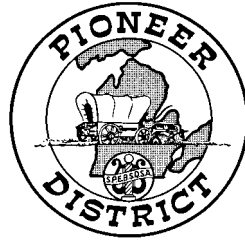


Pioneer Troubadour

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

Volume 53, Issue 2



March/April 2002

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Chicago Shuffle strikes gold in California; Pioneer's New Wrinkle finishes 17th

In one of the closest contests ever, Illinois District's CHICAGO SHUFFLE edged Cardinal District's BARONS by two points — 862 to 860 — at the 2002 International Seniors Quartet Contest held Saturday, January 26, in Riverside, Calif. Mid-Atlantic District's SOUND REVIVAL finished third with 851 points. NEW WRINKLE, our Pioneer District's senior quartet representatives, finished 17th.

CHICAGO SHUFFLE — tenor Ray Henders, lead Howard Tweddle, baritone Darryl Cremer, and bass David Boo — scored the same for each of their two songs: 431 points for "The Song Is Ended" and 431 points for "I Want a Girl." The foursome finished second in the 2001 seniors competition.

The BARONS — tenor Bud Haggard, lead Carl Taylor, baritone Ken Buckner, and bass Bill Woodward — scored 429 points singing "Tie Me to Your Apron

Strings Again" and 431 points for "Wait Till the Sun Shines, Nellie." Singing "Rock-A-Bye Your Baby" and "My Buddy," NEW WRINKLE scored 726 points, 10 fewer points than in the Pioneer District 2001 fall competition.

This was the first international seniors competition for Jack, Kelly, and Don. Walt sang bass with THE VERY IDEA at the 1996



NEW WRINKLE: Tenor Jack Frucci, lead J. Kelly Brummett, bass Walt Quick, and bari Don Kondor.

senior competition in Jacksonville, Fla.

Walt's comment on this year's contest: "I thought we sang well. I had hoped we would place higher, but we had a good time."

"It was a terrific experience," Jack added. "I really enjoyed myself. I'd like to do it again." ♪

Spring convention preview

By Larry Parker
District VP for Events

Yes, we are back in Lansing for our spring convention, but instead of the Sheraton Hotel and Waverly High School, they're the Holiday Inn West and Grand Ledge High School.

The headquarters hotel, Holiday Inn West, is located at 7501 W. Saginaw Hwy., about 1,000 feet east of the I-96/I-69 interchange at **Exit 93B**. Grand Ledge High School is about eight miles west of the hotel on Jenne Street in Grand Ledge. To get to the school from the freeway, exit I-96/I-69 at **Exit 93A**. To get to the school from the Holiday Inn, go west on Saginaw Hwy (M-43).

You will encounter four traffic lights as you travel to Grand Ledge. The first is at the new shopping center west of the freeway. The second is at Nixon Road, and the third at M-100 in Grand Ledge. The fourth and last is Jenne Street; turn right on Jenne. After about a quarter mile, turn left into the parking lot just north of the football stadium. There is plenty of parking and the auditorium entrance is just down the hill on the right.

The convention registration desk will be in the lobby near the main entrance and close to the ho-

(Continued on page 24)



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Uncle Sam Night

More than 150 Barbershoppers enjoyed the annual Uncle Sam Night on Friday evening, January 19, 2002, hosted by the Windsor Chapter.

Held at the South Windsor Knights of Columbus Hall, master of ceremonies Doran McTaggart introduced seven quartets: RUBEN'S ROBINS, SHINDIG, IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD, SILVER DOMES, BORDER CROSSING, FERMATA NOWHERE, and district senior champion NEW WRINKLE.

In addition, five choruses performed: Macomb County's HARMONY HERITAGE CHORUS, DOC's GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS, Grosse Pointe's LAKESHORE CHORUS, and Windsor's SUN PARLOUR CHORUS. A "leftover" chorus was made up of members from Flint, Huron

Valley, Livingston County, Motor City Metro, Pontiac-Waterford, and Wayne chapters.

Recognized guests were long-

time Society members Bill Juchartz (57 years) and Bill Pascher (59 years). ♪



IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD: (from left) bari Mike Proffitt, bass Tom Smeltzer, lead Frank Fortier, and tenor Jim Grogan.

Bill Butler Memorial Scholarship Fund reactivated

By Pete Peters,
Detroit-Oakland County Chapter

In the wake of serious interest being displayed over the Pionet in looking for additional opportunities to encourage and coach up and coming quartets, the Detroit-Oakland Chapter (DOC) would like to reactivate the Bill Butler Memorial Scholarship Fund. This fund was started in 1990 at the district spring convention to honor Bill Butler for his dedication to quartet development and his involvement in many chapters around the Pioneer District.

Over the past decade, many quartets and coaches have bene-

fited with scholarships to Harmony Round-Up (mini-HEP school). The problem is that recent donations being limited primarily to DOC, the fund has been depleted.

DOC would like all Pioneer chapters and quartets to consider contributing to the district-wide fund so that scholarships might be reactivated. DOC will appoint a three-member Scholarship Fund Administrative Committee to administer the fund. Any Pioneer chapter may nominate quartets or coaches. Additionally, Pioneer chapters making donations could assign one of their members to the committee.

DOC, which is hosting the spring convention in Lansing, will have contribution and application blanks available at the registration table. Scholarships for 2002 will be limited by the monies contributed prior to Harmony Round-Up in May.

We plan to have this fund be a continuing effort to develop and improve quartets and coaching in the Pioneer District.

Questions or suggestions should be sent to Pete Peters, quartet development DOC; e-mail to Tom Uicker at t_uicker@hotmail.com; or call Pete Peters at 248-681-9568. ♪

The PR that led to a prison visit

By Jim Styer, Staff Writer

It was just a routine story about our fall convention in the Kalamazoo Gazette.

But it caught the interest of Bill Morrow at the prison in Ionia. He phoned me on October 25 (the day before fire hit our house) and said he was very interested in having a quartet or small chorus visit the prison, sing for the men, and tell them about Barbershop harmony and our Society.

Bill mentioned a quote in the story from then-District President Don Bazely that Barbershop started with slave music. This led to quite a discussion about Barbershopping, our history, our district, and the Society. Bill seemed quite interested and said he believed the prisoners would be, too.

I noted that some chapters in the Society have sung in prisons, and I believe I once read about one in the East that helped set up a prison chapter. Bill seemed very interested in this idea, too.

During the conversation, I mentioned the young men who sang in the GREAT LAKES CHORUS' baseball package. Bill said he has a son who can sing well. When I found that he lives near the Grand Rapids rehearsal site, I invited him to drop in on a meeting. He said he just might do so, discuss his prison idea, and bring along his son.

I then alerted Grand Rapids President Jack Schneider by e-mail.

A few weeks later, Jack wrote to say that Bill and his son came to a meeting, sang with the chapter, and "really enjoyed the experience." Bill indicated that they were too busy to continue with the chapter. But Jack introduced Bill to three contact people for quartets, and he was to make arrangements for a quartet appearance at the prison.

Ah, the wonders of publicity! You never know what a small news story might lead to. ♪

Singing is Life ...
the rest is
just details

Barbershop warms a cold prison

By Jack Sidor

Jack is the bass of SHADES OF GREY in Grand Rapids, Pioneer District's 1999 Senior Quartet Champion. The other quartet members are tenor Ron Thomet, lead Bud Kraft, and baritone Gary Branch.

In my 40-plus years of Barbershop, this has to rank as a No. 1-type unique experience. At a chapter guest night, one of the visitors, Bill Morrow, a warden at Deerfield Correctional Facility in Ionia, approached our quartet, SHADES OF GREY, to ask if we would sing for the prisoners. We agreed.

Bill needed to get each of our Social Security numbers, addresses, and a general description to run a security check. He told us to be prepared for a "pat down" security check when we arrived at the facility on Saturday afternoon, Dec. 1. By the time we got there, we were on pins and needles, even though Bill had assured us we were found to be "squeaky clean."

It was chilly, with a few snowflakes and very gusty winds. The prisoners were in dark blue winter clothes as they crossed to the mess hall for lunch. They gave us curious looks as we walked to the assembly building.

We made our way to a box platform. They had set up four mike stands and a video camera.

We didn't know what to expect for an audience. Would there be a bunch of grim-faced, hardened convicts or what? We were relieved to see a mixture of ordinary guys, of various ages, about evenly mixed between white and black, and all with rather pleasant faces.

They were very generous with their applause. They laughed in all the right places at our jokes, like when I asked if they had a minute to spare while I introduced the guys. When we finished, we got a standing O, and one after another came up to shake our hands. Among them was an inmate who had been a Barbershopper on the East Coast. He was nothing but ear-to-ear grin throughout our entire performance.

The warden couldn't thank us enough. He offered to keep us the entire weekend, saying the food would be terrific. We had some reservation about this, but did promise to sing for them again next spring.

It's an experience I'd recommend to any quartets if you want to get a feeling you're doing something worthwhile. ♪

A View From The Top

Al Bonney, President

Success breeds success

My mother used to say, "winning begets winners." What she meant was that success builds confidence to go try again, the repeat activity builds experience to make the next effort even better than the first, and so the cycle goes. The Pioneer District is experiencing some wonderful successes in 2002 already, and I thought some of the details were worth passing on to you.



Al Bonney

Grant Writing: You know that we received \$21,500 from our \$30,000 request to the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs to fund coaching sessions for choruses, quartets, and directors in 2002. By the time you read this, we will have conducted two very successful chorus coaching clinics in Gaylord and Lansing. Harmony Round-Up and Bush League will have expanded offerings, director seminars, and quartet coaching opportunities also.

Financial Management and Control: We exceeded our goal of paying off all district debt by the end of 2001. As a result of the many adjustments we made to spending programs in the last six months of 2001, we ended the year with \$7,000 in the bank.

Membership: While our membership numbers are not going in the right direction (we had a net loss of 38 members in the district in 2001), I have a very good feeling about our ability to reverse this trend in 2002. Here is why I feel this way:

1. Brian Dunckel has an aggressive committee dedicated to work with all of our chapter membership services officers to ensure effective recruiting and retention programs in every one of our chapters.
2. Our Chapter Coach Program is finally fully staffed with 10 excited and trained men who are busting at the seams to help their assigned chapters. Healthy chapters are healthy because they want to grow and get better. The chapter coaches can be as much help to these strong chapters as they can to the struggling chapters. One of the best ways to build membership is to START with fun chapter meetings. If you have any question about what FUN is, call your chapter coach!
3. In the end, growing our membership in our chapters is a vital requirement. You read all of the articles in the last *Harmonizer* just as I did. The need is clear and there is not a man among us who couldn't get a guest to chapter meetings if he put his mind to it.

Yes, there are a lot of good things going on in Pioneer and I am proud to be part of this district because, truly ... **It Is Great To Be A Barbershopper In Pioneer!**

See you at convention in Lansing. It will be a great one! ♪

Holland's Park Theater changes hands

A new corporation has been formed to carry forward the renovation of the Park Theater, which was purchased by the Holland Chapter in November 1998. In November 2001, the chapter transferred ownership of the theater to a new non-profit corporation, Preservation Through Performance Foundation. The new group will be comprised of champions of the arts from the community and potential users of the theater for stage and musical performances, including Barbershoppers.



Members of the Holland Chapter on the new board include Myke Lucas, Cal Verduin, and Bill McAndrew. After fundraising and renovation, the Holland Chapter will have a named room for its meetings and practices. The aim is to create "one of the finest performing areas in town," according to interim PTPF President Jack C. Oonk. ♪

Here's the Society Pitch

Raleigh Bloch, Society Board Member

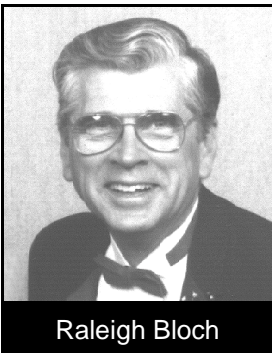
What happened?

What happened?

What do you mean, "What happened?"

Well, you went to the Midwinter Convention, didn't you?

Yes.



Raleigh Bloch

Well, WHAT HAPPENED?

Oh, what happened?

Boy, I can tell this is going to be a great article already.

We had some meetings, a great contest, some great shows, a Barbershop shop, tours, and a lot of fun.

Ah, could you be a little more specific? This is supposed to be an informative article.

I don't have enough space to tell you about all that went on, so let me tell you about just one two-day meeting that I attended that you most likely won't hear about elsewhere. That was the grant education meeting.

YAWN! Wake me up when you're done.

This is a new task force for developing a grant education system for all districts so the information can be passed on to the chapters.

So what is that going to do for Joe Barbershopper?

A lot. Think of all the things

your chapter would like to do if it had the money.

Hey, I can think of a lot of things. We could send our director to get more schooling, get new risers, buy a sound system, get coaching, and more. But where do we get the money?

From grants.

Yeah, right. They aren't going to give money to a Barbershop chorus.

Apparently that's not the way some chapters think. Tampa Chapter is averaging \$68,000 per year in grants. Just so you don't think I slipped an extra zero in there, let me repeat, averaging sixty-eight thousand dollars per year.

Holy Cow! That's more than our entire yearly chapter budget. I'll bet they're a big chapter and that's why they get it.

In fact they are a big chapter, but small chapters have been successful as well. Kalamazoo Chapter — which normally puts 30 men on the risers — recently received two grants: one for \$2,000 and another for \$26,000.

Well, let's get that information out.

Actually, that information is out and you can get it from your local arts council. They put on grant-writing seminars you can attend that will help you write a grant. The stuff that the taskforce is working on will mirror what the arts councils will tell you, but will

also give you tips that will enhance your chances of getting a grant approved. You're not going to get every grant you ask for, but ...

Yeah, I know. I know you won't get anything if you don't ask.

Right on. The taskforce is also working on getting grants for the Society at the international level.

Hmm, I'm going to tell the guys at my chapter about this. We could sure use some of that money.

Others are getting it.

Why not us?

Go for it.

I will.

There you go again.

Yup.

Hmm.

Yawn. ♪

"Members Only" Web site available

A very useful tool called "Members Only" is available on the Society Web site (www.spebsqsa.org). There you can update personal information on file at the headquarters, particularly e-mail addresses. It also offers search capabilities to located quartets, other members, chapters, and much more.

"Members Only" requires the use of a password. For first-time users, click on "Members Only" at the top right of the Society Web page. Then click where it asks "Don't have a password?" and one will be e-mailed to you, usually within 24 hours.

When you receive the password, it is yours permanently, and the "Members Only" sign-in page will remember it so that it will not be necessary to enter the password each time you use the site. ♪

Here's the District Pitch

Brian Dunckel, Member Services VP

"Ever growing or nothing else matters" more than a slogan

For the past year, I have been sharing ideas to help educate and motivate you about the important task of membership growth in the Society. A day after writing my first draft of this article, my January / February *Harmonizer* arrived. If that issue doesn't get your attention, I don't



Brian Dunckel

know what will!

Overall, the Society experienced a loss of 338 members or about one percent in 2001. Sadly, only four districts showed any growth. In Pioneer, despite a strong early start, we lost three percent or 38 members. This ranked us 12th out of the 16 districts — hardly Pioneers like we should be!

I'm afraid many of us have taken a defensive approach to growth, thinking that if we recoup our losses things will be OK. But that is incorrect. A baseball team must score runs in order to win; we must start to take an offensive approach to show growth NOW!

So what can you do about it? Start by wearing your membership pin or current Man of Note pin to

show off the fact that you are a Barbershopper. I'm sure we all have plenty of clothing that would indicate to others that we are Barbershoppers as well. Wear them often and wear them proudly. Then be ready to share your love of the hobby when someone asks you about it.

Another thing that should ALWAYS be with you is a business card or flyer that you could give to a prospective member that includes the name of your chapter, when and where it meets, and your phone number so he can contact you with any questions. It's also a good thing to get his name and phone number as well so you can call to remind him a day or two ahead of time. Or better yet, offer him a ride!

Are you really daring? Make a goal to talk to someone about Barbershop singing every week, or better yet, every day!

We must prepare ourselves to be successful at recruiting new members. You can't just ask someone "Do you sing?" Be prepared with follow-up questions so that even if his answer is "No," you still have a chance to make progress with contacts like "Do you know someone who does?" Or when they say "I don't sing that well," respond with "You don't have to sing that well. We sing in a

chorus of 30 other guys."

We can't just continue to sit back and, when asked by our VP of chapter development to bring a guest to the next guest night, say "Yeah, right." Open your mind. Try to do what is asked. I bet many of you would surprise yourselves!

I shared with the COTS attendees the closing portion of Ev Nau's Roadshow Report — the recapping of his 5,757 miles driven and meeting with 766 men from 70 chapters over a period of two weeks. I leave it with you in closing.

Ev wrote, "I told every meeting that I was not asking for the help of the members to grow the Society, I was expecting it. I expect no less from you to keep the fire lit and the passion intense for this mission. 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 further need for any other programs in the Society. *Ever growing or nothing else matters* is more than a slogan."

Very profound words from a man whose passion for this hobby and desire to grow our Society is shown daily in all that he does. It's now time for us to show our true colors as well. Will YOU stand up and be counted as one concerned about and responsible for membership growth in 2002?

I just received credit for my third Man of Note award. I challenge EACH of you to garner one of your own. Then you will have a new pin to wear for others to ask you about!

Membership growth?

Y KNOT! ♪

Public Relating

Greg Humbel, Marketing & Public Relations VP

Retooling your thinking

I was putting the finishing touches on this *Troubadour* column when my copy of the current *Harmonizer* arrived. I have to admit that many of the stories and stats place a compelling twist on

the state of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

"It's all about membership."

I challenge each of you to remind yourself that everything you do

for your chorus, chapter, and the Society has to be about this.

How does this relate to marketing and public relations? The Broadway touring company of "The Music Man" was in Kalamazoo in late January and in Lansing in February. It will be at Detroit's Fox Theater from April 16 to 21.

Alex Boltenko, Kalamazoo Chapter VP of marketing and public relations, decided to make the company's stop in Kalamazoo a truly Barbershop event. He made some contacts in the district and Society and received many ideas, suggestions, and contacts. Alex tracked down Stephen Iannacchione, tenor of International champ JOKER'S WILD, who is in the touring group. With his help via e-mail and with the coopera-

tion of Miller Auditorium in Kalamazoo, Alex was able to turn this event into a Barbershop extravaganza, including radio interviews and singing in the lobby at intermission. These were great membership opportunities. And it was a great show. The highlight of the evening for Barbershoppers was an invitation to the cast party after the show.

Congratulation, Alex, you did us proud!

Gentlemen, the membership opportunities from events such as this are incredible.

But you don't need a Broadway show to get you going. Every year there's Singing Valentines. Don't forget your chapter information; someone you sing for may have questions. And chapter shows: Do you have membership information in the program? Does the master of ceremonies say anything about your chapter and encourage men to visit your meetings? There are upcoming events like the Society's birthday on April 11, coming anniversaries of September 11, and the many local community functions and festivals you can be a part of.

Thank you for all that you do for your chapters. As you move forward to your next function or event, ask yourself if the membership component has been addressed. Ask, what do I do here? Grow membership! ♪

Scholarships to Directors College offered

Since the inception of the SCDDC tuition scholarships for front-line directors attending Directors College for the first time, the response to this program has been outstanding.

The inquiries about this year's scholarships began late last summer. To keep up with the demand for the scholarships, the SCDDC, in conjunction with the Society Board and Harmony Foundation, has increased the number of scholarships to 50

There are two eligibility requirements:

- (1) You must be a front-line director of an SPEBSQSA chorus
- (2) You are a first-time attendee to Directors College

The selection process will be random and there will be two separate drawings with two chances for everyone to win. The first drawing will award a scholarship to two different directors from each district's pool of applicants. All of the remaining names from each district drawing will then be put in a bucket and the final 18 scholarships will then be drawn.

There is no form to fill out, no paperwork to return, no need to submit a resume, and no need to gather letters of reference. Simply mail or e-mail your name, address, and e-mail (if applicable) to Jerry Knickerbocker. The drawings take place on May 20, 2002.

Thanks, and good luck to you!

Jerry Knickerbocker, 515 West Elm Street, Titusville, PA 16354-1424
jerrykn@csonline.net



Greg Humbel

Chapter Coaching

Doran McTaggart, Chapter Support/Leadership VP

Key to successful chapter rehearsals: VARIETY

For the past number of years we have been reminded numerous times that our Society is losing members. Our Society doesn't lose members, our chapters do! What we do at the chapter meeting determines whether we attract new members and retain the



Doran McTaggart

ones we have.

How do we avoid falling into what has been referred to as "The Two-Song Syndrome"?

How do we put more enjoyment into our chapter meetings? Do re-read our executive director's article on page 2 of the September/October 2001 *Harmonizer*. Darryl Flinn reiterated many of these points when he fielded questions at our Pioneer District House of Delegates Meeting last October. Our COTS training has stressed the importance of planning yearly activities as well as each chapter meeting, with both having a wide VARIETY of activities.

In our chapter planning for 2002, some important events to include are: annual show, registration and participation in both of our district conventions, learning a half-dozen new songs, keeping up our repertoire for 10-12 performances in our community, promoting quartets at all levels of

achievement, social events including our significant others, inter-chapter activities, planned membership drives, and a multitude of other interesting activities.

Our chapter meeting night's format should be fresh and exciting. Vary the activities from week to week and get many people "up front" taking part. Include singing at least 12 different songs and a quartet activity every chapter meeting.

To get a VARIETY of activities included in weekly meetings that can be enjoyed by chapter members, the "Eight Points To Fun" Program has been taught at COTS for over three decades. These eight points are: warm-up, craft, gang singing, woodshedding, break, business, quartetting, and chorus rehearsal.

Probably less than 15 percent of our 840 Society chapters have as their mission statement to qualify and compete in the international chorus contest. That's OK! The other 85 percent of our chapters want to sing well and enjoy Barbershopping on a weekly basis at the chapter level. That's OK, too!

Your chapter coach can assist you in many ways to enjoy your Barbershop hobby. No matter what your chapter goals are, he is there to supply encouragement and support. He can help your chapter to be the best it can possibly be. Give him a call. You'll be glad you did. ♪

Barbershop in the barn

For the eighth consecutive year, members of Maumee Valley and Black Swamp (Ohio) chapters along with the Monroe North and Huron Valley chapters joined the River Raisin Sweet Adelines for a November evening of singing at Wilbert and Peg Mathes' Evergreen Farm in Ada, Mich. More than 140 Barbershoppers enjoyed a hayride, a pot-luck dinner, and an "entertain ourselves" program.

Quartets participating included CATFISH BEND, 2001 college silver medallist quartet, PHOENIX from Johnny Appleseed District, and HOT TOPIC. Special guests were FOREVER YOUNG, a high school quartet from Ben Ayling's (bass of THE RITZ gold medal quartet) music department at Northview High School in Sylvania, Ohio.

Under the direction of Chuck Drouillard, the finale was a mass sing of "Lida Rose" from "The Music Man." ♪

International Convention update

Here is the registration figure as of January 31 for the upcoming International Convention in Portland, Ore.: 7,460

To register for the Portland convention, call 1-800-876-7464 x-8462 or visit <http://www.spebsqsa.org/Portland/>. You'll find information on convention events including a preliminary events schedule ♪

Take Note

Gene Hanover, Chorus Director Development VP

Chorus directors: educational opportunities galore!

That's right. First, there are Directors College scholarships being offered that you or your director may qualify for.



Gene Hanover

(1) The International Chorus Director Development Committee is offering at least TWO scholarships for directors that fit these two criteria: (a)

must be the front-line director of a SPEBSQSA chorus, and (b) must be a first-time attendee.

(2) The Pioneer District is offering ONE scholarship to all directors who fit this criterion: must be the front-line director of a Pioneer District chorus.

In both cases, you or your chapter is responsible for your transportation.

First-timers: To apply, please submit your name, address, e-mail address, chapter, and DISTRICT name to Jerry Knickerbocker at jerrykn@csonline.net, and also to me at barberpolecat@aol.com. Make sure that we know that you will be a first-timer!

All others: Submit your name, address, e-mail, and chapter name to me, Gene Hanover, at barberpolecat@aol.com. These should be submitted ASAP. I will announce

the winner(s) at the spring convention. I double-dog dare you to overwhelm us with applications!

Next is the Chorus Directors Retreat being offered at the Pioneer District Round-Up in May. Here is what we will be offering:

Assistant Directors Workshop - Ever wondered what an assistant director is expected to do? What their responsibilities are to the chorus? Director? Music team? Take this class and find out.

Front-Line Seminar - This is a discussion of things like philosophy of directing, teaching theory, notes, words, and the basics to our members. There will also be time to discuss problem solving in the chorus, intonation, how to best use our assistant directors and section leaders, and mentoring to new directors in training.

Section Leaders Seminar - What are the responsibilities of the section leader to the director, assistant director, and chorus member? "What do I do now?"

The Judging Categories - To better understand how we relate everything we do to better performances. Everyone will be in this class.

Working as a Team - This class is where we all meet to better understand how our jobs interrelate.

Private Voice Lesson - We are the vocal teachers of our district and we need to better understand our

own voice in order to become better teachers. This is open to the first 14 music team members who sign up until April 26, when the remaining slots will be filled from other students attending the Round-Up.

Yep, you read it right. Directors, assistant directors, section leaders, and all others interested have different classes that they can take. Register through Dan Bezaire, VP of music and performance, for the Round-Up and for the Retreat. It's a great deal!

Also in the works are several workshops that I hope will be close enough to you that you will all choose to attend. There is nothing firm at this time, but I'll keep you posted.

In the meantime, REGISTER FOR THESE CLASSES! You will have the time of your life and the membership will love you for it!

C ya on-line! ♪

"Music Across America" planned for April

In cooperation with Hattie Harris Musicals, we encourage all Society chapters to seek opportunities to perform at facilities that provide care to children and adults with physical and mental disabilities as part of "Music Across America" April 25, 2002.

If your chapter does book a performance at a facility, please contact Christopher Noun and provide contact information for your local convention and visitors bureau. *E-mail him directly at cpn@rochester.rr.com.* ♪

Yours 4 A Song

Dan Bezaire, Music & Performance VP

Plan now for Harmony Round-Up

Mark your calendars. Harmony Round-Up is coming fast — May 17-19, 2002. We want this to be the best Round-Up ever, and we're working very hard to make that happen. We are offering more classes, an extended chorus director's track, and quartet coaching.

Some of the classes will include:

Vocal Production: Learn the proper way to use your vocal apparatus to its best advantage. Practice the proper techniques for producing quality sound. Learn how to take care of the voice.

Music Fundamentals: What are all those spots on the page? You can learn how to make sense of the more common musical symbols and signs. Find out about terms such as key, chords, and intervals.

Sight Reading: Did you ever wonder how some people look at a piece of music and sing it right away? Did you know that *you* can learn how this is done?

How Judges Think: Some people

respond to this by saying, "Judges think?" But believe it or not, they do have pretty specific criteria when they listen to performers on the contest stage. This course will explain exactly what those guys at the front table are doing during your performance.

Repertoire: Singing songs, of course.

Tags, Woodshedding: Always popular favorites.

Standing Ovation: How would you like to be a certified Standing Ovation reviewer? If you take this course, you can be of great benefit to every performing group in our district. You will learn to evaluate the entertainment value of a chapter show or a quartet performance. And you can get into their show for free!

Gene Hanover, DVP for chorus director development, is planning an exciting line-up of classes for directors, assistants, and section leaders. He plans to offer the following:

Assistant Directors Workshop: Ever wondered what an assistant director is expected to do? What their responsibilities are to the chorus? Director? Music team? Take this class and find out.

Front-Line Seminar: This is a discussion of things like philoso-

phy of directing, teaching theory, notes, words, and the basics to our members. There will also be time to discuss problem solving in the chorus, intonation, how to best use our assistant directors, and section leaders, and mentoring to new directors in training.

Section Leaders Seminar: What are the responsibilities of the section leader to the director, assistant director, and chorus member? "What do I do now?"

Working as a Team: This class is where we all meet to better understand how our jobs interrelate.

Private Voice Lesson: We are the vocal teachers of our district and we need to better understand our own voice to become better teachers. This is open to the first 14 music team members who sign up until April 26, when the remaining slots will be filled from other students attending the Round-Up.

Copies of the Harmony Round-Up registration form will be made available to all district chapters. ♪

Get answers about licensing on the Web

Are you interested in making your own learning tapes? Does your quartet or chorus plan to make a tape or CD? You'll find answers to many questions about proper licensing on the Web at <http://www.nmpa.org/hfa/licensing.html>. The Fox Agency also has a new link for obtaining a license on-line at http://songfile.snap.com/nonpro_search.html. ♪



Dan Bezaire

Young Men in Harmony

Dave Anderson, District VP

Prepare for the Blast!

Yes, now is the time for you to talk with those music teachers and students and prepare them for attending A CAPPELLA BLAST! '02. The date is May 17-19 and the place is at beautiful Michigan State University in East Lansing.

Ken and Vicki Gibson are once again preparing a great program for both the students and the teachers, and Bob Wisdom is ready to take the reservations. We are lining up some great quartets to demonstrate and teach the Barbershop style, so all will be well entertained and have a very fun weekend.

Of course, the real climax will be a chance for this 100-strong chorus to perform on the Saturday night show, so I'm hoping that all of you fine Pioneer Barbershoppers will attend the Harmony Round-Up that same weekend and be there to cheer on these young men. Just consider this an invest-

ment in our future!

The MSMVA (Michigan Schools Vocal Music Association) Convention held in Ann Arbor this past January was a great success for our Pioneer YMIH Program. Bill Rashleigh came in from Kenosha to present our one-hour part of the program, and POWER PLAY was the quartet that demonstrated what he was talking about.

When the program finished with a POWER PLAY song, the whole audience was on its feet for one of the rare standing O's for a program section. One music teacher came up to me later in the day and said that she didn't know much about Barbershop, but when those fellows were singing, she had tears in her eyes. The song was "Time After Time" and once again POWER PLAY got 'em.

The other good news from this convention was that we found music majors from three different universities that had Barbershop quar-

tets working and they all promised to compete in our Spring College Quartet Contest. It looks like we might have a real competition going this year if they all show up.

The lead and bass from the Central Michigan University quartet kept coming back to our booth to sing tags with us, so we had a great time. District President Al Bonney really sings a super tenor and also was the real key to the success of this endeavor. We also met with Greg Humbel, district VP of PR, and he is a big help to us in promoting Barbershop music in the schools.

I recently received a phone call from Sterling Heights High School asking for help from us with "The Music Man" which the students will be performing in May. I asked the caller how he found me; he said through the local library. You might want to talk to the library in your town and make sure they know about your chapter.

Also, if you have a local arts council, have one of your members join and be active. This can provide many performance opportunities as well as access to some grant money.

So let's keep looking for ways to promote our hobby, but always with quality performances. ♪

Harmony Foundation grants awarded

At their January meeting, the Society's Harmony Foundation trustees awarded eight grants totaling \$40,500.

These grants support vocal music projects that will benefit thousands of young singers in eight states. This is in addition to nearly \$77,000 for Harmony Explosion camps for 2002, which will benefit

an additional 500 young singers and their music teachers.

A grant was also awarded that will provide scholarships for 25 chorus directors to Directors College in August. And individual grants will be made this fall for an additional \$40,000.

This is our charitable mission "to preserve our musical legacy

through support of vocal music education in our schools and communities" in action.

We are certainly spreading the joy of vocal music to thousands of young people thanks to your generous donations to the Harmony Foundation General Fund. ♪

The Judge's Corner

Ed Fritzen, Contest & Judging VP

Contest judges announced

We have quite a bit of news to report this month concerning the contest and judging program in Pioneer District.

First of all, I'm sure you're all wondering who will be on our official panel for the spring convention. Judging singing will be Jim DeBusman and Eddie Williamson. The presentation category will be handled by Gary Wulf and Jim Massey, while music will be judged by Kevin Keller and Gene Cokeroff. Overseeing the entire contest will be our contest administrators, Jim Nolan and Kent McClean.



Ed Fritzen

Please welcome these gentlemen to the Pioneer District when you see them out and about during our convention weekend.

By the time you read this, official notices will have been sent inviting choruses and quartets to compete at our spring contest sessions. I would like to encourage everyone to compete, especially if you haven't competed recently. It's a worthwhile experience, and our fine panel of judges has so much they can offer to each singer in the Pioneer District. It has always been my opinion that every man who walks across our contest stage is a winner.

I would also like to encourage

everyone who wants to compete to use the electronic entry forms available either through our Pioneer Web page or the Society's Web page. More and more correspondence is being done via e-mail, and I would eventually like to handle all entry forms electronically.

For those who don't have e-mail access, I'll still accept entry forms through the U.S. mail, but please give the electronic entry form a try. It's easy and it makes my work a little easier. The deadline for all entries is Friday, April 12, 2002.

Finally, during the last couple of months I processed and submitted applications from the following men who are starting on the long qualification process to become certified in the C&J program. The Pioneer District is fortunate to have such dedicated men, willing to learn more about our hobby so that they might be able to help us become better singers.

Applying to become a contest administrator is Don Kill. Al Fisk has applied to become a judge in the music category. John Noteware, Neil Nugent, and Larry Reinhart have applied to become singing judges. Wish them luck as they start on the rigorous, but rewarding, path to certification.

That's all the news for now. Good luck to all of the competitors this spring. ♪

The tax man cometh

Some things you do as a Barbershopper are tax deductible. If you itemize your deductions, you may be entitled to include some expense for Barbershop activity.

If you had verifiable out-of-pocket expense in connection with a chapter duty as an elected or appointed officer or board member, or if you sang in one or more local shows, such expenses as travel (14¢ per mile or actual cost) telephone, postage, parking, etc., for which you were not reimbursed are deductible.

If you use these deductions, here is the procedure. With Form 1040, use Schedule A, under "gifts to charity, other than cash or check," enter the total of your out-of-pocket expense. (Remember the words "non-reimbursed" and "verifiable.") If over \$500, attach the appropriate schedule and categorize expenses by groups (lodging, transportation, etc.), captioned "Expenses incurred in connection with contributions of services to an organization classed as exempt under Section 501 (c) (3)." Then state the name and location of your chapter and the full name of the Society.

Your cash contributions to your chapter, the Society, or to Harmony Foundation, Inc. (for the General Fund to support our service projects or to the Endowment Program) are directly deductible. Include this figure in Schedule A under "gifts to charity, cash or check." Be sure to retain verifying records such as appointment books, calendars with notes, etc.

Additional information is available at: <http://www.spebsqsa.org/Operations/taxdeduct.htm>. ♪

Quartets Champions Association

Dennis Gore, PR & Communications

Quartet Champions Association re-energizes

The Pioneer District Quartet Champions Association (QCA) has decided to re-energize its membership. The QCA will embark on a program to support the district as well as offering ideas to draw in new members and to keep existing ones. Additionally, the QCA will develop its own set of projects.

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee members are:

- Ways and means (ideas for QCA projects and charities) - Craig Pollard
- PR/communications - Denny Gore
- Music - Bob Winters
- Show - Mark Wilson
- Membership - Neil Nugent
- Also committee members are the existing administrative team: President Russ Seely, Secretary Al Fisk, and Treasurer Bob Wisdom

QCA activities

- Funds for International reps. Russ told of Ontario QCA raising money for International reps. A QCA project for Pioneer?
- A future QCA Web page was suggested by Denny.
- A calendar of activities was discussed. In order to plan for a show at next fall's convention,

the following dates were proposed:

- April 26-28, spring convention in Lansing. QCA will meet on Friday night
- May 17-19, Mini-HEP school at MSU. QCA will meet Friday night.
- Summer - 2002. Date and location TBA.
- Oct. 18-20, Battle Creek. QCA show Friday night after the contest.

Ideas for show

- Bob Winters will identify directors, produce music, and learning tapes for the chorus.
- Show to be one hour with focus on quartets. The QCA CHORUS will learn two new songs per year and rotate repertoire.

Other activities

- Craig suggested additional shows outside of contest at local colleges using the Harmony Explosion concept.
- Craig suggested QCA "sponsor" college quartets.
- Craig suggested we encourage singers to compete in and promote the Bush League contest.
- Russ suggested other "spin-offs" for QCA involvement such as charity shows around state.

The Steering Committee will meet again on March 10 in Lansing.

OPINION:

I believe in the QCA because I believe we should cultivate and develop the talent pool we have in past district champions. I believe that many men who win the district quartet championship tend to lose interest after a time and drift away because, when a quartet ends, it can be devastating. What do we have to lose by tapping into this pool of talented men and encouraging them to continue to be involved in this most personal of hobbies.

-DG

As time goes by, I will be letting you know in more detail about the activities and plans of the QCA.

If you have any comments or suggestions, please send an e-mail to me, Denny Gore, at dgore13@iname.com. ♪

James Hall top recruiter



Gratiot County's James K. Hall was the Pioneer District's top recruiter in 2001 with five new members, bringing his total to 31 Man of Note awards in his 25 years as a Society member. District Member Services VP Brian Dunckel (right) congratulates James on his success. ♪

Affiliated Charities

Alex Willox, Services Chairman

I am at last able to publish my report of the Pioneer District chapter donations for 2001.

First, I would like to thank all of the chapters who donated to the general fund. It made things easier

for me and Kenosha.

Also, I would like to encourage all chapters to give generously throughout the year. This will help Kenosha to get the reports out earlier at the end of the year.

Keep the whole world singing!

Chapter	Harmony Foundation General Fund	Harmony Heritage Museum	SingAmerica/SingCanada	Endowment	Non-Harmony Foundation	Total	Award
Allegan County	\$ 60.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 60.00	
Alpena	35.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	35.00	
Battle Creek	580.86	0.00	0.00	167.09	0.00	747.95	
BH-St. Joe	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40.00	
Clarkston	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
DOC	1,734.20	0.00	0.00	46.50	0.00	1,780.70	
Flint	588.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	715.00	1,303.47	Bronze
Gaylord	60.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,000.00	3,060.00	Gold
Grand Rapids	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	
Gratiot County	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Grosse Pointe	393.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	393.00	
Hillsdale	205.00	0.00	0.00	10.00	0.00	215.00	
Holland	33.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	33.00	
Huron Valley	860.50	0.00	0.00	10.00	375.00	1,245.50	
Kalamazoo	315.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	235.00	550.00	
Lansing	1,911.50	0.00	0.00	750.00	400.00	3,061.50	Bronze
Livingston County	45.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	2,045.00	Silver
Macomb County	1,151.50	0.00	0.00	45.00	0.00	2,045.00	
Michiana Metro	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Milford	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Monroe North	410.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	410.00	
Motor City Metro	7.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.50	
Muskegon	1,742.80	0.00	0.00	20.00	0.00	1,762.80	Silver
Petoskey	30.00	0.00	0.00	20.00	0.00	50.00	
Pontiac-Waterford	1,007.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,007.00	
Rochester	160.00	0.00	0.00	10.00	1,500.00	1,670.00	
Saginaw Bay	421.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	480.00	842.00	Bronze
Sault Ste. Marie	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,730.00	2,730.00	Silver
Swan Valley	40.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40.50	
Traverse City	223.00	0.00	0.00	540.00	2,115.00	2,878.00	Bronze
Wayne	1,900.50	0.00	0.00	10.00	0.00	1,910.50	Bronze
Windsor	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Frank Thorne	700.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	700.00	
District Total	\$ 14,855.33	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 3,628.59	\$ 11,550.00	\$ 30,033.92	

Meet new members of Pioneer District Board

In one of the biggest changes in recent memory, the Pioneer District board has five new members. It's not because of a coup, but simply results from long-time members retiring from board service at the same time.

"The district is in good leadership hands, as good as it has ever been," said new President Al Bonney of Traverse City. The elected board is supported by several appointed teams and committees. "The chapter leadership teams will prove to be capable and creative," he said. "We have the resources and the talent to make Barbershopping fun and fulfilling for our 1,300 members."

Al became a Barbershopper in 1996 after retiring as a manager of various Marriott Hotels around the world. A quartet tenor, he has held several chapter positions, including president for three years and assistant director for two.

Al said he hopes any successes he has as president won't be based on "the ability to accomplish things," but rather "the ability to support the organization to be all it can be — because of the qualities of the membership." He said he wants the district "to realize its own potential."

Executive VP

Lansing Chapter's Bruce Smith is the district's new executive vice president. He has been a member of the Society's Leadership Task Force and on the planning team for the Society's Leadership Forum, a fall training and sharing weekend for officers in all 16 districts.

A Barbershopper for 27 years, he has been in six chapters in five districts and held the offices of

president, treasurer, and membership VP.

Youth Outreach VP

Dave Anderson of Macomb hopes to increase chapter programs to support school music, to help search out college quartets to compete in April, and to expand high-school participation in Harmony Round-Up.

Dave is completing five years as a chapter coach, and was an area counselor and division VP. Dave was enticed into joining the Society by Charlie McCann, who later was Society president.

Dave has competed in three international chorus contests, sung in several district quartet competitions, and held most chapter offices, including president.

Chorus Director Development VP

Gene Hanover, who is on the Society's chorus director committee, will be the district's new VP of chorus director development. He wants to help chapters with director problems figure out what their options are, offer education for directors and assistants, help chapters identify members who could be directors, provide training for them, and form a section-leader training program.

For most of his 24 years as a Barbershopper, Gene has been a director, first in Three Rivers, then South Bend (three district championships), in Kalamazoo for 10 years and in Michiana Metro (Niles) since it began two years ago. He has been in seven quartets and still sings with 1998 Pioneer champion UPSTAGE SOUND, along with METRO CHORD AUTHORITY in Michiana Metro.

He has held every chapter posi-

tion except membership.

Marketing & PR VP

Greg Humbel has been in sales all his life, so he says VP for marketing and public relations is familiar territory. "Several times last year, I was able to bring a guest to a meeting by just talking about my hobby with a stranger," he said. "Remember, 84 percent of the people now singing with you got there because of a personal contact."

A Barbershopper for 16 years, he started in Madison, Wis., where he did PR for the district convention that his chapter hosted. For the Winston-Salem, N.C., chapter, he was program VP.

At Huron Valley for four years, Greg has been program and membership VP, show chairman, and afterglow organizer.

Secretary

Even though he hasn't been on the board before, new Secretary Marv Skupski has 10 years of experience with the district: as parliamentarian, chairman of the Laws & Regulations Committee, and a member of the Affiliated Charities Committee.

A member of the Wayne Chapter for 37 years, he is the chapter recording secretary and has been membership VP and bulletin editor. Previously, he was with the former Downriver Chapter for two years.

Marv has been in several quartets and in many chorus competitions, including four times at the international level. As a writer and arranger, he said his high point was competing in 1983 with the NIGHT SHIFT quartet, performing two of his own songs. ♪

Canadian opportunity for sharing

J. R. "Digger" MacDougall,
Trustee, Harmony Foundation

Barbershoppers are taking advantage of an opportunity to make a colossal difference in our world by supporting the charitable mission of SPEBSQSA "... to preserve our musical legacy through support of music education in our schools and communities."

Working and giving together has made it possible to help thousands "Sing ... for life" and help future generations develop sound values, creative skills, and community fulfillment through vocal music.

Canadians have participated in, given to, and benefited from the generosity of SPEBSQSA's worthy service projects. However, our federal and provincial laws preclude us from the benefit of tax deductions while supporting the charitable mission of SPEBSQSA through gifts to Harmony Foundation in the USA.

In 2000, work was initiated to establish a Canadian charitable organization that would allow Canadians to support the Society's charitable mission, receive recognition awards (under the current guidelines), AND receive a tax deduction.

More good news

The charitable mission of the proposed Canadian organization would be similar to that of the Society: "to support vocal music education in our schools and com-

munities"; the motto would be: "Sing ... for life" and the wonderful song "Teach the Children to Sing" by Joe Liles would be used to capture the essence of the charitable mission.

1. The gifts of Canadian members, quartets, choruses, and other donors to support the charitable mission would stay in Canada.
2. Official receipts for income tax purposes would be issued.
3. Gifts would be recognized under the current Harmony Foundation awards structure.
4. The Canadian organization would be directed by a team of Canadians (six have already volunteered) from across Canada and representative of the constituency regions of SPEBSQSA.

SPEBSQSA and Harmony Foundation, the charity of SPEBSQSA, support and encourage this Canadian initiative to improve our world in a meaningful way while maintaining membership in SPEBSQSA and the global Barbershop singing community.

An exciting time for Canadian Barbershop singers is developing so that they can help ensure the future of singing, the joy that vocal music brings, and the personal development that music education fosters in children and adults alike. Working together, we can help thousands "Sing ... for life."

Additional information will be disseminated as it becomes available. ♪

This BUSH is for you in '02

Your This-Bush-Is-For-You-In-'02 Committee has set the dates for the better than best event of the year on September 27-29 in Gaylord, Mich. We have barrels of new, different, and intoxicating (non-alcoholic, of



course) menus, not the least of which is getting you first-time quaffers to let us chord tenders know you plan to belly up to the bar and let the other patrons know how great you are.

The panel of bouncers and the maitre d' will be announced in updates with full menus, so watch for them. Look for us at the registration desk at the convention so we can "card" you and give you the "rules" for partaking.

Contact Hank Hedges at 989-731-1169 or hhedges@i2k.com. ♪



**International Convention
June 30-July 7, 2002**

"Everyone suddenly burst out singing, and I was filled with such delight as prisoned birds must find in freedom."

Siegfried Sassoon

Philatoga Township: The rest of the story

By Larry Reinhart,
Lead - Philatoga Township

Quartet PHILATOGA TOWNSHIP combines 58 years of Barbershop experience. So it was a surprise to many that none of the quartetters had previously won a district title. That changed last fall when it became the Pioneer District's newest quartet champion, after having placed second in the previous two fall contests.

Creation of the quartet was triggered when Larry Reinhart visited a Kalamazoo rehearsal about three years ago. He sang a few tags with Raleigh Bloch, tenor with 1998 district champ UPSTAGE SOUND (and currently a Society Board member). After the meeting, Raleigh phoned some Barbershop friends to tell them about the visitor.

One was Phil Haines from the Hillsdale Chapter, who already had been talking with Gary Nitz of Kalamazoo about forming a quartet. Gary, new to the baritone part, seemed to have a nice match for Phil's bass voice.

For a tenor, Gary recommended his friend, Tom McCoy, also from the Kalamazoo Chapter. Tom had baritone and lead experience, but a move to tenor turned out well for the new quartet.

The name was easy. Webster's Abridged Harmony Dictionary defines Phi-La-To-Ga as a "township formed by Phil, Larry, Tom, and Gary."

Experience

Larry has been a Barbershopper since 1985, when he sang with Northbrook's NEW TRADITION CHORUS (2001 Society champions). He quartetted in Illinois, Johnny Appleseed, and Dixie districts. Larry's highest ranking was in Dixie with the CRACKERJACKS, finishing 19th at the 1991 International competition. Though the highest-ranked Dixie performer at International, it didn't win the district contest that fall — placing second behind a crazy upstart quartet known as FRED.



Phil has been an "official" barbershopper for 14 years. He was bass of HIGH BID, a second-place district finalist a few years earlier. He also sang in college at Michigan State. "I sang Barbershop illegally, I guess, since I never joined SPEBSQSA back then."

Tom played guitar and sang in rock bands as a youngster. He's been a Barbershopper for 14 years. His tenor solo on "Easy Street" has become a popular part of the quartet's show package.

Gary, a Barbershopper for 17 years, is the funniest guy in the

quartet, but nobody understands him yet. "We're working on it," said Tom. Gary had been a bass in several quartets and a bass section leader in the Kalamazoo Chapter. He also arranges tags for the quartet.

Weekly rehearsals

The quartet rehearses once a week, but occasionally can't when Larry is on the road. In the past year, the quartet has made progress by working on duetting.

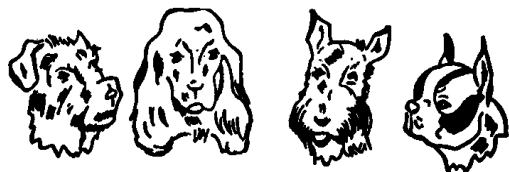
The quartet is careful to keep family priorities in order; their combined years of marriage is more than 100 years. "One of the reasons we get along well is that we don't beat each other up by rehearsing three or four times a week before contests," said Larry.

Some of PHILATOGA TOWNSHIP's coaching has come from POWER PLAY, the district's two-time International medallist quartet, which has brought improvement, particularly in the presentation category.

Show package

PHILATOGA TOWNSHIP, which has done a dozen or so chapter shows, enjoys putting together show packages and plans to keep it interesting by changing several numbers every few months. "We'll continue to try to appeal to the young listeners to show them how fun Barbershop can be," Larry said. "We'll mix in some jazz and gospel. We continue to look for more interest-

(Continued on page 20)



THE HARMONY HOUNDS

Pedigree: Barbershoppers

CONTACT: ROGER LEWIS
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David Hundt - Lead

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Ever growing ... Or nothing else matters!

Philatoga Township

(Continued from page 18)

ing novelty stuff for afterglows.”

The quartet has gained a reputation for its rendition of “The Auctioneer.” Phil is a professional auctioneer, and has helped train the other guys on loosening their tongues so they don’t hurt themselves.

Goals

The quartet’s immediate goal is to enjoy the championship year and meet as many Pioneer Barber-shoppers as possible. PHILATOGA TOWNSHIP thinks that, with time, it can become an international competitor.

Tom said, “It took FRED nine years to win International. POWER PLAY is going to win in the next year or two. Who knows?” Phil added, “It’s a journey. We’re going to enjoy the trip together.” Larry noted, “We want to help raise the level of quartets all over the district. We’ll continue to try to improve ourselves by getting regular coaching sessions.” Gary commented, “Goals? Um, yeah, that’s a good idea.” (You gotta love baritones.)

Philatoga’s Web site: <http://www.harmonize.ws/philatoga.>

2002 spring convention update

By Larry Parker,
District VP for Events

As of February 1, the Greater Lansing Convention and Visitors Bureau reports 92 rooms have been reserved at the headquarters hotel, Holiday Inn West, and 25 rooms reserved at the Hampton Inn. As we get closer to the March 24 cut-off date, your choice of rooms will decrease. Please book your rooms now to avoid any problems.

Beginning Saturday morning at 9:30, seven conference rooms on the first floor of the Holiday Inn West will be designated as chorus rehearsal rooms. Chorus members will dress in their hotel rooms and report to their designated rehearsal room at their appointed time. These rehearsal rooms will accommodate the first seven choruses according to the draw to be held on April 12, 2002.

As soon as the first chorus leaves for Grand Ledge High School, the number eight chorus from the draw will utilize that room. When the second chorus departs, chorus number nine takes their room, and so forth. Chorus photographs will be taken at the high school. Another rehearsal

room will be provided at the school before entering the stage.

The JOE BARBERSHOP CHORUS will rehearse at Grand Ledge High School at 10:30 a.m.

For the Friday night quartet preliminaries, competitors are to dress in their hotel rooms and report to Grand Ledge High School. Nine quartet rehearsal rooms will be available at the school and will be assigned according to each competitor’s position in the draw. Photographs will be taken at the school immediately following each quartet’s performance. Saturday night quartet finals competitors will follow the same format.

The 2001 district chorus champions from the Detroit-Oakland County Chapter will sing away the trophy Saturday evening. DOC chorus members will dress in their respective hotel rooms and gather at the high school for warm-up and rehearsal. The newly crowned 2002 chorus champions will do likewise. Each chorus will be given ample time to prepare for its Saturday evening performance.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please call me (517-372-8389) or inquire by e-mail: LParker437@aol.com.


Philatoga Township
Award-Winning
Barbershop Quartet





Contact: Gary Nitz
7498 Dunross Dr.
Portage, MI 49002
Tel: 616-324-0521
E-mail: gaconitz@netzero.net

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QUARTET

Doug Morgan

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WHAT:

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WHEN:

May 17-19, 2002. Same weekend as Harmony Round-Up

WHERE:

Michigan State University dorms, East Lansing

DETAILS:

Students will be taught two songs and many tags and be given opportunities to perform. Some choreography will be included for the Saturday night show performance. Rooming and food will be standard university dorm style. The cost has been heavily subsidized by a grant from Harmony Foundation and by offset funds from the district made available by a grant from the Michigan Council of Arts and Cultural Affairs. This means that each participant will need to pay only \$25 for the whole weekend.

WHAT WE NEED FROM YOU:

1. Talk to your local music teachers and ask them to attend with their students.
2. Talk to any high school-age singers you know and ask them to attend.
3. Attend the Harmony Round-Up so that you can help encourage these students.
4. Ask your chapter to sponsor some of these students.

FOR ENROLLMENT INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Dave Anderson (586) 286-4860, <PDSing@peoplepc.com>

or

Bob Wisdom (248) 879-7083, <robwwis@aol.com>

Barbershop Night at "The Music Man"

By Alexander Boltenko, Kalamazoo Chapter
ABoltenko@mindspring.com

When news that the Broadway touring show of "The Music Man" was coming to Kalamazoo reached us, Jim Styer was the first to suggest that we should do something in conjunction with the show.

Well, at first we had just the general idea, but then with Jim's help, we brainstormed a list of ideas for Miller Auditorium to consider. Being pragmatic, we initially wanted to achieve two basic objectives: to establish contacts with the new management of Miller Auditorium, the major entertainment center in Kalamazoo, for future joint projects, and to promote our annual show on March 9.

At the end of the process, we have achieved these goals. But we have also done a lot more. And all the efforts were worthy of the end result.

The night of January 31 gave all of us another reason to be proud of our hobby and a chance to enjoy the great pleasure of singing with "congenial men of good character who love harmony in music or have the desire to harmonize."

We saw tears in the eyes of professional actors moved by the beauty of Barbershop quartet singing. Even the stage "school board" quartet sang so well that cast members confessed that they had never heard them singing that well.

This was the reaction from the cast: "Thanks so much for the wonderful reception on Barbershop Night at 'The Music Man' in Kalamazoo. The cast, crew, orchestra and management had a great time! (Even if our 'school board' was a bit nervous singing for expert ears.)"

"Thank you for your efforts in having folks attend the show. It was good to know that we had friends and family in the house." This reaction was from our brother in harmony, Steve Iannacchione, tenor of 1994 International quartet champion JOKER'S WILD,

a.k.a. Steve Wilde, cast member of "The Music Man" 2001-2002 North American Broadway Tour.

Society President Roger Lewis and his wife, Sue, were in the audience, as well as about 30 Barbershoppers from Kalamazoo and Battle Creek chapters. Singing in the lobby before the show and during intermission was FOUR-PART DIGITAL SURROUND SOUND (Matt Root, David Dolph, Al Grieser, and Chris Fenner). They also sang at the opening night on January 29 and practically before all of the shows through February 3 to the delight of the public and Miller Auditorium management.



"THE MUSIC MAN" SCHOOL BOARD: Tenor Joacquin Stevens, baritone Dan Debenport, lead Evan Harrington, and bass Kent Bollman.

On the Barbershop Night after the show, we gave a reception for the cast where we had quartet singing by chapter members and the cast. Steve Wilde was singing with the FOUR-PART DIGITAL SURROUND SOUND and also with a pick-up quartet: tenor Steve Wilde, lead Kurt Amundson, bass Alex Boltenko, and bari Bob Shafer.

To help Miller Auditorium promote the show, we went on the air to local radio stations and contacted all of the Barbershoppers in the area. We were guests on WMUK-FM and WKZO-AM, talking about the musical, the Meredith Willson legacy, and the Society's appreciation of his activities. We also placed ads in the local press about the discount for the night. We appreciate the help of Big League Theatricals, tour organizer, for the generous discount of 20 percent and complimentary tickets that we offered to WKZO listeners for the correct answer of the name of the quartet in the original production.

That night in January, we understood the true meaning of Meredith Willson's words: "Barbershop quartet singing is four guys tasting the holy essence of four individual mechanisms coming into complete agreement."

For a full report about the Barbershop Night, visit our Web site at <http://BarbershopHarmony.org>. ♪

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Election of district officers

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

Notice of nomination procedures

The election of the district officers listed above will take place at the House of Delegates Meeting at the fall district convention on Friday, October 19, 2002. The president will be elected to serve a two-year term. Election of persons to all other offices will be for one-year terms. The executive vice-president will not be a separate office, but will be filled by one of the other vice-presidents serving in a dual capacity.

The Pioneer District By-Laws, in effect since January 1, 1997, require that all nominations of persons for district offices be reviewed by and be acceptable to the appropriate Society committee. This procedure must be followed for nominations anticipated to be made from the floor at the

fall House of Delegates Meeting as well as for nominations by the Pioneer District Nominating Committee.

Persons nominated for district offices must be active members of district chapters. Persons who belong only to the Frank Thorne Chapter are ineligible to run for a district office.

Therefore, nomination from the floor at the fall House of Delegates Meeting of any person to fill a district office must be preceded by submission of the potential nominee's written permission, résumé, and credentials to the Pioneer District Nominating Committee by June 1, 2002, for forwarding to the appropriate Society committee for review and acceptance. Nomination from the floor of any person for any district office will be disallowed if this procedure has not been followed.

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

SPEBSQSA, Inc.

Pioneer District Laws and Regulations Committee

March 1, 2002

Spring convention preview

(Continued from page 1)

tel's registration desk. The Detroit-Oakland County Chapter is this year's host.

The Barbershop Shop will be housed in the Waverly Room, just to the right of the hotel lobby and convention registration desk. The managers of the Barbershop Shop will post the hours of operation near the entrance for your convenience.

Convention registration at the Holiday Inn will begin Friday at 10:00 a.m. and continue until 6:15 p.m., when its operations will move to the contest site. The registration desk will re-open at 9:00 a.m. Saturday at the headquarters hotel, and again move to the auditorium at 10:45 a.m. Due to the limited seating within the auditorium, admissions to ALL contests will be restricted to only those persons having an ALL EVENTS BADGE.

Friday's contest begins at 7:30 p.m., Saturday's chorus contest begins at noon, and the Saturday night quartet finals contest is at 7:30 p.m.

With a new hotel and new contest facility, we are bound to experience a few minor glitches. I am confident that if everyone bands together and works toward a unified end, we will complete another successful convention. I sincerely ask for your help in achieving this goal.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.

Larry L. Parker

Vice President for Events

(517) 372-8389

LParker437@aol.com

Sing from the heart ...

or don't bother!

Chapters in Action

Benton Harbor-St. Joseph

By Steve Lake

Well, I just became immediate past president of our chapter. I had two fine years, and I must pay homage to a Board of Directors who not only gave great support, but were almost all at every meeting.

To begin 2002, we had our installation dinner on Sunday, January 21, with 29 members, wives, significant others, and guests in attendance. Eugene Hanover performed the installation with a very meaningful charge to each of us to fulfill our positions. Gene's quartet, METRO CHORD AUTHORITY, entertained with some fine songs. Thanks to you all.

Going into the new year, I know that our new board — Earl, Milt, Dave, Darrell, and Bernie — will join me in assuring our fullest support to our new president, Don Richmond.

Detroit-Oakland

By Tom Uicker

We are booked to sing at Greenfield Presbyterian Church on March 15 and for the Nardin Park Concert Series on July 17. And we will have a whole new show ready for next February in time for Valentine's Day. We are going with local talent next year as we bring back POWER PLAY.

DOC has enjoyed a growth in membership recently, with six new members in the year 2000 and 10 members in 2001. Our new membership VP, Don Jones, is planning an open house on March 11.

We're hosting the district convention this April. Even though we are not competing, we are always striving to improve our performance. So we will be taking advantage of the chorus coaching clinic in Lansing this March, and some of us will be at Harmony Round-up in May.

Just before Christmas, Margot Stewart (50-year bride of our Traveling Jug Coordinator Don Stewart) suffered a heart attack. She is at home and doing much better now.

Our year 2002 executive board: Herb Hebner, president; Jim Kunz, VP music & performance; Don

Jones, VP membership; Dave Montera and Don Stewart, co-VP program; Don Block, secretary; Tom Uicker, treasurer; and members-at-large John Balint, Paul Millis, and Pete Peters.

The Barbershopper of the Year for 2001 was awarded to yours truly.

Holland

By Art Lane

Longtime treasurer Paul Bekker was named the Holland Chapter's Barbershopper of the Year for 2001. The announcement was made to Paul and the chapter through a parody of the "trouble in River City" scene from "The Music Man."

The 2002 officers of the Holland Chapter were installed by Society President Roger Lewis at a talent night. President for 2002 is James Hall, succeeding Jack C. Oonk. The talent night, organized by Ken Cook, included a performance by CHORD COUNTS, 1952 district champions — tenor Sid Helder, lead Don Lucas, baritone Cal Verduin, and Myke Lucas standing in at bass for the late Don Hall.

Of the 27 men on stage in the Holland Windmill Chorus for the district contest in October, eight were first-time competitors with the chorus. Our first-time singers were Kyle Jurries, Stan Zachery, Jack Boyer, Bud Dawe, Victor McBride, John Ellis, Chuck Kreun, and Phil Larink.

Macomb County

By Gary Washburn

The election of a new team of officers infused new energy into the Macomb County Chapter. And that has translated into new members, more dynamic rehearsals, additional performances, and a clearer focus on short-term goals. For example:

- John Szewc (president) organized a great COIN Dinner in January with over 85 in attendance, including Pioneer Hall of Famer Earl Berry, who installed the 2002 officers.
- Nick Pastor (2002 chapter development VP) inducted two new members.
- Matt Tipton (music/performance VP) and his team produced and distributed an excellent parts learning tape to chapter members.

(Continued on page 26)

Chapters in Action

(Continued from page 25)

Our musical focus is clear. Priority #1 is the Pioneer District Convention in April. As always, we compete to learn and to win. Priority #2 is our May 11 show at the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts. It will feature International quartet medallist RIPTIDE, Pioneer District champ PHILATOOGA TOWNSHIP, and the HARMONY HERITAGE CHORUS. Priority #3 is the October Pioneer District convention ... and beyond!

Windsor

By Bill Strong

If you missed the 2002 Uncle Sam Night this year, you missed a treat. Lots of singing and a pasta dinner for less than a \$10 bill. Mark your calendars for next year — always on the third Friday in January.

Plans are underway for the Windsor show on April 13. CORNERSTONE, 1997 Seneca Land District quartet champion, and Pioneer's FERMATA NOWHERE will be performing. Call any Windsor Chapter member for tickets and more information.

Our sympathies go to Ron Atcheson who recently lost his wife, Joanne.

Muskegon

By Frank Scott

The chapter officers for 2002 are: President Chuck Kitchka; Chapter Development VP John Tyler; Secretary and Bulletin Editor Mike Wittkop; Treasurer Barry Hall; Music VP Mart Bomers; Charities VP Ken Zeck; Librarian Ray Luce; Chorus Manager Tom Porritt; and Publicity and YMIH Chairman Frank Scott.

Outgoing President John Tyler gave the President's Award to Mart Bomers and Frank Scott for extraordinary performance and service to the chapter. Mart Bomers is a 50-year member and Frank Scott is a 25-year member.

Chuck Kitchka initiated a successful HOLIDAY CHORUS program. We had six guests, three of whom participated in the choruses' performances. Chorus

Director Mike O'Donnell led the carolers.

John Tyler has agreed to chair Singing Valentines again this year. Mart Bomers will organize and coach the quartets.

Lansing

By Paul Howe

Besides getting more than enough exercise shoveling snow, midwinter finds the Lansing Chapter hard at work preparing for several upcoming events. Singing Valentines, the district coaching clinic at Michigan State University (MSU), our annual show at the Wharton Center at MSU, and the spring convention all seem to be careening our direction and bearing down on us at near warp speed.

Our annual show will be at the Wharton Center for the Performing Arts, Saturday, March 9, at 7:30 p.m. The featured quartet for the Wharton Show is Johnny Appleseed District champion, MATRIX. By the time you read this, time will be short, so call 517-372-SING (7464) right away for your tickets.

Also coming to the Wharton Center is the touring production of "The Music Man." Four Lansing Chapter quartets will be performing in the lobby prior to or at intermission for each of the eight performances and at the cast party.

Pontiac-Waterford

By John Cowlshaw

No one could have been surprised by the announcement of Barbershopper of the Year — Dick Johnson — after his 32 years of dedication to Barbershopping. Upon receiving the award, Dick said graciously, "I've learned everything I know from Bill Pascher."

On a sad note, Bob Woodward passed away December 7 of pancreatic cancer. Bob sang in several quartets including THE CHORDIALS with Bruce Brede, Bill Dabbs, and Harold Lanning, and THE MODEL-A-FOUR with Larry Hornsby, Bill Dabbs and Don Denoyer.

This period saw the renewals of our two most senior members, Bill Pascher (59) and Len Barnes (47).

We have welcomed three new members: Ron Clarke, Chuck Murray (dual with Flint), and Ted Prueter. And we have honored Barbershoppers of the month Pete Mazzara (November) for his chairmanship of the fall show, "Fortune in Dreams," and Jeff

Spire, for his work as chorus manager and his upcoming role in YMIH.

The use of Finale software is spreading throughout the chorus. Several of us have Finale PrintMusic, but we have now learned that a simpler version, NotePad, is available free. All members are now encouraged to download it (www.codamusic.com) to allow for easy transmission of music throughout the chorus and playing it on one's own home computer.

Saginaw-Bay

By Ralph Brown

We are going full bore getting prepared for competition in Lansing in April.

For Valentine's Day, we will have four quartets participating: (Quartet #1) tenor Randy Meldrum, lead Chris Carland, bari Doug Beaver, bass Tom Roozenburg; (#2) tenor Frank Bateson, lead Paul Ward, bari Marty Musolf, bass Pat Morand; (#3) tenor Bob Sheppard, lead Bill Matson, bari Chet Miller, bass Dennis Datte; and (#4) tenor Dave Szutkowski, lead Dave Deming, bari Bob Glover, bass Bob Deming.

One such quartet was put together to sing on a local TV station. The participants were not new to quartet singing since each of them has sung in district champion quartets: Frank Bateson, EVERSARPS; Bob Winters, TROUBLE SHOOTERS; Tom Roozenburg and Randy Meldrum, MICHIGAN ASSEMBLY (seniors).

Flint

By Guy Hissong

Hello, fellow chord ringers. Our ARROWHEAD CHORUS posted early for a CHRISTMAS CHORUS and gained five new members as a result. These guys were so eager to learn Barbershop that they are participating in Singing Valentines.

The annual retreat held at beautiful Higgins Lake was also a great success. We were coached by Ed Fritzen, who did an outstanding job.

We have a new chorus music coach. Chris Noteware has joined in and seems to bring fresh new ideas that have already improved the quality of our singing. We are rehearsing for the spring convention and look forward to seeing all of our Barbershop friends there once again. ♪

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Upcoming Events

2002

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

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

March 9 - Kalamazoo Show.

March 9 - Lansing Show.

April 6 - Monroe North Show.

April 6 - Sault Ste. Marie Show.

April 13 - Grand Rapids Show. Contact Dan Casamatta: PorgyT@aol.com.

April 13 - Windsor Show.

April 26-28 - Pioneer District Convention in Lansing.

May 10 - Holland Show.

May 11 - Macomb Show.

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

June 14 - Windsor Send-Off.

June 30-July 7 - International Convention, Portland, Ore.

July 28-Aug. 4 - Harmony College, Missouri Western State College, St. Joseph, Mo.

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



*michigan council for
arts and cultural affairs*



BILL

DAN

A BARBERSHOP QUARTET

Contact: Dan Casamatta
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E-Mail: porgyt@aol.com

JOEL

MARK