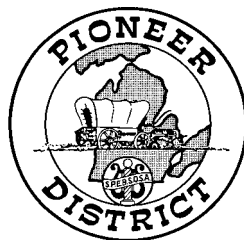


Pioneer Troubadour

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

Volume 53, Issue 5



Nov/Dec 2002

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Harmony Heritage Chorus, Crossfire, & Antiques Roadshow big winners in district fall contests



Current Pioneer District champion — Macomb County Chapter's HARMONY HERITAGE CHORUS — has added another feather to its cap.

Under the direction of Carl Dahlke, the 49-man chorus took first place, earning 860 points in the district's fall contest in Battle Creek. Singing "The Church Bells Are Ringing For Mary" and "Get Me To The Church On Time," they outscored 14 other choruses for the victory.

This qualifies the chorus to represent the district in the International Chorus Competition in

Montreal in 2003.

The HARMONY HERITAGE CHORUS last represented the district in international competition in 1999 under the direction of Jack Slamka.

Kalamazoo Chapter's SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN VOCAL EXPRESS CHORUS finished a close second with 842 points. "Conducted" by Ed Fritzen, the 41 singers presented a railroad theme, singing "I've Been Working On The Railroad" and a "Midnight Choo-Choo/Alabama Bound" medley.

(Continued on page 12)

In their third appearance on the Pioneer District contest stage, CROSSFIRE — tenor Robb Smith, lead Brian McDougall, bari Rich Lauzon, and bass Scott Risley — outscored 24 other quartets to captured the district quartet championship with 1,681 points in the fall 2002 contest.

The quartet's Friday night semi-final songs — "Don't Break The Heart That Loves You" and "Do You Really Love Me?" — scored 857 points. In the Saturday night finals, it scored 824 points singing "It's Just Another Song About Love" and "Who's Sorry Now?"

Finishing second was FERMATA NOWHERE — tenor Jeff Gougeon, lead Tom Conner, bari Steve Pauling, and bass Pete Burns — with 1,632 points. The quartet's four-song competition package was "Alexander's Ragtime Band," "Kiss Me One More Time," "Louise," and "What A Wonderful Wedding That Will Be."

NEW WRINKLE — tenor Jack Frucci, lead J. Kelly Brummett,

(Continued on page 11)



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Grand Prix 2002 Bush League champs

By Bush League Chairman Hank Hedges

Before the crack of dawn on Saturday, September 28, 10 Pioneer quartets grumbled and yawned out of bed, trying to ready themselves for the 55th year of Bush League contests that began at 9:00 a.m.!

Throughout the morning, all of these foursomes were magnificent! In a rapid-fire hour and 15 minutes, the judges chose the three top quartets. CHORDIOLOGY took the third-place ribbon in style. GRAND PRIX and PARTY OF FOUR photo-finished for first and second with GRAND PRIX winning by three points! Raleigh Bloch, representing the International Board, presented the 2002 trophies to the three winners. Hail to the 2002 Bush League champs, GRAND PRIX.



Grand Prix: Ron Rachauskas, Mark Spear, Don Burrill, and Ben Jerzyk.

The whole weekend was crammed full of excitement, singing, and good old-fashioned Barbershop fellowship. Starting with Friday night's Masters Class, a "how-to" put together a winning quartet from scratch, to the wildest Blind Draw Tag Funtest (the names of the resulting quartets are unprintable), the evening roared on with tag-tunes — tonsorial bedlam.

After the Saturday morning contest, the district's coaching session began. A unique opportunity for all participating quartets, the blue-ribbon panel coached each quartet on the basis of their performance during the morning contest. Talk about right after the fact — this was as hot as if the competitors had just come off the stage.

The evening Show of Champions was songtastic!

Local Barbershop choruses MICHIGAN NORTHERN LIGHTS and the HARMONIE MEISTERS, plus the first- and second-place 2002 Champs, opened the first half. FOOLS' GOLD, 2001 Bush League Champs, set a side-splitting pace as the show's second-half openers Mixed quartet, RELATIVE HARMONY, showed the audience the broad appeal of Barbershopping with truly superb and wide ranging selections.

Our headliners, the NOISE BOYS, Central States District 2001 champs and 2002 International contest qualifiers, tore up a big and largely non-Barbershop local audience.

The Gaylord Chapter offers its deepest thanks to all of the participants. A special pat on the back to Al Bonney and his district staff for the coaching sessions and contest assistance. Having certified and out-of-district judges and coaches — in addition to our own experts — was a stroke of genius.

This first-of-its-kind event will help the whole district in our goal of producing more and top quality quartets heading for gold at all levels.



Party of Four: Kevin Morey, Toby Shaver, Wally Krause, and Tim Seguin.

Photos by Bill Serveny/Gaylord Herald Times.

"Barbershop quartet singing is four guys tasting the holy essence of four individual mechanisms coming into complete agreement."

Meredith Willson

What's new with COTS this year?

By COTS Coordinator Doug Lynn

Well, plenty! But, before I tell you what's new, let me tell you what's the same.

It's still a great place to get super coaching and instruction from some of the finest people in our society. It's still a great place to meet with old friends and to make many new ones. It's still one of the best weekends that our district has to offer to acquire new skills and to improve your existing ones.

The registration and general informational materials are available on the district Web site, just like last year.

Finally, it's one of the most important weekend events of the year for those who are interested in keeping our Society the vibrant, vital organization that it is.

Now let me tell you what's new about the Chapter Operations and Training Seminar (COTS) this year.

First, it's not actually going to happen this year. The dates have been changed from the first weekend in December to the first weekend in January — January 4th and 5th, to be exact. That means we won't have the same holiday conflicts we usually have. Hopefully, this will be more convenient for everyone.

Second, the location has been changed. Instead of having it at the Kellogg Center at Gull Lake north of Battle Creek, we have moved it to a more central location.

It will be held at the Holiday Inn Express and Convention Center in Okemos, Michigan. Okemos is southeast of Lansing, just off of I-96. The convention center is at-

tached to the hotel, which means you won't ever have to go outside if you don't want to. It also means that the sleeping arrangements should be much better, with more comfortable beds and nicer rooms.

Third, there is going to be a membership summit for all of the chapter development VPs. This will happen Friday night, January 3, and finish up on Saturday morning just before the start of COTS.

This will be a terrific opportunity for those involved to create plans and develop coordinated efforts toward the growth of membership in the Pioneer District. Brian Dunckel is putting together an exciting event that no chapter development VP can afford to miss.

Fourth, the course material has been updated this year for all of the courses. The 125 Society faculty members met in Kenosha in September, and rewrote all of the courses to bring them current and make them more exciting. All chapter officers and leaders will find a lot of value in coming and partaking of this educational support opportunity.

Lastly, the district is organizing a Top Gun School. It will take place at the Comfort Inn, right across the parking lot from the

Holiday Inn Express, on the same weekend in January. Participating will be PHILATOGA TOWNSHIP, WJBC, FOUR MAN FISHIN' TACKLE CHOIR, POWER PLAY, and CROSSFIRE.

These quartets will be receiving coaching from some of the finest coaches in the Society with the goal of sending more than one quartet from the Pioneer District to Montreal next year for the International Convention.

The benefit of the Top Gun School for those attending COTS will be the best afterglow we have ever had. All of these quartets have agreed to perform for us. Now, if that doesn't get your motor running, somebody had better check you for a pulse.

Oh, and one more thing that's new. You have a new COTS coordinator this year: me — Doug Lynn, from the Flint Chapter. Although I have only been a member of the Society for four years and don't pretend to have the skills and knowledge that John Gillespie has, I promise to try, along with the help of many terrific people in the district, to make this the best, most memorable COTS you have ever attended.

One more thing that hasn't changed. The price is still just \$75.00. Now, there's a bargain no one can afford to pass up.

If your chapter doesn't have registration forms or needs more information, please check out the COTS page on the Pioneer District Web site at www.harmonize.com/pioneer/pio.htm, or contact me at [<dwlynn@hayoo.com>](mailto:dwlynn@hayoo.com)

**Sing ...
for life!**

A View from the Top

Al Bonney, President

Preservation & encouragement

Last issue, I spoke in this column about getting results. I received a lot of good comments about that article. Seems like there are a lot of people who agree with me about growth and improvement and running this thing we call Barbershop like a business.



Al Bonney

But then, some folks get real upset when you call this hobby a business. How can you equate having fun on Tuesday nights sing-

ing with a bunch of your best buddies with running a business?

If that were all Barbershopping were — singing on Tuesday nights with your buddies — I wouldn't have a leg to stand on. In fact, you would not find me calling it a business. And that's the confusing part, I think. The essence of Barbershopping *IS* having fun singing with your buddies — and nobody can take that away from any of us.

Barbershopping would be nothing if it weren't for ringing chords with your buddies. We all agree that, in the end, this is what we are *preserving*; this is what we must work to support, enable, and enhance.

And therein lies the crux of the issue: we don't want anybody to take that away from us. The whole "business of Barbershopping" is to protect our hobby from the many

and various ravages that could take this wonderful experience away from us or from our children. The business of preserving (one of the two verbs in our name: *preservation and encouragement*) Barbershopping is not a museum-like activity where we put it under glass or worship the programs of past performances.

We *preserve* this hobby by putting it in front of audiences every day. We preserve it by learning new music and writing new arrangements. We preserve it by earning money from our performances to purchase music and equipment and supplies. We preserve it by seeking out new members while making the same promise to them that we find so fulfilling.

We preserve it by thrilling audiences because we sing beautiful chords in entertaining ways. We preserve it by training our directors and singers to become better entertainers. We preserve it in hundreds of active, risk-taking ways every day. All this is the business of Barbershop.

Of course, without doing all that stuff — and more — the forces of erosion that threaten every organization come nibbling at our heels. Nothing ever stays the same, does it? Guys die or quit, audiences stop coming, bank accounts shrivel, and pretty soon you can't get four parts together on Tuesday night. Bingo, Barbershop on Tuesday nights isn't so much

fun any more and we have a problem!

Think this won't happen to you or your chapter — or district or Society?

I was involved in a very sad activity this summer that may be a case in point; I asked the Milford Chapter to surrender its charter and cancel its membership in our Society — I took the step that finally stopped their fun on Tuesday nights.

Well, it wasn't my fault, but I had to ask that they take the final step. Here was a chapter that was once the envy of the district. Here was a popular, vibrant chapter, full of fun and wonderful music, with every expectation of carrying on for years to come.

By the time I called them, they neither could get four parts together nor pay their bills. What happened? I don't know. Was it anybody's fault? I don't know that either, but I suspect not. I suspect it was everybody's fault in that it was allowed to happen — over time.

You know, when you talk about leadership and accountability and results in the light of a tragedy like Milford's, perhaps the idea of good business isn't so bad. If we can prevent this sort of thing because we look each other in the eye and ask for some accountability from our leaders, maybe this idea of the business of Barbershopping isn't such a bad idea!

But lest we carry this thought to its illogical conclusion, the business of anything is not only about hard-nosed audits and how well someone performs his job. Accountability may be the grist for the mill that keeps it productive,

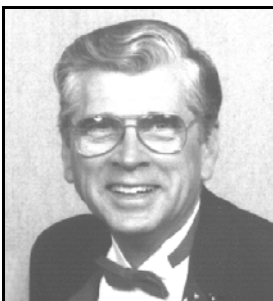
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Here's the Society Pitch

Raleigh Bloch, Society Board Member

A testimonial to the "United We Sing" program

It's September 12, 2002, and I want to tell you about a successful United We Sing program which happened last night. Joe



Raleigh Bloch

Barbershopper, who normally helps me with this article, is on vacation, so I guess I'll have to wing this one by myself.

Most of you, by this time, must have heard about United We Sing. If you haven't, I suggest you check your pulse. However, have you heard if the program works? This article addresses that question and will tell you what an average-size chorus did to make it happen.

Did it take work, cooperation, and planning? You bet. But, as you'll soon read, it was well worth the effort.

The Kalamazoo Chapter decided early on that they wanted to try this program. About five months ago, they selected 6:00 p.m., September 11, 2002, as the time and day they were going to do the United We Sing program.

The first thing they did was to reserve the downtown park. Then they got the procedure and script off of the United We Sing Web

site. The procedure was followed closely. The music team ordered the music and got together with the chapter development VP to start the planning. They determined what week they would have to start the practice with the guests, based on the UWS guidelines. Music booklets and learning CDs and tapes were made available. That way when the guests showed up, they would be organized and ready.

During the chorus's summer performances for various church services, they asked the churches where they were performing to place a United We Sing announcement in their church bulletins. The churches were more than happy to do so.

Each member made announcements at his own church, or had information placed in his church's bulletin or newsletter. Letters were written to church choir directors and other singing groups, inviting them and their members to participate.

Our Web site invited men to join us in UWS. Two weeks before the practices started, notices were placed in the local newspaper and interviews were done on two radio stations.

Next, the chapter contacted Kalamazoo Mayor Robert Jones and asked if he would be one of

the narrators. He agreed and volunteered to get us a color guard that would post and retire the colors during the program.

Two ministers from the churches surrounding the downtown park were asked to provide an invocation and a benediction. They agreed. A first-class sound system was provided by another church. Things were starting to roll.

A \$1,000 grant was submitted to and approved by a local foundation to cover the costs of printing, advertising, etc. Flyers and programs were made for distribution in the community and at the performance.

Another foundation provided a huge flag as a backdrop. The American Legion provided and set up extra chairs, and gave out small flags for people to wave.

At the park, our ladies auxiliary handed out chapter brochures and programs, with the words for the community sing printed on the back.

The day before September 11, there was information in the newspaper and another interview on the radio, inviting people to attend the UWS program. Members were excited and had something to talk about. They were asking friends and strangers to attend.

Was it a success? Well, how do you want to measure success?

Did they get guest singers to participate? Yes! They had 20 (that's twenty) non-Barbershop singers participate. Normally, Kalamazoo Chapter will put 30 men on the risers. They had 53 on the risers for UWS.

Did they have a good size audience? It was estimated that there

(Continued on page 7)

Here's the District Pitch

Brian Dunckel, Member Services VP

School days

It's fall and that means back to school and the three R's: reading, 'riting, and 'rithmetic. For Barbershop, it also means time for chapters (and individuals) to get back to the three r's of membership plans: review, revise, and redo.



Brian Dunckel

In reviewing your chapter's past plans, you can check to see that important details weren't overlooked or that all of the aspects you had

hoped would occur, did occur. If written plans are passed on over the years (and they should be), obviously this task becomes MUCH easier. If they weren't, it's not too late to try to reconstruct them.

Revision gives you the chance to change things that didn't go as well as you think they should have. Sometimes even the seemingly simplest of tweaks can make a HUGE difference in how a program goes off. This is one area where creativity and a little bit of daring can make the difference.

After you have evaluated your past, you must look to the future and re-doing is the key to this. It's not too late to have another membership drive for 2002. No plans yet? United We Sing and the holiday chorus are two proven programs that lend themselves well to getting guests acquainted with Barbershop.

Individuals, I can hear you saying that it's the membership guy's job or it's up to the board to get membership numbers raised up. While it's true that overseeing a program is, but being involved in the chapter's plan is YOUR job. Do all you can to address one of the most disturbing statistics I have seen in this job — the fact that 48 percent of Society members DO NOT have a man of note award!

I think how hard professional golfer Phil Mickelson has worked to shed the title he dubiously wears: "Best player to never win a major." If you are in that group, I challenge each of you to shed your title as well.

Are you willing to do it? I hope so.

Membership growth? Y KNOT!

Here's the Society Pitch (Continued from page 6)

were about 800 people in the park for the performance.

Did the chapter make some friends and get good exposure? The out-pouring of cooperation by all of the organizations and the media was tremendous.

Did they get any new members? One of the pleasures of the evening was when one of the guests turned in his application for membership just before the performance. The chapter is confident that one or two others are about to commit as well.

Was it a successful performance? The comments of those attending were numerous and highly complimentary.

The audience enjoyed the music, enjoyed singing, and felt a patriotic bond with those in attendance. This was due to the wonderful script, the smoothness with which it all flowed, and the wonderful singers and non-singers who participated. It was amazing how the crowd remained after the performance and expressed that they wished there was more.

Yes, it was successful and just the right length.

When referring to the Society ...

The Society Board has approved that we adopt the practice of regularly representing the Society as The Barbershop Harmony Society. The legal name, the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc., remains unchanged.

Barbershopping
The world's happiest hobby!

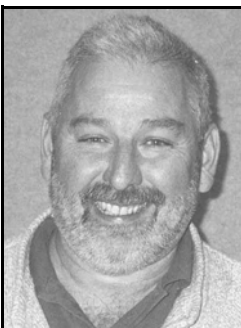
Public Relating

Greg Humbel, *Marketing & Public Relations VP*

Planning for your future

As we head into the end of the Barbershop year, it's time to establish the goals and objectives for your chapter in 2003.

If you're an officer, have you agreed to continue on in your current position? If not, do you have a replacement in mind? Have you made arrangements for him to attend COTS?



Greg Humbel

In the meantime, make sure that what you have accomplished this year and are planning to do next year is well documented.

One of the major problems we have is the lack of continuity from year to year. We do not need to reinvent the wheel.

Pardon me for the salesman in me, but COTS is a great way get started. In the new year, learn a

lot, sing a lot, and enjoy some great quartetting.

Plan on promoting your chorus and quartets "tons" this fall, winter, and spring seasons with events such as the Thanksgiving Day parade, Halloween events, Christmas caroling, nursing home sings, Christmas shows, Singing Valentines, and New Year's Day.

Work with the media and local government to get the coverage you deserve, and promote the fact that April is national Barbershop month.

Make your reservations early for COTS and learn more. It will be held January 3-5, 2003, at the Holiday Inn Express in Okemos, Mich.

COTS registration information can be found elsewhere in this issue.

Pioneer District Hall of Fame adds Fran Durham and Larry Parker



DOC Chapter's Fran Durham.



Larry Parker of the Lansing Chapter.

Help Wanted: Editor

The Pioneer District is actively seeking an editor for the *Troubadour*. Gary Simon, editor for the last four years, wishes to step down.

We are considering several options, one of which could be a three-man team approach: editor,

publisher, and business manager.

If you are interested in discussing this further, or would consider being on the search committee, contact Greg Humbel: ghumbel@comcast.net or 313-790-4598.

Detroit-Oakland County Chapter's Fran Durham and Lansing Chapter's Larry Parker were presented with the Pioneer District's highest individual award — induction into the Hall of Fame — on Saturday, October 19, 2002, at the district fall convention.

Both gentlemen were rewarded for their many years of tireless work for their chapter and the district.

Chapter Coaching

Doran McTaggart, Chapter Support/Leadership VP

New directions for CC Program

New directions for the Chapter Coach Program have been approved by our Society Board. The title of "Chapter Counselor" has been adopted. The CC's role is a proactive one with regular communication initiated by him if not



Doran McTaggart

by the chapter leadership.

He will assist the chapter leadership team in planning and goal-setting and

work with the chapter in an appropriate manner to help the chapter accomplish those defined goals.

Both the chapter leadership and the CC will be held accountable as they create a plan with measurable objectives for achieving success. Every chapter would benefit from a plan for success.

The goal of the Pioneer District is to have SUCCESSFUL chapters. Throughout 2003, the chapter and its CC will work together to create this plan for success. Both the chapter counselor and the chapter president will have opportunities to report to me (DVP-

CSLT) on how successful their plan really is.

The most profound change in the program is the shift from Society control to district control. Each district is now responsible and accountable for the leadership and management of the program. The Society CSLT Committee will provide us with support and assistance.

Space does not permit me to give all of the details of this change in direction of the CC program. I will e-mail every chapter president via the presidents' group Web site with more information early in November. I welcome input from each chapter.

COTS reminder

WHEN: January 4-5, 2003 (starting Saturday at 11:00 a.m.)

WHERE: Holiday Inn Express in Okemos, southwest of Lansing

You asked for a change and we listened. Re-read my article in the last *Troubadour* issue (Aug/Sept/Oct 2002) for more details. Updates are also available on the Pioneer District Web site.

Come and be part of another record attendance.

A View from the Top (Continued from page 5)

but the other verb in our name, *encouragement*, provides sustenance for the spirit – and where would Barbershopping be without soaring spirits and boundless creative energy? Our ability to love each other, cheer each other, and comfort each other may be our strongest bond — one without which we would be no different than any community choir rehearsing beautiful music.

The encouragement part has always been the central theme of what makes our organization different – and more valuable to each of us. It is the encouragement part that brings us back to chapter meetings every Tuesday night; that makes us feel good next to those buddies on the risers. It is the encouragement part of our organization that fills us with the energy to do the business, sell the tickets, make the decisions, learn the music, sell the ads, go to the training, and hug the guy who just sang in his first quartet.

I kind of like the dual thought that O. C. and his buddies built into our name – preservation AND encouragement. I'm not convinced that they thought of it in light of 32,000 men all over the U.S. and Canada making up the largest male singing society in the world. But whatever their thoughts, they laid the foundation for a wonderful hobby, one worth preserving and encouraging.

Thanks for all you do every Tuesday to make that happen. Together, preserving and encouraging, perhaps we may never need take away anybody's Tuesday night ever again.

Would Zorba the Greek enjoy eating pasta better in a Greek hall rather than in an Italian hall?

Can Greeks make pasta with real meat sauce in June?

Watch for answers in upcoming *Troub* issues

Yours 4 A Song

Dan Bezaire, Music & Performance VP

Plan now for learning opportunities

We all want to improve our singing, right? There are a number of ways we can do that with the numerous opportunities offered in Pioneer.

Harmony Round-Up

This is the premier music education event of the year. As always, we will be offering classes for Joe Barber-shopper, directors, section leaders, and quartets.



Dan Bezaire

Next year, we have a great quartet: the 1996 champs, NIGHTLIFE. The Round-Up will be held at Michigan State University, May 16-18, 2003.

Chorus Coaching

We have had these sessions the last couple of years, and they have been very well received. In case you haven't taken part in one, here's how it works: On the day of the coaching (TBA, but late February or early March), your chorus has three one-hour sessions with three Society coaches. Cost is approximately \$15 per man (includes lunch).

Last year, 12 choruses took part; we would like to expand this to 19 choruses this year.

Standing Ovation

This is a program for choruses and quartets to improve their en-

tertainment packages. I stress that musical performance is *not* part of the SO program.

It is a very simple procedure: a few weeks before your performance (we do need a little lead-in time), contact me and request a review. I will try to have one of our certified reviewers attend your performance; he will evaluate the show package according to some established criteria.

At some point after the performance, the reviewer will meet with either the music team, the entire chorus, or anyone you think is appropriate, and give his review, including suggestions for improvement. No report is filed with anyone; it is entirely between you and the SO reviewer.

That's it. No muss, no fuss. We have had a couple of requests that were made only a few days before the show, and it was just impossible to arrange things on such short notice. Sorry if your show was one of those.

If you need any more information on any of these programs, please feel free to contact me directly. If you think you would like to help out with any of these programs (we could use more reviewers, for example), please get in touch.

**Singing is Life ...
the rest is just details**

Holland Chapter awarded grant

By Art Lane, Holland Chapter

Holland Chapter has received a grant of \$5,000 from the City of Holland as part of the city's Cultural Activities Assistance program. The grant was won through the work of Jack C. Oonk, who wrote the application and outlined the plans of the chapter before the city's Department of Leisure and Cultural Services. Funding will support the chapter's music education and amateur public performance opportunities offered for the Holland-Zeeland community.

This will be done weekly by allowing men to have the opportunity to sing Barbershop music. In addition, anyone in the community will have the chance to display talent in a program put on by the chapter.

With the funding in place for the 2002-2003 fiscal year, the chapter plans a reprise of last year's production, "Revival at Possum Kingdom Community Church." This play, written by a South Haven woman and winner of a Michigan play award, tells about two semi-shady siding salesmen who fill in for an absent evangelist. The setting offers opportunity for Barbershop renditions of religious songs.

The grant also helps support the basic work of the chapter: exposing the community to Barbershop music, and helping members and guests learn how to sing better.

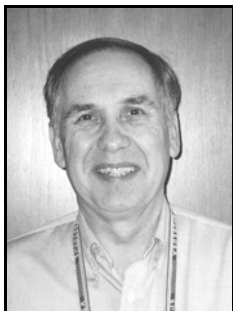
This is the fourth year Holland Chapter has received a cultural activities grant from the city.

Young Men in Harmony

Dave Anderson, District VP

Plan now!

Schools are back in session and the leaves are turning, so NOW is the time to invite that youth a cappella group from your local high school to sing on your spring show. Even if you don't



Dave Anderson

know the choral director, just call up the school office and tell them you are looking for a group to perform on the show. The office person is usually very

helpful in getting you connected to the right person.

If you want the name of the choral director, please contact me by phone or by e-mail, and if they belong to the MSVMA, I can give you all the information from my MSVMA roster book.

Once you have the youth group booked, be sure to give out complimentary tickets to all of the school officials and all of the music people in both the HS and middle schools. The principal and superintendent are also very important people to have in attendance.

Also, be sure to give tickets to the mayor or city manager, and then recognize them in your audience. This will open doors to future performance opportunities for your chorus.

If you have a local arts council, find out who the leaders are and

give them tickets, too. Often this is the group that gives out local grants.

I received a very nice thank you note from ACCIDENTAL CONSONANCE; they really appreciated the financial support from our district at International. I was very proud of their 10th-place finish in an extremely tough contest.

I recently got an e-mail from Doctor Gillingham at CMU. He said that the quartet is still together and working hard to be ready for the spring contest. If you could possibly find a spot for them on your show, it would give them a chance to perform and also help them raise some money.

Also, if you hear of any other college quartets, please let me know and encourage them to compete in the contest. We need to have at least three quartets in the district competition.

We are now working on setting up our booth for the Michigan Music Educator's Convention to be held in Ann Arbor in January. Bill Rashleigh will be back to present a special program, so the music educators should be well educated about our great hobby.

Also, it's not too early to start talking to those young singers about attending the third annual A CAPPELLA BLAST! This will once again be in May, along with Harmony Round-Up.

Keep thinking young ... it's our future!

Quartet competition

(Continued from page 1)

bari Don Kondor, and bass Walt Quick — finished third with 1,559 points

ANTIQUES ROADSHOW — tenor Raleigh Bloch, lead Denny Gore, bari Roger Lewis, and bass Lee Hanson — is the new Pioneer District Seniors Quartet Champion and will represent our district in the Society's senior quartet competition at the Mid-winter Convention and Competition in Albuquerque.

Roger commented that in his nearly 50 years of quartet singing in the Society, this is his first championship.

Grand Rapids Chapter's SILHOUETTE — tenor Tim Duman, lead Russ Duman, bari Steve Wheeler, and bass John Baker — is the Novice Quartet Champion.

CROSSFIRE was formed in August 2001 and first competed at the Pioneer District fall competition that year. They scored 1,603 points, finishing third behind PHILATOOGA TOWNSHIP and FERMATA NOWHERE.

In the quartet prelims this past April in Lansing, the foursome finished fourth with 1,641 points.

CROSSFIRE has two members from Canada — Brian and Rich — and two from the U. S. — Robb and Scott.

Scott's reaction to winning the district crown: "I've been singing in various groups since I was nine years old, but this is the best singing experience I've ever had. What a thrill!"

The quartet credits Cindy Hansen and especially Jack Slamka for their excellent coaching.

The Judge's Corner

Ed Fritzen, Contest & Judging VP

There's nothing like competing

By the time you read this, the fall Pioneer District fall convention and contests will be history, and we'll have a new district quartet champ and international chorus representative, as well



Ed Fritzen

as a new senior quartet champ and international senior quartet representative.

As this article is being written, this contest promises to be one of the best ever in the Pioneer District in terms of quartet participation. We have 26 quartets competing this fall, and I think one has to go back quite a few years to find that level of participation at our district quartet contest. If any of you long-time members of the Pioneer District can recall a bigger quartet contest, I'd like to know about it.

On the last weekend in September, I was privileged to take

part in the Bush League as a quartet coach. We had a great contest, and I'd like to congratulate Battle Creek's GRAND PRIX upon winning the 2002 Bush League Championship.

We had 10 quartets compete; they then got quality coaching from both the panel of judges as well as other coaches.

Everyone had a great time and walked away from the weekend with greater understanding of quartet singing. In one case, a quartet had such a good time; they immediately entered the district quartet contest. I guess they were bitten by the competition bug.

How about you? Has your chorus competed recently? How about your quartet? I guarantee you, there's nothing like singing on the competition stage. Try it and I'm sure you'll like it.



Harmony Heritage Chorus (Continued from page 1)

Lynne Peirce led the 41-man HURON VALLEY HARMONIZERS to third place with 796 points. It sang "Rock-A-Bye Your Baby With A Dixie Melody" and "Each Time I Fall In Love."

In fifth place was Holland's WINDMILL CHORUS followed by sixth-place Traverse City's CHERRY CAPITAL CHORUS. Saginaw Bay's HARBOR SOUNDS was seventh with Grosse Pointe's LAKESHORE CHORUS finishing eighth.

Why are they important?

Chorus warm-ups

By Scott Hansen

excerpted from *The Master's Voice*
Santa Fe (California) Chapter

Warm-ups are important. They set the tone for the rehearsal or performance that is to come. A common misconception is that warm-ups are for warming up your individual voice. If that were true, you could accomplish this on the way to rehearsal by vocalizing in the car. Such thinking could also justify arriving late to rehearsal, in the middle of a warm-up.

In fact, the warm-up's primary purpose is to warm up the ensemble, not the individual singer. If your individual voice becomes better prepared for the rehearsal and expands on the vocal work you have already done, so much the better. But it is a by-product of the warm-up, not its main function.

The two most important aspects of warming up the ensemble are the mental and the aural. The mental warm-up involves casting away the concerns of the day and focusing on singing, replacing those thoughts with ones more suited to our rehearsal.

The second aspect of the warm-up is the aural tuning of the ensemble. As anyone who has sung in a quartet knows, all four singers may be completely warmed up without the quartet being warmed up.

Time and attention are required to match your voice to those around you. As you warm up, the director listens to the sound of the chorus and the various sections and makes suggestions to fine-tune the ensemble.

Kalamazoo Youth Barbershop Festival

By Raleigh Bloch,
Kalamazoo Chapter

On September 25, Kalamazoo Chapter put on a Youth Barbershop Festival at Western Michigan University and arranged a concert for all of the music students at WMU. The festival featured Pioneer District's premiere quartet, POWER PLAY. Bill Rashleigh, a music specialist from the Society, was the clinician.

From 10:00 a.m. 'til noon, the festival was open to high school and middle school male students and their teachers; five local schools participated. POWER PLAY demonstrated the Barbershop style by singing not only their typical songs, but also songs like "Coney Island Baby." The students had received printed music and a learning CD in a packet sent to their teachers prior to the festival.

The afternoon concert was part of WMU's Convocation Series and was held in the Dalton Center Recital Hall. The concert was for all WMU music students and the general public. Approximately 400 students were in attendance. Both the festival and convocation were publicized on radio, in the campus newspaper, in the local newspaper, and by fliers distributed at kiosks on campus.

Bill Rashleigh introduced the session and kept it light and informative. He had POWER PLAY demonstrate the four voice parts using "My Wild Irish Rose" as the demo song. Bill also taught the

students the Mickey Mouse Club theme tag; they loved it. Using a piano and the quartet, he explained how overtones are created.

The highlight was when Bill discussed what we, as Barbershoppers, can do what many other forms of music don't do very well, and that is sing from the heart.

He then asked POWER PLAY to sing one of their songs with no emotion, dynamics, movement, or facial expression. That was a tough assignment for POWER PLAY; they were only able to get through a couple of lines. Then they sang it from the heart with motion, facial expression, and dynamics; they received a standing ovation.

At the end of the concert, we had a difficult time clearing the auditorium for the next class — The students wanted to buy CDs and talk to POWER PLAY. We finally got everyone moved out to the lobby of the recital hall, where many continued to purchase CDs and talk to Bill Rashleigh and the quartet. It was a smashing success for Barbershopping.

A big thank you to POWER PLAY; to Bill Rashleigh and Rick Spencer for coming in from Kenosha; to Raleigh Bloch and Chris Fenner, the co-chairmen of the festival; to Western Michigan University for its cooperation and donation of Dalton Recital Hall for the day; and to the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation for its generous support through a grant.

Renew your Society membership on-line

There are two ways to get into Members Only so that you can renew your membership on-line. The first is to click on the Members Only link on the SPEB-SQSA Web page (www.spebsqsa.org) and enter your member number and your password.

Forgot your password? No problem. Just click on "Forgot my password" and a password will be e-mailed to you.

You can also get into Members Only by using the priority code on the mailing label of your *Harmonizer*. Once in Members Only, click on "Renew your membership online." Follow the steps using a Visa or MasterCard to renew.

It's convenient, quick, and easy, and your renewal is processed right away. You can also check if you are due for renewal or already paid.

Award of Harmony is great chapter PR

Put your chapter in the news with the Award of Harmony program. This award is intended to be presented to a member of the community who promotes "harmony" in the broad sense of the word. It need not be in the area of music.

A guide to the program (Stock no. 4225) is available from Harmony Marketplace without cost. A presentation kit is also available (Stock no. 5401 / \$22.95).

Sing Every Day!

Lansing's Krazy Kwartet Kontest a ringing success

Entertainment plus involvement: two key ingredients that can help nurture the strength of any chapter.

By Doug Pearson, Lansing Chapter

In what has to rank as one of the most successful chapter programs in recent Pioneer District history, 16 quartets competed in the Lansing Chapter's annual Krazy Kwartet Kontest, held on a regular meeting night before a packed house at the DeWitt Community Center.

Participation was limited to any current or past member of the Lansing Chapter or a recent guest. Singers could perform in as many quartets as they wanted. Judges were comprised of a panel of Sweet Adeline members (plus a Sweet Ad spouse). Master of ceremonies was Stan Williams.

Each quartet sang one number. And these numbers ran the gamut in originality, comedy, and parody, with outlandish props, great makeup, and some bizarre stage presentations, giving the evening an ultra-light touch.

It was very obvious that everyone (including the audience) was having fun. "And that's exactly the whole idea of this activity," said Chairman Dave Barrett. "We work pretty hard during the year on the two district contests and on our show. This event gave us a golden opportunity for our mem-

bers to really let loose, to show their creativity, and to have a lot of fun at the same time. The participation and enthusiasm from chapter members was super. We're already looking forward to next year."

The evening was capped with presentation of awards to the top three quartets, plus plenty of pizza and beverages.



First-place quartet MINER CHORDS. Photo by George Lorimer.

First-place crowns and awards went to the MINER CHORDS — Don Horton, Stan Williams, Tim Oliver, and Doug Pearson — for their "Big Don" parody.

Second-place awards went to the CATARACT EXPRESS quartet of Marv Rhynard, Frank Richards, Bob Fox, and Dave Barrett for their parody of "Are You Lonesome Tonight?"

Third-place went to the CHANNEL FOUR quartet of Gordy Lind, Roger Cahaney, Clay Jones, and Bill Kenney for their rendition of "Secret Love."

What are the odds?

The Wayne Chapter should feel a great deal of pride for helping to spread Barbershopping all the way to India.

In a chance meeting this past June, Wayne Chapter quartet EU-FOURIA met a man from India at a performance at the public library in Canton, Mich. While the quartet was singing "Let Me Call You Sweetheart," it noticed a gentleman in the crowd singing along. The quartet invited him to join it in song.

He was Willie Mendonsa, a citizen of Bombay, India, who, along with his wife, Judy, were visiting their daughter and grandchildren in Canton.

Willie told the quartet that he had a lifelong love of Barbershop harmony, but there was no organized Barbershop singing in India. And he wasn't aware that an organization called the Barbershop Harmony Society existed.

The quartet's Paul Alflen contacted the Society's Membership Specialist Dick Bek, who soon met with Willie. Dick gave Willie information about the Society and encouraged him to start organized Barbershop singing in Bombay by forming a quartet.

In the meantime, Willie has been attending the WAYNE RENAISSANCE CHORUS rehearsals regularly and has been given an honorary chapter membership.

Although it is now October and Willie and Judy are still here in America, they will soon be going back to Bombay. But Willie already has three men in mind to form a quartet back home; the four of them sing together in their local church choir.

Pioneer District 2003 COTS faculty bios

Dwain Chambers (Dean) - Dixie District (Tennessee). Member of Society since 1976. Currently sings with the Memphis (Tennessee) Chapter; previously sang with the GREAT AMERICAN CHORUS, Lake County, Illinois, Pensacola (Florida) Chapter, and Alexandria (Virginia) Chapter. Has held all elected chapter offices except secretary. Past district VP (Volunteer Division) and past director of music education for Dixie District. Past district VP for contest & judging in Sunshine District. Has been certified contest administrator since 1993. Currently serving as member of Board of Review for Contest Administrators. <dwainca@midsouth.rr.com>

M. Gene Courts (Presidents) - Johnny Appleseed District (Ohio). Member of Western Hills Chapter and its SOUTHERN GATEWAY CHORUS. Been on COTS faculty since 1971 (Program VPs 1971-75 and Presidents 1995-present). Offices held: chapter - secretary, president, Board member; district - vice-president, executive VP, president 1975-76 and 1993-94; Society - International Board Member 1977-78, and 1995-96, Society Board Member 1998-2000. JAD Barbershopper of the Year and JAD Hall of Fame. Currently vice-chair for coaching & performance evaluations on Society Music & Performance Committee and member on Society and Harmony Foundation Investment Advisory Committee. <MGCourts@fuse.net>

Dave Hodson (Secretaries) - Ontario District. Sings with Toronto's NORTHERN LIGHTS. COTS faculty since 2001. Served on many committees at both district and chapter levels; including organizing operation of several Ontario District conventions, managing chapter fundraising efforts, and coordinating production of chorus recordings. Serves as an evaluator for Standing Ovation Program. Current secretary-treasurer of Toronto Northern Lights. <dave@hodson.ca>

Charles F. Rose (Treasurers) - Dixie District (North Carolina). 32-year Barbershopper and 20-plus year COTS faculty. Member of Rocky Mount and RTP chapters in North Carolina. Past Society Board member, past member of Society Finance Committee, past Dixie District president. Currently serving on Society Audit Committee, Dixie District Nominating

Committee. President of North Carolina Harmony Brigade and past commanding general of Confederate Harmony Brigade. <CFROSECPA@aol.com>

Robert Cox (Chapter Development) - Evergreen District (Oregon). Active Society member since 1973. COTS instructor 10 years (program VP, music VP, presidents, member services). 25-year member of chapter, district, and/or Society Leadership Team. Chapter and district BOTY. Member Salem (Oregon) Chapter Hall of Fame. Held every chapter office except secretary and treasurer. Currently VP of chapter development. Past district president, VP membership, VP music, VP YMIH, and various positions on District Leadership Team. Past Society Board member and past chairman, Society Member Services Committee. Recently served as co-chairman of Portland International Convention. <BCox5578@attbi.com>

A. Sherwood Platt (Marketing & PR) - Southwestern District (Louisiana). Member of Greater New Orleans Chapter. Sings with MARDI GRAS CHORUS and RAMPART STREET IRREGULARS quartet. COTS faculty member since 1998. Served chapter as VP of marketing and chapter president. Past district marketing VP and current district Harmony Foundation Chairman. Serves on Society CSLT Committee, External Affairs Committee, Harmony Foundation Development Committee, and Standing Ovation Program Evaluator. Recipient of numerous Barbershop awards. <asp11@juno.com>

Terry Reynolds (Music & Performance) - Mid-Atlantic District (Virginia). Currently associate director of ALEXANDRIA HARMONIZERS. Served as chapter music & performance VP and chairman of several committees. Has served as music & performance VP and as director of Arlington (Virginia) Chapter. 18-year member of Society. Member of COTS faculty since 1998 and trainer in Society's CDWI (Chorus Director Workshop Intensive) program since 1999. Currently sings with quartet BACHELOR PARTY. <Terry.Reynolds@ams.com>

Lawrence Bean (Chorus Directors) - Northeastern District (Maine). Currently technology coordinator (since October 1997), lead of THE MANAGEMENT

(Continued on page 16)

COTS faculty bios

(Continued from page 15)

quartet (1994 NED Quartet Champion), and sings with Portland DOWNEASTERS. THE MANAGEMENT received 1995 MENC/SPEBSQSA Award and NED's 1995 Barbershopper of the Year for work in youth involvement in singing. <LBean@schoolunion47.org>

Rob Arnold (Young Men In Harmony) - Ontario District (Ontario). Sings with Greater Toronto Area Chapter MEGACITY CHORUS. COTS faculty since 1998. Has taught CSLT and membership services. Certified judge, CA category; certified chapter counselor; certified director; past chapter president; VP chapter development; VP communications and bulletin editor. Past district VP CSLT ONT. Currently assistant director, chapter VP music and performance, and district VP membership services. <Rob.Arnold@cibc.com>

Robert Guiggey (Chapter Support & Leadership Training) - Northeastern District (Massachusetts). Society member since 1977. Served chapter as PVP, Exec. Board Member. Was chapter BOTY in 1980, division BOTY in 1997, is member of NEW-CANEWENG (NED Honor Society). Been division executive assistant, district VP for division, district VP chapter support & leadership training, district president. Currently Society treasurer. <RGuiggey@worldnet.att.net>



*michigan council for
arts and cultural affairs*

The Pioneer District Association of Barbershop Chapters gratefully acknowledges the generous grants from the Michigan Council For Arts and Cultural Affairs that make all of our coaching clinics possible.

Pioneer District funded for coaching clinics in 2003

By District President Al Bonney

The Michigan Council For Arts and Cultural Affairs has, for the second year, generously granted \$22,500 to the Pioneer District for a series of 12 coaching clinics and contests in 2003.

In 2002, we received \$21,400 to present coaching clinics for choruses, quartets, and directors throughout the district. We presented two chorus clinics for 12 choruses last February, three quartet clinics — one in May for 10 quartets (at Harmony Round-Up), one in July for five quartets (at Jack and Kitty Slamka's farm), and one at Bush League for 11 quartets in September.

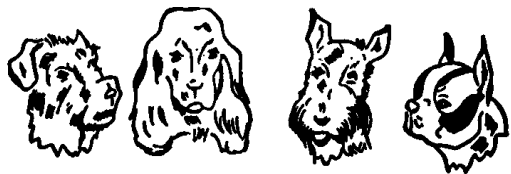
Additionally, we held a Chorus Director Workshop in Gaylord for five directors in August and the A Cappella Blast festival for 76 young men in May. It was a busy and productive year for Pioneer singers!

The purpose of these grants and clinics is to raise the quality of ensemble singing throughout the Pioneer District.

We have chosen to measure the effectiveness of the clinics through our contest scores. In fact, our contest scores did go up (.05 percent for choruses and nine percent for quartets) in the spring contest which was the first contest following the beginning of the clinics. We expect to see continuous improvement at subsequent contests as the grant year's progress and the clinics continue.

The 2003 three grant is for basically the same program, but with the added clinics for our top five quartets — Top Gun in January — and the addition of three more director clinics throughout the year.

If you get an opportunity to thank your congressman or representative for the State's generosity, please be sure to tell them how much you appreciate this great benefit. We are one of only two districts in the whole Society who have successfully received any money from state arts councils.



THE HARMONY HOUNDS

Pedigree: Barbershoppers

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

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Ever growing ... Or nothing else matters!

Quartetting — the ultimate experience

By Glenn Van Tassell,
two-time International gold medal quartet champion

In a previous article, I suggested that it is up to you to cause the quartet experience to happen in your life. Let's assume that you have reached out to some other like-minded people and actually organized that quartet.

But now, lots of questions arise: How do we make the best use of our time? What are the roles of the individual members of the quartet? How do we select our music and where do we get arrangements? What about coaching? What should we expect of ourselves, individually and collectively?

Planning, making the best use of your time together, is very important. No different from a chorus, a quartet needs to establish a working schedule that will allow for productive, ongoing vocal exercises, learning new music, defining and understanding the music, and preparing it for performance. You will want to determine the special strengths of the individual singers and of the quartet as a whole and plan to make productive use of them as the personality of the quartet develops.

Someone in a quartet may be well organized and can help everyone to make good use of the time together. Others may be good at recognizing the musical elements of the rehearsal and assure that correct chords are being sung, that good balance and matching of sounds are happening, and that pitch is being maintained.

This is a partnership. Think twice before asserting opinions and do so only if you can do it very tactfully and positively. *Do not* assume the role of "boss" in your quartet. It is the surest road to quartet oblivion. Build mutual respect based on the desire of each

singer to become the best that he can be, and individually live up to that pledge.

In the long run, it will be far more productive to seek the help of a good fifth person to guide you in areas of defining, polishing, and refining your musical presentations. There are judges, arrangers, AIC quartet singers, and coaches at all levels of experience who live near you and will be happy to help you to grow in our hobby. Ask them. It is that simple, really!

There will be a need for someone to see to the business of the quartet. Details like public relations, correspondence with chapters for shows, registration with district and international offices, and entries for contests require a businesslike follow-up.

Music selection should also be handled in an organized fashion. The Society headquarters at Kenosha offers a marvelous selection of Barbershop arrangements that are readily available. Ask for a list and select songs that are interesting to you and songs that you can handle at this stage of your growth.

The fact that, let's say, PLATINUM won their gold medals with a particular song does not assure that you will be able to perform that song well. When you grow to the level of performing really well and begin making an impact in contests and shows, you will be able to contact some of the wonderful arrangers in our style, and I think they will welcome your performance of their work.

Expect more of yourself and of your singing partners than you ever have before. The quartet experience is very rewarding, but it requires more TLC than you have ever given any other endeavor except, perhaps, your marriage. Do the work and reap the rewards.

Sing in a quartet!



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ACAPPELLA
QUARTET

Doug Morgan

Traverse City has a Harmony College experience

By Al Bonney, Traverse City Chapter

Jeff Belanger and Dan Decker couldn't stand just enjoying Harmony College alone! Both veterans of the annual August musical equinox, they returned from their 2001 experience so fired up they had to do SOMETHING!

Jeff called Dr. Greg Lyne, the Society's director of music education and services, and negotiated last year's price if he could get 20 guys to sign up and pay by Christmas 2001. Dan talked the chapter's board of directors into funding \$250 of each guy's tuition, and they both went to work selling the rest of the chorus. By Christmas, they had 28 men on the list – and paid! The 28 included four to Directors College and two quartets and 14 guys going to Harmony College ... the Traverse City experience was hatched!

Sensing a unique opportunity to expand what was clearly going to be a special event for the chorus, Al Bonney coordinated with Bill Rashleigh to organize a special class solely for the TC guys. They wanted to help the organization to grow musically.

Tired of 11th and 13th place, the group knew they needed to create an internal infrastructure that would support and enable continuing and sustained musical growth over time.

Bill arranged for one class hour each day to be set

aside for the Traverse City Experience. He also arranged that six top-level instructors would help the guys work through the thought process to attain their objective.

And what a cast of instructors: Bill Rashleigh, Gary Plaag, Gary Wulf, Charlie Metzger, Darryl Flynn, and Greg Lyne each spent time with the men over the course of the week.

So what was the outcome? Well, certainly one outcome was that the chorus treasury was \$6,500 lighter for the expense.

Another outcome was that 26 (two had to cancel) guys came together in understanding and appreciation for the experience like never before. Harmony College was a truly unique experience for the guys who attended.

As for how well they are singing, we will have to let the contest scores speak for that. The numbers of guys on the risers every week since returning is 30-percent higher than before, and the changes in chapter meetings have the guys fired up and excited about rehearsals. It's kind of like the guy said, "You had to be there to understand." Telling you about it is hard.

But if you see one of the Traverse City guys, ask him if the TC Experience was worth it. I bet he will say, "Yes!"

On Saturday, November 9th
At Clarkston High School at 7:30 p.m.

"Dorothy returns to Oz"

(Oh, dear, has she grown up!)

Pontiac/Waterford Chapter "Big Chief Chorus"

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58th Annual Barbershop Harmony Show
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Pioneer District 2002 Fall Convention & Competition



Kalamazoo Chapter's SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN VOCAL EXPRESS, led by Ed Fritzen, finished second in the chorus competition.



(Left) Recently formed quartet, ANTIQUES ROADSHOW, won the district Senior Quartet Championship.

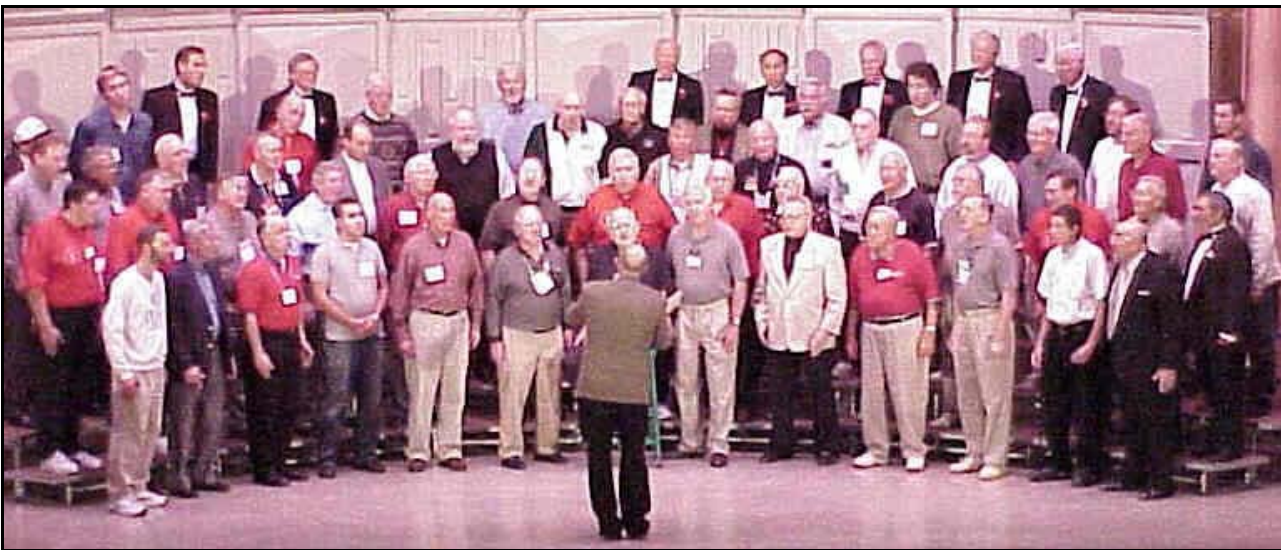
(Below left) Quartet PARTY OF FOUR finished fourth in the district quartet contest. Here it sings for a hospitality suite audience. (Below) 1965 Pioneer District Champion Quartet 4 FITS — tenor John Wearing, lead Russ Seely, bass Marv Burke, and bari Gene Bulka — entertains at the Quartet Champions Show on Friday night. John, Marv, and Russ are original members of the quartet.



Pioneer District 2002 Quartet Champions, CROSSFIRE (below): tenor Robb Smith, lead Brian McDougall, bass Scott Risley, and bari Rich Lauzon.



(Above) FERMATA NOWHERE finished second in the district quartet competition: tenor Jeff Gougeon, lead Tom Conner, bass Pete Burns, and bari Steve Pauling. Mike Slamka (below) leads the JOE BARBERSHOP CHORUS as it serves as mike testers for the Saturday afternoon chorus competition.



(Below) Pioneer District Quartet Champs in 1995, newly reunited FIREPOWER! sings at a convention afterglow: tenor Mark Wilson, lead Jamie Carey, bass Mike McClary, and bari Jeff Marks.



Quartet NEW WRINKLE (above) is all smiles as it takes third place in the quartet contest: tenor Jack Frucci, lead J. Kelly Brummett, bass Walt Quick, and bari Don Kondor.

PioNet excellent communications tool

PioNet has been providing e-mail communications among district Barbershoppers for more than five years, growing from 30 to a subscription list of about 365. This includes all district officers, representatives of every chapter, some Sweet Adelines, and some former Pioneer Barbershoppers who have moved elsewhere, but still want to keep in touch.

All Pioneer Barbershoppers are invited to sign up. Just send name and chapter affiliation to Jim-Styer@comcast.net.

PioNet is used to announce chapter and district events, ask questions, and discuss anything of interest to Pioneer Barbershoppers.

E-mail traffic is relatively light, averaging only about three messages per day, even including the



higher message traffic during convention periods. A daily digest is also available.

Everyone on PioNet, as on any e-mail list, is asked to have anti-virus software installed and operating.



Music and your child

Did you know that exposure to and involvement with music may help develop the mind and promote social and emotional growth in young children? Educators know that playing an instrument, singing, or just listening to a variety of music can:

- Help improve reading and communication skills.
- Increase concentration.
- Promote creativity
- Accelerate vocal, visual, and auditory development.
- Relate to virtually all other subject areas in school.
- Aid in the development and growth of areas in the brain specifically designed for musical understanding.

That's not all. Music can also:

- Encourage cooperation.
- Build self-esteem.
- Increase motivation.
- Teach children about other cultures.
- Promote family ties.
- Encourage community involvement and social interaction.
- Give kids a chance to be successful, and ...
- Just make them feel good!

That's the magic the world of music has to offer to a child. From Beethoven to the Beatles, from lullabies to rock 'n' roll, the joy of listening to and participating in musical expression enriches your child's life.

Public domain: The solution to copyrights

By Casey Parker and Helen Giallombardo

Here is a solution to the copyright problem: Don't use copyrighted songs! Choose public domain (pre-1923) songs to arrange and sing.

Most early 20th century songs are ideal for quartets. Thousands are available. Visit Levy: <http://LevySheetMusic.mse.jhu.edu/>.

Download free! There are no print royalties, no arranger fees, no Harry Fox recording fees (now \$500 minimum, and no ASCAP/BMI performance fees.

Often, the four-part harmony arrangement is included in the original sheet music. And best of all, they will all qualify under the KIBIQ contest rule, providing the arrangement is not copyrighted.

Also, try the U.S. Library of Congress Website: <http://memory.loc.gov>.

Pioneer District Website updated

By Webmaster Steve Sutherland

In recent months, there have been many additions, changes, and enhancements to the Pioneer District Website that you might not know about. Some of the changes are purely cosmetic in an attempt to make button names more in line with what they represent.

For example, the "Happenings" button is now called "Photo Ops." Everything there are slide shows and pictures of events around the district (and Society) that involve Pioneer members. Things are placed here that would be of interest to a high percent of our membership. Other things have been added and enhanced to give everyone access to information that is needed in our daily Barbershop lives.

The latest addition is the **Membership** section that Member Services VP Brian Dunckel requested. On that page, you'll find his past *Troubadour* articles, his Pioneering Membership Growth newsletters, general documents such as the Membership Team Roster, and such unique documents as Canadian Renewal Information.

Also new is the "**Upcoming District Events**" section where district-sponsored/supported activities such as Bush League contest, mini-HEP schools, etc., are posted.

Another recent addition is the **District Business** section. The page contains documents from Al Bonney such as his quarterly president's report, House of Delegates questions, as well as minutes from the Board and House of Delegates meetings.

Ed Fritzen requested a **Contest and Judging** section, so there's a "C & J" button for information Ed wants available to everyone. He'll put things there like evaluation forms for competitors and information about judging categories.

The district's **Directory** has gone electronic. You'll find the information that used to be in the paper version under this section. Updates are retrieved from the Society database several times a year.

The **District Map** section still contains maps to

everyone's rehearsal halls with meeting times, etc. NOTE: If you change anything, let me know.

Registered Quartets are also retrieved from the Society database several times a year. Of course this is only as good as you maintain the correct information with International. I also have maintained a link page to every known chapter and quartet Web site. If you have one, let me know and I'll add it to the list.

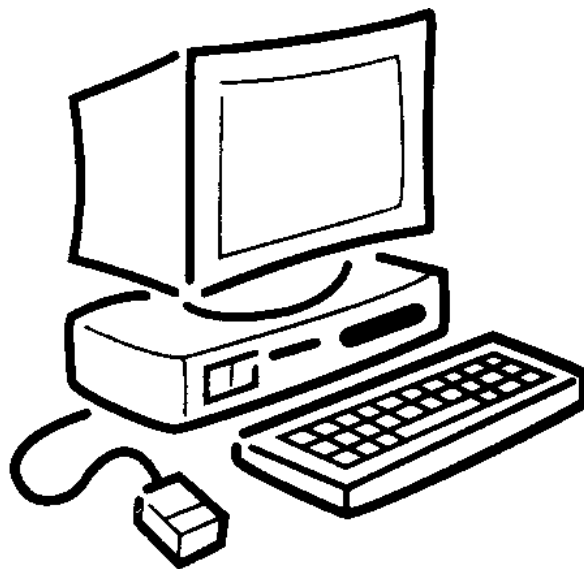
District Secretary Marv Skupski is keeping me up to date on **District Calendar** events. I also make links on that calendar to Web pages that tell about the event. If you have information about your next chorus show on the Web somewhere, let me know!

Of course you all know that the current *Troubadour* is on-line as well as past issues back to February/March 1999. In fact, for all of you that just can't wait for the next issue, Gary Simon delivers an electronic copy to me to place on the Web BEFORE you can get it through the mail.

Under the **Honor Roll & History** section are lists of our past district champ choruses and quartets, lists of quartet and chorus representatives at all of the internationals, past district presidents, the list of Pioneer Hall of Fame recipients, and many pictures of much of the above imbedded inside the lists. Did you know that quartets used to send out Christmas cards? Check out the old Christmas card collection.

Contest Score Archives contain contest score sheets and program covers that go back to the late 1960's with scattered sheets before that. (If you happen to have one of the missing ones or an old contest program cover, I'd appreciate your sending me a copy!)

I hope this encourages you to visit and spend some time looking around. Al Bonney and our Board are constantly expanding the use of this site so you'll be finding more and more helpful sections as the months pass. I think you'll find something useful and interesting.



Chapters in Action

Macomb County

By Roy Gurney

The summer vacations are over and we had our annual retreat at Waldenwoods Resort with coaches Barry and Sharon Towner from Toronto and Don Slamka. And the chorus, aided by quartet BORDER CROSSING, sang at the third annual Bath City Festival in our hometown of Mt. Clemens.

By the time this gets out we will all know who is going to Montreal to represent the district. With our new rehearsal day being on Thursday, we hope to attract singers who can't join us on Tuesdays. We have found it to be more of an adjustment than we had anticipated, but we hope it will help.

In the meantime, we are working on our annual show. We will be returning to the beautiful auditorium at Macomb Center for the Performing Arts on May 10 with headliner METROPOLIS as well as comedy quartet NIGHTWATCH, and some of our chapter quartets, including BORDER CROSSING.

Hillsdale

By Roger McCaskey

As summer changes to fall, so will our chapter change. We have had the distinct pleasure of Dr. Peter Blum as our director for several years now. Pete accepted the job as director when we were in need and did an admirable job in the process..

Pete's last role as director will be on October 6, 2002, when the chorus will present its fall show at Hudson. We all thank Pete for his dedication and hard work.

Taking the stage for the first time at the fall convention as our new director will be Don Slamka. We look forward to his leadership, in his role as director. The chapter has been busy in community, performing as a chorus and individual quartets, for churches and other local interests.

The chapter recently enacted a provision to help build its membership of high school and college members. Through this means we will be assuming

the financial obligation of dues if these young people adhere to a set of rules. We already have two high school members in our ranks and look forward to an increased outreach with the local high schools and college.

Saginaw Bay

By Ralph Brown

The 40th year at Harrisville was SPECTACULAR! Thirty-two chapters — both SAI and SPEBSQSA — were there, which included the top three regional quartets and top three Michigan district quartets.

Our challenge to other chapters was not met and we brought home the trophy again for a record eight years in a row. The weather was great and the crowd was enthusiastic. The parade of choruses and quartets filled the air with song and those magic Barbershop chords reverberated among the trees and then cascaded down the hillside and floated along the Huron shoreline. The audience came to its feet numerous times, especially during POWER PLAY'S performance.



Randy Meldrum won the quilt (pictured) in a fund raising raffle.

This is the first year that I spent the entire weekend at Harrisville and it was absolutely a great Barbershop experience; a lot of fun singing all over the place — surely a place where memories are made. One special highlight was in the state park, roaming from place to place, singing with and for other Barbershoppers.

At Paul Wards cabins, I learned that some people try to bread out of rooms in the middle of the night instead of into them. Ask Bob Winters to explain.

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

Windsor

By Bill Strong

A little belated, but nevertheless necessary is the news of the passing of longtime Windsor member, Ken Bilton, on July 1. Ken sang baritone in many quartets and also served as chorus manager of the SUN PARLOUR CHORUS among other duties. His funeral was in true Barbershop style. He was laid out in his chorus uniform with a pitch pipe placed in his hand. He will be much missed.

Our chapter is very active this time of year with preparation for contest, rehearsal for our spring show and, most importantly, our fall membership drive. Perhaps some of the newer members who were brought in recently will bring their friends out to share the greatest hobby in the world.

Just a reminder to mark your calendar for Uncle Sam Night, as always, the third Friday in January. In 2003, it will be held on January 17. It will be a good night of singing and good food. See you there.

Kudos to one of our longtime members, Ron McDermott, who was chosen Citizen of the Year in his hometown of Essex, Ontario. Congratulations, Ron.

Traverse City

By Elbert Ford

We had a very busy summer in which we had some performances, went to Harmony College (24 of us), had a great brunch and fellowship at Maurie and Betsey Allen's house, and learned some new songs during rehearsal. Our director, Al Bonney, gave us no rest — and we had fun doing it!

One of our highlights of the year was singing at the local hockey rink on 9-11. We sang our "Patriotic Medley" to begin a benefit hockey game between the local police and firemen. Need I say that it's the same place that the Red Wings attended a week's training camp three days later.

By the time you read this, we will have competed and completed a group performance with the Sweet Adelines and the FOUR MAN FISHIN' TACKLE CHOIR in Northport. Through our grants, we are doing more performances and getting much more community recognition that we ever have in the past.

We are also going to compete at Battle Creek, and "sing for our supper" for a fish-boil at the church

where meet, to show our appreciation for them putting up with us.

We're preparing for a great show next June at Interlochen with our headliners, FOUR VOICES, the current International champs. We didn't know they'd be champs when we signed them, but now that gives us a leg up when it comes to selling tickets.

Once again, I'd like to invite you up to visit with us. We meet Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. at The Presbyterian Church just off Airport Access Road, near US-31 North. Just call 231-947-8714 or 231-223-4064 for directions.

Muskegon

By Frank Scott

The chapter had an eventful summer with two community performances and three parades on the chapter float. The big event was the chapter's sponsorship of a Friday night "Party in the Park" on August 16. This is a very successful community event to raise money for local community service.

After all the bills were in, close to \$6,000 will be available to be used by the chapter to promote vocal music in the community. This was a yeoman effort on the part of John Tyler, who deserves the accolades he received from the chapter membership. The Muskegon Chapter was one of eight non-profit organizations to be selected as sponsors of a "Party in the Park."

Our 62nd annual show, "Sing ... For Heavens Sake!" on September 28, 2002, was well attended by a great audience that rose to give a standing ovation at the end of the performance. Chorus Director, Mike O'Donnell, was show chairman along with assistant chairman, Arlie Smock. Credit should go to the Sault Ste. Marie Chapter that originally wrote and produced this show, based roughly on the movie "It's a Wonderful Life."

Music VP and bass in the ACT FOUR quartet, Mart Bomers, and Past President Fred Kendell were both awarded their 50-year pins this past summer. It is a first in the chapter's 62-year history.

After 12 years of directing the MUSKEGON SHORELINE CHORUS, Mike O'Donnell has decided to pursue other interests in Barbershopping. We will miss his enthusiasm, expertise, love, and dedication to our great hobby. The legacy of his leadership will have a lasting influence on the chapter.

(Continued on page 26)

Chapters in Action

(Continued from page 25)

Veteran bass singer Joel Prather has agreed to direct the chorus. Joel has directed other choruses and recently was an assistant director of the SHORELINE CHORUS.

John Tyler has been planning a kickoff for the CHRISTMAS CHORUS at an open house on October 24, 2002. One of Joel's first endeavors (in addition to the contest performance in October) will be to work on a repertoire for the MUSKEGON COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CHORUS.



(From left) Webb Scrivnor, Paul Henrikson, Ray Crancer, and Dick Warner.

We regret the recent death of veteran bass singer, Ray Crancer. Ray was always available for singing in a pick-up quartet, singing valentines, and chorus performances. Had a great sense of pitch and kept the chorus bass section on key. And if the leads were off, he could let them know, too. We will miss his expertise and presence.

Detroit-Oakland Chapter

By Tom Uicker

The "Return of the Jug" party, on the first Friday in June, was another success wrestled from the jaws of defeat. We had over 160 men and women at Sacred Heart Byzantine Catholic Church ready to join in the festivities.

For some reason, no choruses were asked to sing this year. Instead, seven quartets were invited to per-

form, interspersed with lots of gang singing. Of course, the culmination of the evening was hearing our international reps, POWER PLAY.

The evening ended with the presentation of the money collected in the jug fund over the year. Although we were very late in getting the jugs started on their rounds, Larry King and Jim Dugan were instrumental in tracking their movements. The two jugs visited 19 of the 22 Pioneer District chapters designated on their routes, and we were able to raise a total of \$1,137.50 for our international quartet representatives. That is better than double the amount from the previous year.

If you missed the party, the jugs are traveling again and we look forward to their return next year on the first Friday in June. In the meantime, we have another party planned for the first Friday of November. We call it "Canada Night," and it includes a mini-chorus contest. Since this paper will very likely reach you after the fact, we will spell out the details in a flier at our district convention.

Pontiac-Waterford

By John Cowlshaw

Our chapter doesn't forget the Q in SPEBSQSA: HARMONY WAY sang at the August 23rd Metamora Country and Heritage Days Festival, B NATURAL sang in a 9/11 tribute at The Church of The Nazarene, and FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE competed at Bush League this year, finishing a respectable 7th place with a score of 53.5 percent.

But the big emphasis every fall is the annual show. In its 58th Annual Show, the Pontiac/Waterford BIG CHIEF BARBERSHOP CHORUS proudly presents "Dorothy Returns to Oz" on Saturday, November 9, 2002, at 7:30 pm in the Clarkston High School auditorium. Guest quartet is the popular CHORDIAC ARREST. Not only have they finished in the top ten in their first four International Quartet Contests, with fifth-place medals in two of them, they are one of the funniest quartets around.

The last two *Smoke Signals* featured interviews with bass Chuck Murray (August) and tenor Mike Keith (September). Check them out at <http://www.pontiacchapter.com/bulletin2002.htm>

Barbershoppers of the month have been Ted Preuter (July), Chuck Murray (August), and Doc Mann (September).

The chorus took its annual mystery trip on Sep-

tember 17. Some members still don't know where we went, but we do know there was a great chorus there under the direction of Lynne Peirce, and we had the pleasure of hearing the exciting young quartet, PARTY OF FOUR. Assistant Director Dick Johnson directed "Darkness on the Delta," "Let's Get Away From It All," "This Little Light of Mine/Do Lord Medley," and "God Bless America."

Lansing

By Paul Howe

There's an old axiom "Be careful what you wish for, you just might get it." I'm sure there were times this summer when Director Jeff Gougeon almost regretted pushing the members of the Lansing Chapter to sing with lots of warm breath, as all that hot air quickly turned the rehearsal hall into a steam bath.

One of our big events this past few months was our "Krazy Kwartet Kontest" and guest night. Kontest Chairman Dave Barrett and Membership VP Tim Gerard outdid themselves with a fun and highly entertaining evening for the nearly 100 members and guests in attendance.

Lansing recently received the traveling Jug from DOC, who visited our chapter with about 20 members. Wanting to share the wealth as soon as possible, 30 members from Lansing made the trek to Kalamazoo to pass it on. After the barn-like sound of our rehearsal hall, it was quite a change for us to visit the cozy intimacy of Kalamazoo's hall. When both choruses joined together in "Battle Hymn of the Republic" and "God Bless America," I'm sure we shook the floor above, and probably brought a temporary halt to the conference being held there.

In addition to preparations for the fall convention, several chapter quartets have been out performing for audiences, including the McPherson Hospital Employees Recognition Banquet and on Street Corner in Owosso for the Shiawassee Art Council's "art walk."

I've saved the biggest news for last. Our March show at the beautiful Wharton Center for the Performing Arts on the Michigan State University Campus will feature the Lansing Chorus and quartets PATCH CHORDS, FERMATA NOWHERE, and BOSTON COMMON. Call (517) 372-SING (7464) for more information.

Huron Valley

By Greg Humbel

What a busy summer we had. In early August, we sang for family safety day sponsored by the DARE

program. We also spent much time in Saline, manning an information booth there that netted us one member and several possible ticket sales. We also opened for the Saline Fiddlers Harmonic, an awesome group of young people. Our new church ensemble now has three church services under our belts and the HARMONIZERS had nine members at Harrisville, a first. And our "United We Sing" show was a huge success.

We are very pleased to offer of our efforts to ready ourselves for contest, but really look for the Christmas music. Plans are being made for our December 7 show. And final arrangement are being made for our Christmas singing marathon. Membership is growing for many reasons ... **We are a proud bunch!**

Grosse Pointe

By Nick Piccione

Our annual show all came together (just in time) on Saturday, September 28, to the delight of over 1,200 combined matinee and evening theatre-goers. "Grosse Pointe Goes to War" was set outside the caves of Afghanistan where a montage of "lost battalions" from World Wars I and II continues to wander.

To this absurd mix, add Sergeant Alvin York (David Franks), a maharajah (Wayne Kniffin), a harem girl (Al Montag), Colonel Patton (Mike Sullivan), Bilko (Chuck Wingard), Pyle (Joe Serwach), Italian Lt. Manga Pane (Nick Piccione), Colonel Hogan (Russ Seely), and many others, plus the chorus and quartets.

In addition to performances by the SILVER DOMES, FERMATA NOWHERE, and CROSSFIRE, our featured quartet was the 2002 Senior Gold Medal champs, CHICAGO SHUFFLE, whose music and humor brought the house down.

Congratulations to Russ and the chorus for another winner. Now on to the convention.

But before we go, let's put the Grosse Pointe spotlight on Joe Serwach, who tripled by being an actor, a scriptwriter and, if you can believe it, the show chairman. So we end with this thought:

*'Though a journalist normally by trade,
Joe's wide talents are easily portrayed.
Just give him any old task,
And he'll do what you ask.
His accomplishments this year won't soon fade.*

... New edit #10

What do you get when you divide the diameter of a jack o' lantern into its circumference? Pumpkin pi.

Living on Earth is expensive, but it does include an annual trip around the Sun.

You're getting old when you get the same sensation from a rocking chair that you once got from a roller coaster.

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Upcoming Events

2002

Nov. 1 - Canada Night presented by the Detroit-Oakland County Chapter. American Legion Stitt Post #232, 23850 Military, Dearborn Heights, at 7:30 p.m. Contact Earl Berry: 313-277-7130.

Nov. 2 - Rochester Show.

Nov. 9 - Pontiac-Waterford Show.

Dec. 7 - Huron Valley Christmas Show.

2003

Jan. 3-5 - Pioneer District Chapter Operations and Training Seminar (COTS). For details, see article on page 4.

Jan. 19-26 - SPEBSQSA Mid-winter Convention, Albuquerque, New Mexico. Call 800-876-7464 x-8462, or go on-line at www.spebsqsa.org/midwinter/

Feb. 14-16 - Detroit-Oakland County Show.

March 1 - Wayne Show. Contact Mike Green: 248-427-1255.

March 8 - Lansing Show.

March 15 - Kalamazoo Show.

March 16 - Saginaw Bay Show.

March 22 - Grand Rapids Show.

March 29 - Monroe North Show.

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

Harmony

2001 International Seniors Quartet Champion

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Kenosha, WI 53141

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JOEL

MARK