assistant directors and section leaders.

We will also include voice lessons for the first time. They will be one-on-one lessons that others will observe. It will be a great experience for all to see, and the learning will be tremendous. There are only 14 openings for the voice lessons.

Directors, assistant directors, and section leaders have until April 26 to reserve their place. (The normal cost of these lessons would be \$75 per hour, but they are included in the Round-Up tuition.) If you are interested in these lessons, let me know ASAP.

Here is where YOU, THE MEMBERS, come in. You must insist that your director, assistant director(s), and section leaders register early for this great event, and that your chapter Board does what it takes to help them get there. With the encouragement of you and your chapter Board, you will be a part of the great musical movement that we have had in Pioneer!

We are a musical Society and it is high time that we were trained to be one. You will be amazed at what your future holds! ♪

District forming grant committee

By Pioneer District
Executive Director Bruce Smith

Over the past several years the district as well as several chapters have applied for and received grants that have permitted us to accomplish programs that once were dreams.

When it comes to applying for grants, we have scratched only the surface of what is possible. To further study what type of grant support is available, and to expand our efforts in applying for grants, the district Board would like to create a District Grant Committee. To do that, we need volunteers — men who have had experience in locating grant opportunities and in writing grant applications.

The committee will be primarily a virtual committee. Its initial objectives will be to:

- Identify and catalogue granting organizations and application requirements that make them accessible to our organizations.
- Aid in the preparation of district grant applications.
- Consult with chapters relative to grant opportunities and review and comment on chapter grant applications.
- Aid in creating grant applications training programs.

This committee needs volunteers if it's going to happen. So, if you have the knowledge and ability to help, please contact Bruce Smith, district EVP. ♪

Yours 4 A Song

Dan Bezaire, Music & Performance VP

Good singing: a part of life

At the recent Leadership Forum in Racine, Wis., attendees were asked, "What can we do to encourage vocal music in our communities?" I was surprised to hear that there were over 100 suggestions of things that could be done at the chapter level.



Dan Bezaire

Another question, "What can we do to add excitement to our Barbershop experience and interest other men to join with us?"

yielded over 150 responses.

In coming issues, I will give you some of these responses and suggestions. You never know until you try. For example:

- Conduct old-fashioned sing-alongs at the movies.
- Obtain grant money to purchase and distribute "Get America Singing Again" to schools and local organizations.
- Offer "honorary memberships" to VIPs, and publicize.
- Organize vocal music demonstrations at local libraries.
- Sponsor "Healing Through Harmony" events.
- Offer free community performances.
- Offer quartets to sing for free at high school choral performances.

- Sing national anthem(s) at public events.

That should be enough to get you started. Let's get singing!

Harmony Round-Up

Plan to be at this year's Harmony Round-Up, May 17-19, 2002, at MSU. We hope this to be that best school ever, with more classes and more coaching, and an extended director's track. Tags? You got 'em! Woodshedding, too. Room for lots of quartets and much more. This year's, too, will be held in conjunction with *A Cappella Blast*, the YMIH camp that was so successful last year.

Mark your calendars and attend the Pioneer District's premiere music education experience.

Standing Ovation

Many people have asked about this program. Space prohibits me from explaining it all, but the SO program is designed to improve the performance package of a chorus or quartet. If requested, an evaluator will attend your show, or even a chapter meeting/rehearsal, and comment on the entertainment value of your program.

It is *not* a coaching clinic to improve singing or stage presence or musical artistry, though these elements obviously add to or detract from a successful performance. Contact me if you need more information. ♪

End of an era (Continued from page 4)

PioNet

I can continue to operate the district e-mail list, PioNet.

Looking further ahead, I've contacted a possible PioNet co-operator. I'm hoping he eventually can take it over.

Troubadour

The biggest concern I have is coverage of Pioneer activities, especially conventions, in the *Troub* and on PioNet. Because I've been writing for so long, I fear many of you have taken this for granted and not felt the need to contribute.

Well, now there's a need. The district is seeking members to help write stories announcing convention plans, contact media in various convention cities, and write reports for the *Troub* and PioNet.

Offer your services to District VP for PR Greg Humbel, Convention Chairman Larry Parker, or *Troub* Editor Gary Simon.

Thank you

My barbershop career began 17 years ago. Peg and I have found it rewarding and satisfying. After the fire, we found strong support in family, church ... and Pioneer Barbershoppers. The response was so overwhelming that we broke down a few times. And we viewed a burned-out house: The end of an era, the beginning of the future. The mementos are gone, but the memories last.

Thank you, Battle Creek and Pioneer. We'll return every so often to see our kids, and we plan to attend some Pioneer conventions. Meanwhile, let us know when you're down for a visit and we'll get together. ♪

Young Men in Harmony

Dave Anderson, District Chairman

YMIH – an attitude

Have you been to a WalMart store recently? All of the people working there are wearing a vest or jacket with the message on the back that states: "How can I help you?" Their friendly smiles and willingness to help are an example for all of us to follow when working in the YMIH program.

The first thing to do is make a contact with a vocal music teacher at your local school. The best way to do this is to attend one of their concerts and then tell the teacher at the close of the concert what a great job she or he is doing. Then you put on your "WalMart vest" and offer to be of help with the music program. Your chapter may be able to sell tickets, usher, purchase music, or many other things.

Does your chapter have a YMIH or Youth Outreach VP? Is he registered on the Society's Web site? If you do not have a person designated for this important job, then your chapter president needs to appoint one now.

At our COTS School in December, Bob Wolf of the Wayne Chapter arranged for two quartets to perform for us. Their teacher, Ann Marie Goodwin, along with her students from Franklin High School in Livonia, gave a glowing demonstration of YMIH, plus a great testimonial to the Wayne Chapter for sending her to Harmony College.

Ann Marie and several students had also attended the Harmony Explosion Camp at Ball State. She is one fired-up Barbershop advocate! The Wayne Chapter and Bob are to be commended for a job well done in this area.

We have some exciting things coming up this year. Start right now to get high school students and teachers lined up for A CAPPELLA BLAST! 2002. Our goal this year is to have 100 students and 10 teachers attending at MSU on May 17-19, being run in conjunction with Harmony Round-Up. Ken and Vicki Gibson will be the clinicians again this year. The registrations this year will be handled by one of Pioneer's famed bass singers, Bob Wisdom.

We also need to find quartets for the MBNA College Quartet Contest. If you know of any quartets that are working at this, please let me know.

It's going to be a fun and exhilarating year ahead in Pioneer, so get involved and be a part of it. Put on your "WalMart vest," a ready smile, and give it a try. Remember, the seeds that we plant now will be the future of our Society. ♪



District budget improving

**By Pioneer District Treasurer
Stan Williams**

The belt-tightening moves taken by the Pioneer District Board in recent months appear to be paying off.

Early projections for the end-of-the-year balance has us in a position to pay off the loan so graciously provided by the Lansing Chapter last year, and to finish enough in the black to at least fund our early-in-the-year activities until convention revenue begins to pick up. The loan was needed at the start of this calendar year when year-end bills exceeded the amount of cash reserves.

Drastic steps were needed to stop the rising expenses, expenses that were not being offset by an equal rise in income. Some of those steps included eliminating the annual Board meeting held in conjunction with COTS, eliminating one issue of the *Troubadour* per year, and requiring Board members to pay a portion of their own expenses for attending the fall meeting.

These moves, coupled with the extra income from district dues, a very successful COTS, and an overall awareness of the need to pinch pennies where possible, make the year-end picture brighter than I was expecting.

I'll have a more complete report to share in the next *Troub* issue, and will provide the same information prior to the spring House of Delegates Meeting.

Thank you for your support of the Board's moves. I wish each of you a happy 2002! ♪

Pioneer District Five-Year Strategic Objectives – 2002-2006

1. Enable all district quartets and choruses to raise the *quality of their performance thru regional coaching sessions* available to all performing units so that the average of all competing units, district wide, is +60 points higher than current, based on the scores of a single panel of judges (current is approx. 342) (increase is two points per song per judge) by the end of 2006
2. Enable membership growth *and retention* 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 the end of 2006.
3. Increase the awareness *and image* of Barbershop-ping, its artistic merit and good works, in the state of Michigan and the province of Ontario.
4. 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. Develop and implement procedures for continuous member feedback and implement visible application of that feedback to assess needs, evaluate effectiveness of programs, distinguish opportunities, and establish priorities for the district.
6. Provide all member chapters with the resources and tools to help them with current or future director recruitment and training so that every chapter can have vibrant and fun musical experiences every week.
7. Provide all member chapters with the resources and tools to create an environment of fun for participating members thereby building attendance at chapter meetings and district events. ♪

Kalamazoo's Mall City Chorus Presents:

ELEGY TO THE OLD SOUTH

featuring:

Power Play
International Quartet Medalists

Philatoga Township
2001 Pioneer District Champions

\$9.00 Senior Citizens	Saturday, March 9, 2002
\$10.00 Advanced Tickets	Howard Chenery Auditorium
\$12.00 Door Price	Show Time 7:30 pm

Information & Tickets:
(616) 345-7227
<http://www.barbershopharmony.org>

Quartets Champions Association

Al Fisk, Secretary

A good time was had by all ... er ... Al

This month, we'll feature a QCA member who is near and dear to my heart ... me. Heh-heh. Rank has its privileges, or privileges have their rank, as they say.

I've lived in Rochester/Rochester Hills, Mich., my whole life. I've taught vocal music in the Hazel Park Schools since 1979. I graduated from Michigan State University, where I founded and directed the MSU Handbell Choir. I marched in the band and continue to do so every year in the MSU Alumni Spartan Marching Band (trombone).

My Barbershop "career" began in high school when I sang "Aura Lee," "Tell Me Why," and "Coney Island Baby."

While at Michigan State (1976), I happened across the PATCH CHORDS quartet. This was a real Barbershop quartet with costumes, choreography, schtick, and ringing chords! They sang to me long after the show was over.

After graduation, I found the Oakland County Chapter being directed by Mr. Fred McFadyen. Within weeks, Fred stepped down and groomed me as a director.

In the '80s, I became the Rochester Chapter director. I enjoyed a 15-year run with those guys and sang in a chapter quartet called the CHORDMEISTERS.

I finally experienced one International (Pittsburgh) with Motor City Metro. I was even lucky enough to direct the chorus for a

few seconds on stage as Mike Slamka acted out one of our Civil War scenes. So, technically, I can say that I directed a chorus on the International stage!

I rejoined Macomb in late '99 as their director when Jack stepped down; I was then forced to quit due to a vocal disorder.

The highlight of my Barbershop life is winning the district in '97 with THE DETROIT SOUND CO. Rudi Krampf (later, Jeff Gougeon), Kelly Brummett, and Jim Ryan changed my life forever. Until we were forced to break up due to my deteriorating vocal condition at the end of 1999, we had a great time representing the district.

Regarding Pioneer: I have served as Young Men In Harmony chairman (organizing early college quartet contests), assistant director of music education (faculty at Mini-HEP), host of Chorus Directors Workshop Intensive, secretary of Quartet Champions Association, and in many other positions.

For the past two years, I've been to many doctors and hospitals without solving my vocal problem.

If the good Lord has decided that my singing career is over, I am grateful to have had many wonderful moments in Barbershop. What more can a person ask?

God Bless y'all! ♪

Deadlines near (Continued from page 6)

each of 12 consecutive issues; for bi-weeklies, nine consecutive issues.)

Even without competing, any editor may submit bulletins for judges' comments no matter how many or how few issues they publish; no score will be published if so requested.

The two top BETYs in Pioneer will be entered in Society-wide competition. (Save extra issues in case you are eligible for the Society-wide contest.)

PR Officer of the Year (PROTY)

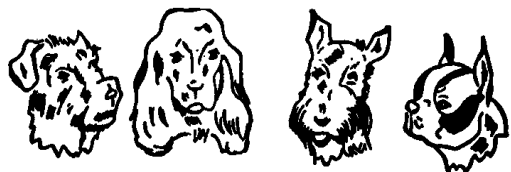
The public relations entry should include a description of the work done by the entrant, either a major special project or a year-around PR program. This is to be backed up by commentary on planning, execution, and follow-up, along with copies of pertinent documents (news releases, newspaper clippings, correspondence, printed programs, thank-you letters, etc.)

The PR effect does not necessarily depend on the success of the events themselves; rather, it is judged on the amount of actual PR (spreading the gospel) that was accomplished.

Winning Pioneer District entries will be submitted in the Society-wide contest.

Join PROBE

You do not have to be a PROBE member to enter district contests, but it is encouraged. Your chapter secretary can sign you up. Or you can sign yourself up by sending \$10 annual dues to PROBE Treasurer Dick Girvin, 57 F Calle Cadiz, Laguna Woods, CA 92653. ♪



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Ever growing ... Or nothing else matters!

Stan Williams elected to Hall of Fame

By Larry Parker, Lansing Chapter

At its fall 2001 convention, the Pioneer District inducted Lansing Chapter member and District Treasurer Stan Williams into the Hall of Fame. The following is a summary of how this husband, father of three, and grandfather began his career in Barbershopping.

Richard Stanley Williams was born on January 8, 1947, in Marquette, Michigan. He began singing Barbershop at 16 while still in high school. There was an attempt to start a chapter there, but enough interest was never generated and the project never got off the ground. His love of Barbershop remained even after graduation. He, and friends, continued to attend Barbershop shows in Escanaba. With his new bride, Cheryl, and several other friends, they all took a trip to Milwaukee, where they got to see the fabulous BUFFALO BILLS.

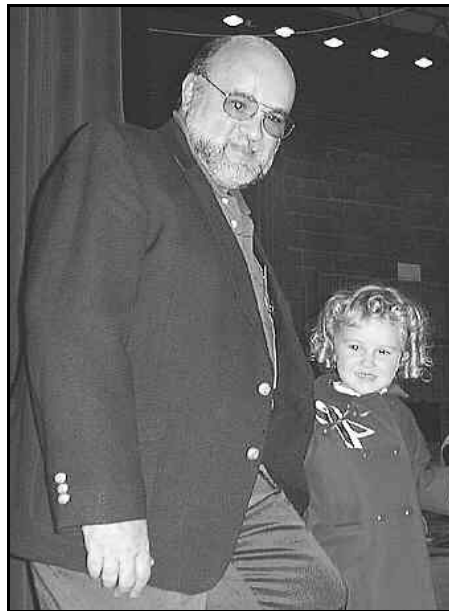
Sometime in the early 1970s, Stan and Cheryl moved to Lansing. One night, while at a local shopping mall, he heard the familiar sounds of Barbershop harmony. The Lansing Chapter was presenting a show as a guest/audition night. Ken Gibson, then director of the Lansing chorus, had Stan sing tenor.

Stan visited the chapter from time to time, attended its shows, but didn't join. His interest in Barbershop fell by the wayside as his job assignments moved him around for the next few years.

Stan, now residing in Big Rapids, learned of a quartet, also residing in the Big Rapids area, but belonging to the Grand Rapids Chap-

ter. When the quartet's tenor was unavailable to perform in the "Music Man" at a local theater, they asked Stan to step in. He would have loved to do it, but replied, "I really don't have the experience (or guts)."

Through his employment with the State of Michigan, Stan crossed paths with Bill McCurdy, a long-time Barbershopper from the Lansing Chapter. Bill and Stan,



Newest Hall of Fame inductee Stan Williams being congratulated by his daughter, Alexis. Photo by Carrie Voris

along with help from the Big Rapids area quartet, tried to form a new chapter in the Big Rapids, Reed City, and Cadillac area. Again, the lack of local interest doomed the venture.

Another job assignment, another city

Stan and Bill McCurdy both transferred to Grand Rapids at about the same time. After several weeks of urging, Bill got Stan to a chapter

meeting. Finally, the Barbershop hook was set!

In his first year as a member, Stan and the Grand Rapids' GREAT LAKES CHORUS won the district championship and the right to represent the district in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Another job transfer

This job move brought him to Lansing and to his present home in nearby Leslie. Upon hearing of Stan's experience as treasurer of various Jaycee chapters, the Lansing Chapter elected him treasurer the following year.

In 1990, District Treasurer Fran Jones retired and moved out of state. District President Michael O'Donnell's first choice for his replacement was Stan.

He remains today in that position and proudly votes NO on every motion or proposal that requires spending district money!

Stan's quartets are many and varied. Some were formed for a single occasion and were never heard from again.

His most memorable groups are the registered quartets. He has sung tenor with JUST IN TIME, FOUR GOODNESS SAKE, and GALLERY. He currently sings with COLLEGE PARK IV and NORTHERN (NOT SO) LITES.

On a personal note, I consider Stan to be my friend and an excellent asset to my chapter, my district, and Barbershopping in general. He is always considerate of the members' needs and does what he can to fulfill them. He is very deserving of the Hall of Fame award and I invite you to help me congratulate him. ♪

The Detroit-Oakland Chapter, SPEBSQSA, Inc.
and THE GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS CHORUS
present their 63rd Parade of Harmony



Souvenirs of the Seasons



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2002, at 7:59 p.m.
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2002, at 7:29 p.m.
SCHMIDT AUDITORIUM — CLARENCEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL, LIVONIA, MI

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■ Include **stamped**, self addressed envelope and mail to:

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THOMAS UICKER, 29257 SOUTHGATE DR, SOUTHFIELD, MI 48076

Pioneer says so long to former Board members

Three men with 46 years of district service have retired from the Pioneer Board while another, Don Bazely, is moving into an emeritus-like position.

Three of the outgoing officers — Don, Jack Schneider, and Fred Kienitz — are members of the district's Hall of Fame.

Don, of Sault Ste. Marie Chapter, said that even after the next two years as immediate past president, he wants to stay involved in district activity.

His claim to fame as president, he said, is "persuading Al Bonney to get in line for the president's job." Al is "a dynamo who will revitalize Pioneer," he said.

The admiration is mutual. Al called Don "a great president who is highly respected throughout the Society." The district, he said, will never fully realize the significance of Don's presidency because he worked behind the scenes "to set up a path to success."

One of Don's aims as president was to persuade choruses and quartets to heed the slogan of Mike Slamka: "Sing from the heart ... or don't bother." He also pushed for increased support of district events like Harmony Round-Up and COTS.

Don also has been a chapter coach, assistant director of music education, division VP, area counselor, and Dynamo coordinator.

A Soo member for 39 years, he was musical director for 25 years and has been president and membership VP. He now directs a Sweet Adeline chorus.

He can sing all four parts, has been in eight quartets and now is in a mixed quartet with one daugh-

ter. He is married to Mary and has 12 children. A retired civil engineer, his other hobbies include photography and woodworking.

Secretary

While leaving the board after 25 years, Jack Schneider will continue to serve the district as convention registration chairman. He began as district treasurer in 1977 and became secretary in 1984.

A Barbershopper for 46 years, he is Grand Rapids Chapter president and has sung with the GREAT LAKES CHORUS at international 12 times.

He was chapter treasurer for several years and show chairman for 33 years. He said he'll continue to handle show ticket sales and Singing Valentines orders "as long as I am able."

But he and his wife, Jean, will spend more time visiting a son in Florida during the winters.

Chorus director development VP

Fred Kienitz of Flint was on the Board for four years each as VP of chorus director development and as music education director.

During that time, he held four district chorus director development sessions, coached directors and choruses during chapter rehearsals, helped choruses find directors, and held Harmony Round-Up classes for directors and wannabe directors. He also originated scholarships for the Society's Directors' College and gave one scholarship himself.

He plans to continue chorus and quartet coaching and will be one of the district's chapter coaches.

During 53 years as a Barbershopper, he has been a chorus di-

rector, taught classes in Pioneer and other districts, and held several chapter offices up to president. He has sung in several quartets, and qualified on all four parts as a member of the Ancient Harmonious Society of Woodshedders (AHSOW).

A retired elementary school principal, he is married to Joan and has three children and three grandchildren. He loves to read novels.

Public relations VP

Doug Pearson, leaving after five years as VP of public relations and marketing, said he'll increase his Lansing chorus participation and continue singing with the PATCH CHORDS, which has performed more than 800 times in 27 years.

Doug, who is married to Marlys and has two daughters, will continue with his own PR firm.

He said he believes strides have been made in creating a favorable Barbershop image which can result in greater acceptance and ultimately in membership. With the help of chapters and on-site publicity, promotion of district conventions has increased. Further, "good promotion of COTS had paid off in record attendance," he said.

Doug, who encouraged Gary Simon to become *Troubadour* editor, said, "Gary's professional efforts have resulted in a district publication that, in my estimation, is unmatched in the Society."

Doug said he believes his successor on the board, Greg Humbel, "will do an excellent job, but will need full support of the entire district to help him meet his goals." ♪

PIONEER DISTRICT 2002 SPRING CONVENTION

April 26-28, 2002
LANSING, MICHIGAN

CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

Information marked with
a ** is important and is
used to create your con-
vention name badge

☐ Check here
if member of
host

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

** REGISTRANT NAME _____

** SPOUSE/GUEST NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE (_____) _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

** COMPETING CHORUS? YES ___ NO ___ CHORUS NAME _____

** COMPETING QUARTET? YES ___ NO ___ QUARTET NAME _____

** CHAPTER NAME _____

VOICE PART: TENOR _____ LEAD _____ BARITONE _____ BASS _____

EARLY REGISTRATION: \$20 PER PERSON; LATE REGISTRATION: \$25 PER PERSON

EARLY REGISTRATION MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2002.

FEE FOR _____ PERSONS @ \$20/\$25

TOTAL REGISTRATION FEE: _____

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

or MASTERCARD or VISA # _____ EXPIRATION DATE _____

MAIL CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM AND FEES TO:

Stan Williams, Treasurer
421 Franklin Street
Leslie, MI 49251-9491

All-event passes will be at the convention registration desk in Holiday Inn West (headquarters). Single-event tickets may be purchased at the registration desk or Grand Ledge High School: Friday \$12; Saturday noon \$12; Saturday eve \$12. Children 12 and under free.

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

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

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

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

Great Lakes Chorus

(Continued from page 1)

time at the International contest in Nashville last summer.

Dan said Musical Director Jamie Carey “devoted a lot of time and effort in improving our singing since the summer contest, and we were happy that the parody scored well enough to get us back to International.”

He added, “Those guys from Macomb and Detroit-Oakland did a great job, too, and made the contest very exciting for all of us.” Following the top three in the contest standings were Lansing, Grosse Pointe, Huron Valley, and Kalamazoo.

The GREAT LAKES CHORUS, in addition to learning a new package for International, spent time preparing for a Christmas show and plans a spring show. Coaches for the new competition package include singing judge Joel Mills.

Next summer will be the sixth time in seven years that Grand Rapids has competed at International, and the 13th time in two decades. Other chapter choruses at International in the past decade have been Macomb and Motor City Metro. In 1953, Grand Rapids was the first Society chorus champion.

Urging district Barbershoppers to participate in next summer’s convention, Dan said, “It really means a lot to us to get a pat on the back for all the hard work that it takes to get ready for International. But rest assured, we will be ready.”

Finishing second in the competition was Macomb’s HARMONY HERITAGE CHORUS with DOC’s GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS in third place.

Lansing’s CAPITOL CITY CHORUS won the most improved chorus award. ♪

District awarded grant

By President Al Bonney

The Michigan Council For Arts and Cultural Affairs has approved a grant for \$21,400 to do more coaching in the Pioneer District. While it does NOT mean that we can do all of our coaching for free, it does mean that we can provide more coaching clinics and each of them can be better than if we did not have these funds. Several new coaching opportunities are now in the planning and scheduling process.

Permission to spend the money requires that we put up \$2 for every \$1 of grant money for these events.

This is GREAT news and could not come at a better time for Pioneer! ♪

Fall quartet contest results

(Continued from page 1)

Kondor — won the senior quartet contest and will represent the district in the International senior quartet contest at Riverside, Calif., in January 2002. Dressed in different-colored bright pastel suits, their four songs were “My Buddy,” “Sweet Georgia Brown,” “Rock-A-Bye Your Baby,” and “If I Could Write a Song.”

The novice quartet champion was PARTY OF FOUR. Finishing eighth overall, this young quartet — tenor Kevin Morey, lead Toby Shaver, bass Wally Krause, and bari Tim Sequin — sang “Ro-Ro-Rollin’ Along,” “Aura Lee/Love Me Tender” medley, “Bright Was the Night,” and “I’m Beginning to See the Light.” ♪

Philatoga Township
Award-Winning
Barbershop Quartet




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Portage, MI 49002
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ACAPPELLA
QUARTET

Doug Morgan

2002 PIONEER DISTRICT SPRING CONVENTION

April 26-28, 2002

HOTEL RESERVATION FORM

- All spaces must be filled out completely -- type or print clearly.
- All acknowledgements will be sent to the individual whose name and address appear below.
- Confirmation will be sent directly by your assigned hotel.
- Any changes in reservations must be made directly to the hotel after confirmation is received.
- Reservations will be processed in order received.
- **Do not send any room deposits to the Housing Bureau.**
- **Hotels will not make a reservation without a credit card.**
- Reservation requests must be received no later than March 24, 2002. Requests received after this date are subject to hotel availability.

PLEASE MAIL FORM DIRECTLY TO:

SPEBSQSA Housing Bureau, 1223 Turner Street, Suite 200, Lansing, MI 48906

OR

FAX: 517-487-5151

OR

Make reservations on-line at www.lansing.org/spebsqsa

For questions or visitor information, call 888-452-6746 between 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Hotel should confirm this registration to: _____ Arrival Date _____

Name _____ Departure Date _____

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3. Hampton Inn - \$76.00 plus tax _____
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Quartet masters class at fall convention Power Play tells how to be a winner

By Art Lane, Holland Chapter

Early Saturday risers at the district fall convention heard how to be a good quartet from one of the best, our district's own International Bronze Medalist, POWER PLAY.

Between three songs, quartet members spoke from the heart about their quest for the championship and the preparation the quest entails.

Lead Mike Slamka cautioned about a quartet setting too low a goal. When POWER PLAY was formed, the goal was to make the top 20 internationally — and it did not happen. The goal was too low.

Later, after tenor Don Slamka joined the quartet, the four talked about goals again, and Don said, "I want to win the International." When they set out with that goal, they found "if you don't know how to sing like an international champion, you have to find out," and that entails coaching, the right kind of music, and many other details.

In choosing music, Mike suggested, "Get some music that fits your quartet, that you like, and that hasn't been recorded 80 times." For uptunes, POWER PLAY likes short, happy, first-person songs so they can talk directly to each person in the audience. "Our strength is in the message, in the emotion, not in fancy arrangements," Mike said.

One way to get music you like is to consult an arranger. An existing arrangement will cost \$50 or \$75; commissioning a new ar-

range-ment may cost \$150 to \$600.

"We're not going to do songs that we don't absolutely love and that don't connect with the audience," he said. The quartet members have learned to trust their wives — if they don't love a song, it won't fly.

Bass Jack Slamka told the audience that rehearsal time for POWER PLAY — 2½ to 3 hours a week — is so valuable that they need to have an agenda. Don added that "intense scheduling" was a turning point in their ability to prepare through rehearsal. They do a lot of dueting, not just lead and bass, but all the combinations. They tape their rehearsals and listen to the tapes a lot.

When they are performing, they let the emotion drive the singing. Jack said, "These songs are not just for us. It is the audience we are trying to please — to tug at them."

On stage, Mike said, you don't think about vowels, words, moves, posture. "While you're performing, only think about having fun and sing from the heart. Once you hit the stage, it's all driven by emotion."

Bari Mark Slamka explained how not to be nervous: "Ninety percent of your nerves are thinking about mistakes. Just expect mistakes."

In traveling around and doing shows, Mike suggested that a quartet know its role in the show, know its audience, and give variety. "The audience is there to hear you sing, not tell jokes." ♪

Neatest thing since sliced Barbershop

By Toban Dvoretzky,
AHSOW President

Two-time gold medalist Mo Rector says, "Your eye never tuned a chord. Your ear does!" Mo is right. So, just for you ...

"Ear-rangement #1" is AHSOW's (Ancient Harmonious Society of Woodshedders) latest innovation in harmony training. This special package includes: (1) a CD or cassette of great melodies that you haven't heard before, and (2) a pocket-sized folio, containing hints about woodshedding, lyrics for all the melodies, and histories of the songs and biographies of the songwriters.

Professionally recorded by Chris Arnold, Ear-rangement #1 is a must for any singers who are serious about improving their ability to harmonize accurately. (It's also fun!)

"The package is great!" says one Barbershopper. "I found it daunting at first trying to woodshed along with the catchy but unfamiliar melodies on the recording until I realized that it's impossible to woodshed an unfamiliar tune."

"The trick is to learn the melody first, so you can get a feel for the implied chord structure and have an idea where the song is going next."

"I can't wait to try this out with some other guys! Thanks for adding a new dimension to my Barbershopping experience."

Visit <http://www.ahsow.org> for details. ♪

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Chapters in Action

Lansing

By Paul Howe

"The sun is shining, the grass is green." Little did Irving Berlin realize he'd be describing the Christmas season in Michigan when he penned "White Christmas." The warm weather and the events of the past few months have made it more difficult to get in the mood for the holidays, but several performances by our CAPITOL CITY CHORUS and various chapter quartets are helping spread a little holiday cheer with music of the season.

Six Lansing officers have returned from COTS, instilled with fresh ideas and knowledge, to make 2002 fun and exciting for everyone in our chapter. While I can't speak for the other attendees, the instructor in the class I attended was truly outstanding!

If you missed COTS for whatever reason, I strongly urge you to consider attending next year. It IS worth your time.

Since we sang a few songs together in class, I can now claim that I've sung with (someone from) the VOCAL MAJORITY — and that is about as close as many of us are likely to get to actually sing with the VM.

The chorus is hard at work on music for our upcoming show at the Wharton Center on the MSU campus. We have a great show planned for March 9 featuring our headline quartet, EXCALIBUR. The show will also feature several chapter quartets, including GALLERY and the PATCH CHORDS.

Please call (517) 372-SING (7464) for further information.

Pontiac-Waterford

By John Cowlshaw

On November 3 at Central United Methodist Church, the houselights dimmed, the capacity crowd of 420 grew quiet, and "Fortune in Dreams," the 57th Annual Barbershop Harmony Show of the Pontiac-Waterford Chapter, was under way!

The crowd responded enthusiastically to featured

quartets, the SILVER DOMES and PHILATOGA TOWNSHIP.

Thanks to Chris Miller for the concept and the script, and to Pete Mazzara for managing the whole thing (and acting so convincingly!).

New chapter officers Pete Mazzara, Wally Plosky, and Jeff Spires attended the 2001 COTS.

Saginaw Bay

By Ralph Brown

WOW! What a busy Holiday season. Once again we sang our hearts out at various senior facilities and local non-profits.

A local tavern owner, Shelly Hammond, held a fund raiser for the Red Cross in response to the needs following September 11. She organized a variety show at her establishment which lasted from noon until closing.

Four of our chapter members — father, Bob Deming (bass), and son, Dave (lead), along with Randy Meldrum (bari) and Josh Biggs (tenor) — formed a quartet, WAVIN' THE FLAG, and signed up for the show. Dave bought the sweatshirts worn during their performance. The proceeds from the shirts were also donated to the fund.



The tavern's waitresses donated their wages for the evening toward the fund. Over \$4,000 was raised.

HAPPY NEW YEAR AND PEACE ON EARTH.

Windsor

Bill Strong

The smoke has all settled after the fall convention and it's back to the drawing board for the SUN PARLOUR CHORUS. We had a lot of fun, but the results were not what we expected.

(Continued on page 26)

Chapters in Action

(Continued from page 25)

Over the past few months Windsor has added two new members to its roster and this in the midst of our fall guest nights. With a little luck we may be able to add a few more new members. It's great to share the joy of our fantastic hobby.

On a sad note, two of our members have lost their beloved wives. Our deepest sympathies go to Bill Wood and Chuck Flood. Our prayers and thoughts are with you guys.

Our new executives were sworn in at our Christmas party on December 17. Ron Gibb is our new president and we know he'll do a stellar job.

Mark your calendars to attend Uncle Sam Night, January 18, 2002. Location is the same as last year, the South Windsor Knights of Columbus. Call any member for directions. This is a "must attend" event.

Traverse City

By Elbert Ford

Our Christmas performances ended on December 18, whereby we spent from 9:00 a.m. until after 4:00 p.m. singing in various elementary schools in the area. We've done this the past two or three years and love it! The kids make a great audience, plus it gives them exposure to Barbershop-style singing at an early age.

We are progressing well with our new director, Tom Stokes. We seem to be committing to memory without using the hard copy 'til a week before show time.

We just returned from COTS which, from my experience, was the best I've attended in recent years. They set a record of 103 students; 10 were from our chapter.

During the general session, we got a boost while listening to eight students from Benjamin Franklin High School in Livonia perform.

Afterward some of us had the privilege of teaching and singing some tags with them. We also got to see one of our members, Al Bonney, installed as Pioneer District president.

Flint

Guy Hisson

Hello, fellow chord ringers. Whew! Can we take a breath now or what?

First, we would like to thank everyone for their support in the fall convention. Hosting was a true delight, and to have so many comments made us feel just fantastic.

We had a great host chairman in Ed Wracan, who really didn't have to crack the whip at all. The chorus showed up in full and, with all of the work on their minds, still managed to take to the risers and improved our standings and grade of performance. And on top of it all, we had fun!

Since then, we have put together a CHRISTMAS CHORUS, and gained three new members thus far in doing so. We attended a great COTS school, came back, and that evening had the thrill of a Christmas performance in our new home town of Grand Blanc for the tree-lighting ceremony.

We had our annual Christmas party where we donate all of our presents to the Marine Corps Toys For Tots program.

Huron Valley

Hal Thompson

What a busy time of the year! The HURON VALLEY HARMONIZERS have been going strong since September began.

First, we had already begun work on new music for our show on November 10, but we were also hard at work on the two new contest numbers we introduced at the fall contest. The guys really love this music and it showed.

Immediately following the show, we had a wonderful time at Canada night and followed that with a very successful guest night, which featured the SILVER DOMES, who were warmly welcomed by approximately 10 guests along with our chorus.

One very special result of the guest night was the appearance of members of a high school quartet from the Lincoln School District. We are encouraged to believe that our chapter may be enhanced by a YMIH quartet as a result.

The very next week, we welcomed a majority of the DOC chapter who dropped in to bring us the JUG!

Our officers went to COTS and returned full of

new ideas that will generate still more programs to fascinate and delight our growing assemblage of Barbershop harmony devotees.

Gratiot

By George Schmidt

The Gratiot County Chapter and its MIDSTATESMEN CHORUS announce a donation of \$3,000 to the American Red Cross. The donation is in memory of those who died in the September 11, 2001, attack on the United States, but is directed to the General Disaster Relief Fund so that the American Red Cross may use it wherever it may be most needed.

The donation was presented by Chapter President Denny Greenwood to American Red Cross Disaster Relief volunteers Bob Reidel and Keith Bernon.

This donation to the Disaster Relief Fund was raised in conjunction with the annual fall show and represents about half of the net proceeds. Much of the remaining proceeds will be used for community and Barbershop-related music education grants, including the Young Men In Harmony program.

The MIDSTATESMEN are grateful to the loyal sponsors and ticket buyers who have made this work possible. These people also provide the audience, which makes our part of the show so enjoyable.

Monroe North

By Chris Berry

I'm really looking forward to 2002 in Monroe as chapter president. We finished our installation of new officers at our Christmas party, with great food, wonderful conversation, and music provided by NEW WINKLE, Pioneer's 2001 senior quartet champs.

At the party, Don Schroeder was presented the 2000 Man of the Year award. It's great to see that Don got the recognition he deserved with all the work he has done over the years for the Monroe Chapter.

I also got a chance to attend COTS with two other Board members. COTS is a great way to better understand how our Society and chapters run; I highly recommend COTS to everyone.

I think all three of us were fired up after attending COTS. With all of the information we gathered, we were able to spend a fair amount of time setting a direction for the chapter that I don't believe would have happened had we stayed home.

With the new Board in place (Allen, Dale, Phil, Homer, Steve, Don, and Gene) and a show coming up in April 2002, I'm looking forward to the first part of the year.

Stop on down sometime if you're in the neighborhood; we'd be glad to add a chair for you. It's definitely a great time to be a Barbershopper in Monroe!

Keep on singin'.


Grosse Pointe

By Nick Piccione

Highlights of another rewarding fall contest weekend included:

- Our chorus finished fifth again, but moved up to third in the singing category thanks to our singing coach Linda Liddicoat and director Steve Pauling.
- Quartet FERMATA NOWHERE — Lansing Chapter's Jeff Gougeon, lead Tom Conner, bass Pete Burns, and bari Steve Pauling — moved up from fourth place to second. WOW!
- Our talented tenor, Robb Smith, joined a first-time quartet named CROSSFIRE and after only singing together 10 times captured third place. WOW again!

(Continued on page 28)



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Upcoming Events

2002

Jan. 18 - Uncle Sam Night. Knights of Columbus #4386, Windsor, Ont. Contact: Doug Scott: 519-326-1035

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

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

Feb. 23 - Chorus Coaching Clinic in Gaylord. Contact Dan Bezaire: DBezaire@wincom.net

March 2 - Chorus Coaching Clinic in Lansing. Contact Dan Bezaire: DBezaire@wincom.net

March 2 - Wayne Show. Contact Iain Willox: 734-485-6808

March 9 - Kalamazoo Show

March 9 - Lansing Show

April 6 - Monroe North Show

April 6 - Sault Ste. Marie Show

April 12 - Grand Rapids Show

April 26-28 - Pioneer District Convention

May 11 - Macomb Show

May 17-19 - Harmony Round-Up at MSU. Contact Dan Bezaire: DBezaire@wincom.net

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

Chapters in Action

(Continued from page 27)

- Another beautiful lakeside dinner was hosted by Dan Felix. Those "Harvey's Dinners" just keep getting better and better.
- Special thanks to Dave Czapinski and his wife, Jane, for another great hospitality room, jammed with food, refreshments, singing, and people.

Our spotlight falls on our retiring president, Jim Grogan. It takes a man of giving character and love for his chapter to hold such a demanding job for three consecutive years — of good times, successful membership numbers, and improved contest standings. This leads me to think:

*A president's lot is a difficult one,
With all of those details that have to be done.
Find the right guy if you can!
A guy with an easy leadership style,
A contagious laugh and bright Irish smile,
Yes, Jim was just the right man! ♪*

"Music creates order out of chaos: for rhythm imposes unanimity upon the divergent, melody imposes continuity upon the disjointed, and harmony imposes compatibility upon the incongruous."

Yehudi Menuhin