



Pioneer Troubadour

Official Publication of the Pioneer District May/June 2003 Volume 54, Number 3
The Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc.

How many are in your quartet?

By Russ Seely

With over 50 years experience as a member of one quartet or another, it's safe to assume that almost every obstacle you could imagine, from sore throats to family emergencies have been dealt with.

That is up until March 31 this year.

The Silverdomes (Senior Champs & International Reps) were booked to perform as strolling singers at the prestigious **Detroit Athletic Club's Tiger Opening Day Celebration**, which seemed to be a typical mid-day gig that the 'Domes get contracted for by their favorite-and generous-agent.

However, just one half hour before our scheduled report time, I received a cell call from tenor **John Wearing** who moaned, "Seely, we're in trouble."

Our bass, **John Wade**, had just been admitted to the hospital for possible coronary issues.

I told Wearing to head to the Club from the east side of Detroit while **Gene Bulka**, our bari whom I had just picked up, would start making calls for a possible bass replacement.

We tried several including **Mary Burke** (4-Fits, 1965 Champ) Please see Quartet page 3



Above: Huron Valley wins its first District Championship. Below, Power Play going back to International. Photos courtesy of George Lorimer



Photo courtesy Gary Simon. Above: Maccomb will again represent the Pioneer District at International.

Huron Valley '03 chorus champs, Power Play rolls

By Joe Serwach

Editor

The **Huron Valley Harmonizers** are the **2003 Pioneer District Chorus Champs** – their first championship in the 50 years choruses have competed.

Power Play will represent us at International quartet competition in July.

Power Play, which won a 3rd place International Medal in 2002 and 5th place medals in 2001 and 2000, has been representing the District on the International stage since 1989, the year the Slamka family quartet won the Pioneer Quartet Championship.

Power Play won 2,094

points or 87.2 percent April 26. The quartet has gone further than any other District quartet since 1984, when **Center Stage** came in 2nd. The last Pioneer quartet to win the Gold was the **Gentlemen's Agreement** 32 years ago. No other quartet in Pioneer this year received the necessary 1,824 points required to go to International.

The closest quartet behind Power Play was **Infinity**, which received 1,747 points followed by 2002 Pioneer Champion Quartet **Crossfire**, which scored 1,687 points. Close behind were **Party of Four**, with 1,679 points and **Fermata Nowhere**, Please see Champs, page 15

Rancilio named Pioneer's best bulletin editor

By Art Lane

Robert J. Rancilio, editor of the **Grosse Pointe** Chapter's bulletin **The Pitch-Pipe**, has been named Bulletin Editor of the Year for 2002 in the **Pioneer District**.

The award was announced April 25 at the District's **House of Delegates** meeting during the spring convention in Lansing.

Rancilio shares the award with his wife, **Dot**, who is associate editor of **The Pitch-Pipe**. The judges commended them on a clean, crisp, neat looking bulletin.

Second place in the bulletin editors' contest went to **Art Lane**, of the **Holland Chapter's Windmill Blade**. In third place was **John Cowlshaw** of the **Pontiac-Waterford Smoke Signals**.

The contest was conducted by **PROBE**, the Society's Association of **Public Relations Officers and Bulletin Editors**.

Judging was done by certified judges from other Districts in the areas of Layout and Reproduction, Grammar and Style, and Content.

Rancilio ranked

highest in content and in Layout and Reproduction. Cowlshaw topped the others in Grammar and Style.

The judges appreciated the quality of the bulletins in the Pioneer District contest and thanked the editors for their long hours and hard work, saying the editors' Chapter-mates also appreciate the work.

The top two entries from the Pioneer District are eligible to enter the



Bob (left) and Art with their awards.

International bulletin contest. Results of that contest will be announced at International in July.



May/June 2003 Pioneer Troubadour

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Photo by Gary Simon

Powerful Quartet of Pioneer presidents. From left to right: Past Pioneer President Don Bazely (2000-2001), Society President Roger Lewis, former Pioneer President Russ Seely (1994-1995) and current District President Al Bonney.

QUARTET: Thinking/ praying fast saves the day... and the show...

Continued from page 1

and **Bob Wisdom** whom I sang with in the **Motor City Music Company** (1977 Champs) and we just couldn't connect.

Cold Sweats.

I thought that **Pontiac-Waterford's Chris Miller** might fill the bill if he sang lead and I, well, kind of, sang bass. Darn, we didn't have his phone number!

As we approached downtown Detroit, near panic, I heard Gene talking to someone and I assumed he was on the phone

He wasn't - HE WAS PRAYING!

If you know Gene, you know that he is a very spiritual person who is devout in his beliefs and should you lunch with him be assured that grace will be given.

Well, I grumbled something like, "Give me a break" as I pulled into the DAC parking structure only to hear a horn sounding behind me and a voice yelling, "Seely, don't take my parking place!"

And who do you suppose it was?

Well, it was none other than Chris Miller - remember, we didn't have his number - and

he was taking his son to the ballgame.

Naturally, I jumped out of the car and told Chris of our dilemma. Needless to say, Chris agreed to help us and we quickly dressed him in straw hat and striped apron. Within 15 minutes, we were singing our first song.

Somehow, we pulled it off quite well. In fact, when Chris had to leave us for the Tigers, we still had 45 minutes to go on our contract.

We then performed as a Barbershop TRIO with the addition of my trusty Baritone Uke which I always haul around whenever we do a strolling gig.

Our unknowing contact at the Club was totally satisfied with our performance and, in fact, checked our availability for a future date.

Conclusion: John Wade's condition is AOK and he came home the following day.

But remember: when all else fails try prayer, it's better than chicken soup.

The return of 'Chapter Night:' Chorus tries club house

A beaming **Scott Houghton** walked into the clubhouse where an aging barmaid offered him a beer as Barbershopper **Mike Sullivan**, sitting with his son, called out Scott's name and invited him over. The friends talked, laughed then carried their beers into the adjoining hall where their chorus was gathering.

Mike Proffitt sat at the bar, eating a cheeseburger cooked up at the bar as four guys rang a chord. Long-time members who hadn't shown up in years were returning at the word that the "Fun Chapter" was making a concerted effort to "bring back those good old days" and revive traditions. that made Grosse Pointe "the fun Chapter."

"Now this is the Chapter I joined," Houghton said, as guys walked into the main dining hall of **Detroit Elks Club 34** on Harper Avenue and Sunnyside in St. Clair Shores. Houghton has been a member for 23 years but he has only attended chorus rehearsals occasionally in recent years.

Like nearly 30 of Grosse Pointe's 100 members and many Barbershoppers across **Pioneer**, Houghton is proud to be a dues-paying Barbershopper, a singer and a quartet man but is more interested in the Chapter and the fraternity of Barbershopping and less interested in chorus rehearsals. He was one of the dozens of Barbershoppers across the District missing the now defunct "Friday fun nights" and similar events. During this first try-out of the different venue, many of the guys stayed until 2 a.m., more than three hours after the chorus stopped rehearsing.

Grosse Pointe is bringing back monthly "Chapter Nights" and experimenting with different meeting places. Many Chapters rehearse in churches where choirs practice but many old Chapters originally met in hotels.

Detroit No. 1, the first Pioneer Chapter first convened at the old Book Cadillac Hotel. **Russ Seely** remembers joining the Society at a Chapter meeting held aboard the Boblo Boat.

Lansing Chapter responded to the calls for a return to "old time fun nights" with a May 2 "old fashioned" multi-Chapter get together that drew more than 65 men.

Starting April 29, Grosse Pointe began meeting at the Elks Club, a facility offering members two large banquet rooms as well as a complete bar, kitchen and dining facilities. The plan:

Put a greater focus on the Chapter and the fraternity that is Barbershopping so Chapter members can sing with the chorus, sing with quartets, eat, drink and just talk with their friends all in one location on one night.

For the April 29 meeting, Program Vice President **Dan Felix** asked members to bring the standard Chapter arrangements but also to bring their "favorite chestnut" so old songs that haven't been sung in ages could be revived.

Once a month, the last Tuesday of each month starting May 27, will be "Chapter Night" where chorus rehearsal will be shelved in honor of Chapter activities like quarteting, woodshedding, octet and tag singing, home-cooked meals and visits from other Chapters and quartets.

Meeting at an Elks Club also offers a new opportunity to introduce Barbershop to another fraternal organization, creating the possibility that some Elks may join Barbershopping while some Barbershoppers may join the **Please see Clubhouse. page 7.**



Scott Houghton (left) with buddies at Grosse Pointe's latest club venue. Many Barbershoppers across Pioneer have lamented the loss of "the good old days." Houghton and others hope to bring back those good old days.

What are we preserving?

By Al Bonney

Pioneer District President

Barbershop, like any musical style, lives, I think, in the performing.

Let me argue for the moment that printed music and recordings on the shelf are not Barbershop; they are paper and plastic. Music is sound and without sound you have no Barbershop.



I submit that we are about preserving our ability to perform Barbershop style music for appreciative audiences in our communities.

This seems to me to be self evident. Using this definition, the Chapter meeting is a means to an end, but a vital means because without the rehearsal we don't have a performance that is worth listening to, do we?

Continuing the thread, we find several other important issues if we are to preserve "our ability to perform Barbershop style music for appreciative audiences in our communities". Let's look at some of these requisites.

We need fun Chapter meetings and rehearsals. Who wants to come out every Tuesday night for a boring meeting? Getting prepared for a "Standing O" is a lot of work! Who will do all that work if the process isn't fun? Not me! -- We need to have continuing musical growth for our singers and directors so our musical

skills keep improving. Good coaching, effective schools and tools from the Society and the District are all examples of ways we keep our musical edge sharp and competitive.

Besides, good singers get bored quickly in sloppy, no-growth music programs.

-- We need to have enough men who can sing on the risers.

Nobody requires us to be Pavarotti or Pinza, but we need competent singers in our ensembles.

Without a regular stream of new singers coming into our ranks the normal flow of men out of the hobby will soon reduce the Chapter to ineffectiveness and finally death. -- We need to have resources in the Chapter that can support the needs of the Chapter.

Somebody has to purchase the music, hire the hall, set up the risers, print and sell the tickets, design the programs every week and arrange the details for chorus performances in the community. None of this happens by itself.

-- We need the love and camaraderie amongst ourselves that brings us together for a common and higher purpose.

The fundamental difference between us and anybody's community choir is our common purpose, group vision and commitment to that vision.

It is the love of the music, the pursuit and our brothers that brings us back week after week and, ultimately, to the question of preservation.

So what are we preserving?

We are preserving our ability to sing Barbershop for appreciative audiences in our

communities; that is the goal -- the end result.

The things we better make sure are alive and well are what makes the audiences appreciative and the performances possible: The weekly Chapter meetings!

Any of you who have received one or more of my frequent e-mails have noticed that I have added another slogan to my signature: "If It Is Barbershop . . . It Happens In The Chapter." The point is that in my view this is what we are preserving.

During my brief Presidency alone we have closed three Chapters in the Pioneer District.

Think it can't happen to you? That's what these Chapters thought.

Back in their hey-day life was all roses and ringing chords.

Nobody thought about preservation when things were going well.

It is easy to ignore tomorrow when today is full of fun and promise.

Acquiring an appreciative audience, competent director and new members for a Chapter with seven guys who are too old and can't sing any more is a lot tougher than in a chorus of 40 guys with a fun program full of love and exciting music.

Preserving Barbershop is not an inward looking activity. We sing for our audiences.

THEY are our stakeholders. Chapters who do it for themselves may be destined to die because there is no preservation going on.

Chapters who believe they are stewards of our art form and have a responsibility to

participate in this preservation thing understand this responsibility.

The Society and the District exist to support the Chapter efforts to preserve themselves and the art form.

Contests, music schools, coach training, publications, training sessions and conventions all play a part in the life of the vibrant growing and preservation minded Chapter.

Members belong to and pay for membership in this larger organization because they want the advantage of these tools and resources.

Chapter leadership who fails to understand why they belong to SPPEBSQSA fail to understand the most fundamental value of their membership: that providing a vibrant and fun Chapter meeting for today's members insures that tomorrow there will be appreciative audiences for them to entertain.

This, of course, does not come automatically -- you have to work for it.

"IF IT IS Barbershop . . . IT HAPPENS IN THE Chapters."

I came upon this not because it sounded cool but because it is true.

The singing takes place in the Chapters, and so does the preservation. If your grandchildren are to be Barbershoppers and if your chorus is to be thrilling audiences in 2050 as they are today, YOUR Chapter will be doing the preserving.

IT IS, TRULY, GREAT TO BE A Barbershopper . . . IN PIONEER

Convention news: Going to Montreal for International?

To register for the 2003 International Convention June 29-July 6, Montreal, Quebec, call 800.876.7464 x8462 or go online at <http://www.spebsqsa.org/montreal>

Traveling to the Montreal convention shouldn't be a hassle -- and it won't be if you're properly prepared. Check out this web site for a wealth of useful information: www.neDistrict.org/montreal/international



Stop the waste!

By **Raleigh Bloch**

Society Board Member

It seems that we all say, "I hate to waste things" and yet we do.

Of course, that's not true of Barbershop, is it?

I mean we don't waste anything in Barbershop, do we? How can we, there isn't anything to waste?

We sing, what's to waste?

When I stop singing, I've used all the notes, so I didn't waste any.

How about coaching? Many individuals, quartets and choruses get coaching and then don't practice what the coach suggests. Hmm, that's a waste. Some don't use the coaches at all. More waste.

When we're on the risers and the director is trying to get something across to us and we're talking and then he or she has to repeat it, isn't that a waste?

Our great membership teams, from Kenosha, the Society level, the District and the Chapter are working hard to help us turn around our membership decline.

They have come up with dynamite programs that work in recruiting new members. They are now holding "Membership Summits" to help us even more, but often we don't take advantage of them or follow their lead. What a waste.

We go to COTS and many times don't follow what is taught. Worse yet, the trained instructors are there and we don't even go. More waste.

We have trained Chapter Counselors that can help or find help for just about any kind of problem we have. Yet often we don't even give them a try. What a waste.

The **Standing Ovation Program (SOP)** is a great program, with trained SOP coaches to help us to put our best foot forward in our public performances. It's a significantly under-utilized resource. Isn't that a waste?

I could go on, but this is sounding awful negative and that's not the kind of article I care to write.

The point is, we have tremendous resources available to us, from our staff in Kenosha that works for us, to each of us individually. They have answers to just about any problem you can come up with and they want to help you, your Chapter and your District. Isn't that neat? That's the positive part about it.

So let's not be wasteful, be efficient and take advantage of the many, many resources we have available. We'll be better for it.

Marshall King: Veteran radio actor, part of 'Lone Ranger'

By **Clay Jones**

Past District President

"Ghost stories... weird stories...and murders too! The hermit knows of them all!"

With that chilling introduction, while winds whistled through the cave and wolves howled menacingly in the background, those of us born before 1940 would sit glued to our radio, listening to "The Hermit's Cave," part of a series broadcast over WXYZ radio emanating from the Maccabees Building in Detroit during the Depression and World War II.

Among that wonderful group of actors was **King (Kingsley H.) Page**, sometimes known by his stage name of Marshall King. His voice was not only instantly recognizable as the voice of the Hermit, but he performed many other roles on shows such as "The Lone Ranger," "The Green Hornet" and "Challenge of the Yukon."

On "The Lone Ranger," he would often play Dan Reed, the Lone Ranger's teenage nephew. A few minutes later he would become a cattle rustler or an Indian chief or deputy.

During an entertainment career spanning more than 70 years, King worked with famous performers like **Jimmy Stewart, Helen Hayes** and **Michael Landon** and had friends like **Danny Thomas**. He retired as a purchasing agent from Eastern Michigan University but remained faithful to acting and directing for most of his life.

He was a member of the **Wayne Wonderland Chorus** where he wrote produced and emceed a number of Barbershop shows for the Wayne Chapter.



While a Wayne member, he devised a method to get the audience to quiet down and take their seats before the opening curtain of a Chapter show.

As the houselights started to dim, a young couple in the center aisle of row five would start to argue, at first subtly

While a Wayne member, he devised a method to get the audience to quiet down and take their seats before the opening curtain of a Chapter show.

but gradually increasing in volume until after a few moments they were yelling heatedly at each other. The stunned audience sat in embarrassed silence while the argument grew in intensity.

Finally, the woman rose from her seat and stormed up the aisle yelling that

she wasn't going to sit there and take that anymore" whereupon the gentleman raced up the aisle after her proclaiming that it wasn't her fault and he was leaving too."

At that point, Mr. Page appeared at the podium and greeted the audience with, "Good evening ladies and gentlemen. I'm King Page, your emcee for the evening and you have just witnessed the opening to Act One of Noel Coward's "Blyeth Spirit."

The audience roared with laughter, realizing they had just been "had."

Following a near fatal heart attack in 1970, he moved to Zephyrhills, Fla., where he became active in radio and community theater again. He was past president of the **Harmony Hills Barbershop Chorus** and active in many local civic and community service organizations as well as past president of the Corner Stage Players where he wrote and directed several plays.

Following a courageous 27-month battle with cancer and many complications, Kingsley took a final curtain call and exited to a different venue on Nov. 7, 2002. He leaves a wife, Marian; two daughters; two stepsons; three grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and a sister.

OFFICIAL SCORING SUMMARY, SPEBSQSA, Inc., International Quartet

Pioneer District, Quartet Finals, Lansing, Michigan, April 26, 2003

<i>Finals</i>	<i>Song</i>	<i>MUS</i>	<i>PRS</i>	<i>SNG</i>	<i>Subt</i>	<i>Prev</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Avg</i>
1 Power Play	When There's Love At Home	178	177	169	1052	1042	2094	87.2 %
	Taking A Chance On Love	176	181	171				
2 Infinity	Moonlight And Roses	145	152	142	881	866	1747	72.8
	All Dressed Up With A Broken Heart	148	154	140				
3 Crossfire	Don't Leave Me Mammy	139	147	141	848	839	1687	70.3
	This Little Band	136	149	136				
4 Party of Four	Aura Lee/Love Me Tender	136	147	135	844	835	1679	70.0
	I'm Beginning To See The Light	142	153	131				
5 Fermata Nowhere	Louise	138	153	141	861	815	1676	69.8
	Nearness Of You	134	156	139				
6 Four Man Fishin' Tackle Choir	Lazy River	135	147	144	841	819	1660	69.2
	I'm Always Chasing Rainbows (Parody)	131	144	140				
7 Metro Chord Authority	Love Letters	120	137	132	770	786	1556	64.8
	Alabama Bound	122	133	126				
8 Chordiology	Love To Hear That Old Barbershop Style	127	129	133	776	772	1548	64.5
	Each Time I Fall In Love	126	131	130				
<i>Semi-Finals April 25,</i>	<i>Song</i>	<i>MUS</i>	<i>PRS</i>	<i>SNG</i>	<i>Subt</i>	<i>Prev</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Avg</i>
1 Power Play	Sunshine Of Your Smile	175	179	172			1042	86.8
	Side By Side	170	174	172				
2 Infinity	There Goes My Heart	142	154	145			866	72.2 1
	All Of Me	137	147	141				
3 Crossfire	Don't Break The Heart That Loves You	135	143	141			839	69.9
	Do You Really Really Love Me?	134	144	142				
4 Party of Four	Fortune In Dreams	134	147	141			835	69.6
	Jump Shout Boogie	137	148	128				
5 Four Man Fishin' Tackle Choir	Rainbow Round My Shoulder	122	150	137			819	68.2
	Fisherman From Michigan	124	149	137				
6 Fermata Nowhere	Alexander's Ragtime Band	132	137	137			815	67.9
	I Dream Of You	136	139	134				
7 Metro Chord Authority	Tie Me To Your Apron Strings Again	120	151	127			786	65.5
	Sam, The Old Accordion Man	120	147	121				
8 Chordiology	Ro-Ro-Rollin' Along	127	132	128			772	64.3
	Old Covered Bridge	128	134	123				
9 Border Crossing	Let The Rest Of the World Go By	123	140	130			767	63.9
	Ain't Misbehavin	116	135	123				
10 Harmony Transfer	I'm Beginning To See The Light	118	124	119			724	60.3
	All Dressed Up With A Broken Heart	122	127	114				
11 Night Shift	The Showboat Came To Town	120	120	122			723	60.2
	Am I Wasting My Time	118	119	124				
	Each I Time To Dance	113	117	126			704	58.7
	I'd Give A Million Tomorrows	113	121	114				
13 Singing With Dad	There's A Rainbow Round My Shoulder	114	114	118			693	57.8
	Let The Rest Of The World Go By	115	113	119				
14 Four Got To Shave	Nighttime In Dixieland	113	116	115			678	56.5
	All That I Ask Of You Is Love	106	117	111				
15 Sufficient Grounds	Back In The Old Routine	107	113	104			636	53.0
	Let The Rest Of The World Go By	104	107	101				
16 Today's Special	With A Song In My Heart	101	110	100			625	52.1
	Paddlin' Madelin' Home	102	110	102				
Quartets scoring 1824 points or greater qualify for the International Quartet Contest next July.								



Detroit-Oakland Chapter invites you all, men and ladies, to come join us for the 38th annual

RETURN OF THE JUG NIGHT

Honoring the Pioneer District International Quartet Representatives of 2003.

Date: Friday, June 6, 2003

Time: Doors open at 7:00 p.m.

Buffet Dinner is at 8:00 p.m.
Entertainment follows.

Location: Stitt Post #232 American Legion, 23850 Military in Dearborn Hts (1 block east of Telegraph Rd, 1 block south of Warren Ave.)

Cost: \$10 (US) per person door fee includes meal and drinks (beer, coffee, soft drinks) including \$1 of the fee going toward the Jug fund..

Contact: Earl Berry, (313) 277-7130, earlsing@dhoh.org



Legendary singers join Lansing show

When the word went out that **Lansing** had booked the legendary **Boston Common** for its show, Barbershoppers from across Pioneer bought their tickets quickly.

Young teens like the **Lucky Clovers**, a Sweet Ad quartet of 14-year-olds, were quick to come to the show so they could sing at the afterglow. Many others lined up to sing with their heroes, the 1980 champs who "wrote the book" when it comes to Barbershop singing.

Above left: The **Boston Common** sing like no one else. Left: **Matt Seely** woodsheds tenor with the **Common**. Below left, a mass chorus at the afterglow and one of the featured quartets from the Chapter show, which featured patriotic songs. Below, the **Lucky Clovers** quartet and a handsome 15-year-old Barbershopper ham it up for the camera.



CLUBHOUSE: Chapters try bringing back "fun nights" to lure back in-active members

Continued from Page 3.

Elks, aiding both organizations.

The Chapter had been paying \$50 per night to rent the **Grosse Pointe Neighborhood Club** but the Elks were willing to invite the Barbershoppers for free, knowing Barbershoppers will visit the bar and use the facilities on an otherwise slow Tuesday night. Through such partnerships two organizations may be able to help each other.

Pioneer District President Al Bonney has often called on Chapters to get more involved with their communities and other arts or nonprofit groups to be less insulated.

Will such a collaboration work? Will the change hurt singing quality or scare away members interested in strictly singing in a conventional meeting room with just risers and chairs? Backers think the focus on the Chapter, the club as opposed to the chorus, harkens to the first meetings called by Society founder **O.C. Cash** in 1938 at an Oklahoma City hotel.

But will it work in 2003 when members are quarteting less, aging, drinking more bottled water than beer and going to bed early? Only time will tell.

Every performer needs an outside set of ears District offers a host of coaching opportunities

By Dan Bezaire

Question: What percentage of our International Contest Representatives (chorus and quartets) have received outside coaching?



Answer: 100 percent. All. Every one of them.

A question often asked in our Society, usually half-jokingly is, "How many in your quartet?". The answer had better be at least five. Every single performer needs an outside set of ears to evaluate and suggest improvements, no matter what level of performance.

Luckily in Pioneer we have a number of ways to get this coaching. Our Pioneer District web site, for example, has a list of coaches from right in our District. These people would be only too glad to give you what assistance you need.

Some of them may charge a small fee; others want only travel expenses. There is also a wealth of talent from outside the District. Naturally travel costs will be much higher, but again there is often no fee.

We also have in-District functions. Our Chorus Coaching Clinics, held in Gaylord and Lansing this year, have been

extremely well-received.

Ten Pioneer choruses and one quartet worked with some of the Society's and the Districts best coaches. Just ask anyone from Traverse City, Gaylord, The Soo, DOC, Macomb, Lansing, Holland, Huron Valley, Alpena, or Gratiot County.

Bush League, also in Gaylord, will offer fledgling quartets a chance to compete, and receive great coaching sessions. **Harmony Round-Up**, held in May at MSU, has a significant quartet-coaching element.

If you are in a new quartet, or even the same old quartet, you can benefit from coaching. There

is a pre-requisite: you have to be willing and able to try different things. That makes sense. If you always do what you've always done, you're always gonna get what you've always got!

You may also find that Coach A does not work particularly well with your group. That doesn't mean that you can't be coached, or that that coach isn't very good. Keep trying until you find one that is best for your group.

Singing is fun; singing well is even more fun!

Please feel free to contact me if you want to hook up with a coach for your group. My e-mail address is dbezaire@wincom.net.

Harmony Round – Up 2003

CANCELLED due to lack of interest. Hope to bring it back next year!

May 16-18

Michigan State University

Harmony Round-Up is a chance for all Pioneer Barbershoppers to improve their craft. We offer courses that will improve your singing, allow you to be a better director, and to learn more about our wonderful hobby.

Classes in:

Vocal Production

Sight Reading

Tags

Repertoire

Music Theory for Barbershoppers

How To Be An Emcee/Spokesman *

Woodshedding

and more

Cost: (same as last year)

Regular, directors \$110

4 meals, accommodations

Profile of a Quartet champ: The long and winding road to finding Barbershopping

By Al Fisk

Quartet Champions Association Secretary

Scott Risely has been involved in vocal music in both study and performance since the age of 9.

He began his singing career as a member of the Youth Choir at Bethesda-By-The-Sea Episcopal Church in Palm Beach, Fla., and continued singing in the youth and adult choirs there for 14 years.

More than just a community church choir, this professional group performs a regular schedule of concerts and has a number of the top vocal musicians in the Palm Beach County area.

Scott began his studies in the field of music in high school, where he had his first taste of the Barbershop sound.

The school had a large collection of music donated by various individuals, and some of the tunes were standard Barbershop arrangements including "Wild Irish Rose" and "Sincere."

Scott immediately fell in love with the sound, and formed his first, unofficial group call the **Sour Notes**.

Still unaware of the existence of the Society, Scott's group performed for some high school functions and competed in the Florida State High School Solo and Ensemble Festival, where they scored a "Superior" in Ensemble and an "Excellent" in

Barbershop (supposedly because they told one too many jokes).

The group continued until their members' graduation in

leaving behind his parents, two brothers and sister.

The youngest of the family, he was the first to move away



Photo by Gary Simon

Scott, second from right, sings with Crossfire during afterglows at Spring Convention.

1991, and Scott's attention turned towards the opera stage.

He continued his studies in vocal music at Palm Beach Atlantic University in West Palm Beach, and with the help of several contacts there, he became a member of the **Palm Beach Opera Chorus** under the direction of the late **Maestro Anton Guadagno**.

Throughout his six years in the company, he was privileged enough to sing not only as a member of the chorus, but also in supporting roles for numerous operas including *Il Trovatore*, *Othello*, *Madame Butterfly* and *Salome*.

Scott moved to southeast Michigan in the winter of 1998,

from home on a permanent basis, but still keeps in close contact with the family.

The move, for business purposes, gave Scott the opportunity to explore other avenues of entertainment.

One day, when boredom struck at work, Scott's Internet search turned up some sound clips of a Barbershop quartet called the **Buffalo Bills**.

Already familiar with their sound, and a lover of "The Music Man," Scott decided to do a little more searching on the subject and found a local chorus, the **Harmony Heritage Chorus** of Macomb County, that was having a guest night that week.

He decided to see what it

was all about, and was asked by **Gary Washburn**, then president, on his entrance, "You can read music, right?"

His membership began that very evening.

One "fateful" night, after rehearsal, Scott was approached by two Canadians and Robb Smith, a dual Macomb/Grosse Pointe member, and a few tags were sung.

The sound was so natural that he was approached that very week to form a quartet which was later to become **Crossfire**.

The group has since entered a number of contests and become the **2002 Pioneer District Champions**.

Their hope is to continue their climb to the top in search of the illusive Gold Medals from the International office.

Aside from quartetting, Scott enjoys bowling on a number of leagues, two with **Robb Smith**, the tenor for Crossfire.

He has also been known to play hockey from time to time, and enjoys other indoor and outdoor sports.

His employment with SER Solutions, a local software company, takes him to a wide variety of places both nationally and internationally, and he has enjoyed the traveling immensely.

He now resides in Clinton Township, further solidifying his status as a Michigander.

Brian Kaufman

Bruce LaMarte



ACAPPELLA
QUARTET

Craig Pollard

248-474-1485

caponyx@entropytech.com

Doug Morgan

Crossfire

Robb
Brian
Rich
Scott

A Barbershop Quartet

Get caught in the sights of this sound!

Contact: Robb Smith @ (586) 465 - 3760

or Brian McDougall @ (519) 245 - 5747

www.crossfirequartet.com

**OFFICIAL SCORING SUMMARY, SPEBSQSA, Inc.,
International Quartet Preliminaries and District Chorus**
Convention
Pioneer District, Chorus Finals, Lansing, Michigan, April 26, 2003

Contest Legend: 1=Pioneer District District Chorus, 2=Pioneer District Plateau A Chorus, 3=Pioneer District Plateau AA Chorus, 4=Pioneer

District Plateau AAA Chorus, 5=Pioneer District Plateau AAAA Chorus, 6=Pioneer District Plateau AAAAA Chorus

Chapter	Song	MUS	PRS	SNG	Total	Avg	Cnt
1 Huron Valley, (1,5)	<i>Each Time I Fall In Love</i>	137	149	148	848	70.7	37
	<i>Rock-A-Bye Your Baby With A Dixie Melody</i>	130	144	140			
2 Kalamazoo, (1,5)	<i>I've Been Working On The Railroad</i>	124	144	141	803	66.9	38
	<i>When The Midnight Choo-Choo Leaves</i>	122	139	133			
3 Grand Rapids, (1,6)	<i>For The Sake Of Auld Lang Syne</i>	124	137	134	774	64.5	26
	<i>Great Lakes Chorus After You've Gone/Who's Sorry Now?</i>	118	136	125			
4 Grosse Pointe, (1,6)	<i>Can You Tame Wild Wimmen?</i>	121	133	136	765	63.8	42
	<i>I'd Give A Million Tomorrows</i>	114	131	130			
5 Pontiac-Waterford, (1,5)	<i>Get Away From It All</i>	109	135	133	764	63.7	40
	<i>Big Chief Chorus Don't Blame Me (Parody)</i>	115	139	133			
6 Lansing (1,5)	<i>From The First Hello</i>	123	128	132	757	63.1	30
	<i>Sentimental Journey</i>	118	132	124			
7 Traverse City (1,5)	<i>Those Riverboat Songs</i>	113	124	130	734	61.2	34
	<i>Cherry Capital Memories</i>	116	129	122			
8 Holland, (1,4)	<i>If The Rest Of The World Don't Want You</i>	120	125	119	712	59.3	28
	<i>Holland Windmill Chorus All Aboard For Dixie Land</i>	114	120	114			
9 Gratiot County, (1,4)	<i>Everything Old Is New Again</i>	112	126	118	709	59.1	24
	<i>Little Man, You've Had A Busy Day</i>	114	122	117			
10 Michiana Metro, (1,2)	<i>Bright Was The Night</i>	114	121	117	696	58.0	14
	<i>Lighthouse Chorus Hello My Baby</i>	115	118	111			
11 Saginaw Bay (1,3)	<i>Old St. Louie</i>	113	120	117	691	57.6	24
	<i>Harbor Sounds Sweet Georgia Brown</i>	107	123	111			
12 Wayne, (1,4)	<i>Hello My Baby</i>	112	118	112	680	56.7	23
	<i>You Keep Coming Back Like A Song</i>	105	121	112			
13 Windsor, (1,5)	<i>Back In The Old Routine</i>	114	104	115	652	54.3	32
	<i>You Made Me Love You</i>	107	105	107			
14 Hillsdale, (1,4)	<i>What'll I Do?</i>	97	106	112	615	51.2	32
	<i>Powder Your Face With Sunshine</i>	91	106	103			
15 Rochester, (1,3)	<i>Sunny Side Up</i>	90	104	99	589	49.1	18
	<i>I Found A Million Dollar Baby</i>	92	103	101			

Huron Valley, MI is the District Chorus Champion.
Michiana Metro, MI is the Plateau A Champion.
Saginaw Bay, MI is the Plateau AA Champion.
Holland, MI is the Plateau AAA Champion.
Kalamazoo, MI is the Plateau AAAA Champion.
Grand Rapids, MI is the Plateau AAAAA Champion.

Singing with style



Photos by Gary Simon and George Lorimer

Top: A beaming Lynne Peirce leads Huron Valley to its first District Chorus Championship
Below: Kalamazoo finished second with its railroad numbers
Left: Pontiac-Waterford as the "Big Chief Chorus" with Chris Miller in Indian Chief garb and the follow-up with Big Chief.
Below: Huron Valley's Party of Four quartet.



Hurrah for InterChapter activities!

By Doran McTaggart

VP Chapter Support/Leadership

The Pioneer District is very fortunate to have many interChapter events that spice up our Barbershopping year. Many of these are annual happenings that only death would keep us from attending.



For decades we have taken part in the **Chet Oonk Night** in **Holland**, the Bush League in **Gaylord**, and the Woodshed Contest in Pontiac-Waterford meeting hall.

Other Chapters have hosted special nights like an octet contest, a Crazy Kwartet

Kontest, a quartet jamboree, and a host of other enjoyable special nights that you wouldn't want to miss.

Detroit-Oakland's Canada Night and **Windsor's Uncle Sam Night** give us the opportunity to strengthen border harmony.

The same two Chapters have two fund-raisers in June to offer financial support to our quartets and chorus as they carry the Pioneer hopes and dreams to the International Contests.

These interChapter get-togethers are the **Return of the Jug Night** and the **Pioneer District Send-Off Show**.

Pioneer District Send-Off Show
WE HAVE MOVED! WE HAVE MOVED!

For many years this premier

event has been held at the Caboto Club in Windsor. We have changed our location for several reasons.

The main one is that we will have the entire facility to ourselves.

There will be no band booming throughout the night. We will enjoy hearing the quartets and choruses. The net proceed will probably be \$1,000 US more. Tickets with maps on the back will be available to Chapters at the Spring Convention.

The Send-Off Show will be Friday, June 13 at the Hellenic Centre, 1019 Highway #3, Windsor, Ontario. Doors and cash bar open at 6:30 p.m. Pasta and salad will be served at 7:45 p.m. A show follows dinner

including our reps, Chapter choruses, and a 250-voice mass chorus. Same price as last year: \$16.50.

The Hellenic Centre is easy to find! When you exit the Ambassador Bridge, stay on Huron Church Road for about six miles.

Landmarks are St. Clair College on the left and Windsor Crossings (factory outlets) on the right. After Howard Avenue the road splits with 401 London going left and #3 Leamington going to the right. Keep to the right and go less than 100 yards to Outer Drive.

Turn right and you'll end up in a huge parking lot at the Hellenic Centre. See you there!

Few know the rules of Society competitions

The Judge's Corner

By Ed Fritzen

Pioneer District Vice President of Contests and Judging

As I write this latest article for our Troubadour, I'm up to my eyeballs in making the final preparations for our Spring Contests in Lansing.

By the time you read this, the Spring Contest will be history, and we'll have a new District chorus champion, as well as quartets representing our District both on the International Stage and in the Collegiate Quartet Contest.

Good luck to all our International Competitors! We'll all be cheering for you!!

I would like to thank all the competitors this spring for using the Society's Contest Wizard entry form.

There were only a couple of minor problems, and for the most part, it went well. This will be the standard way to enter all the District contests in the future.

After you've done it a couple of times, it will be a snap. It does make my work easier, as well as that of our Contest Administrators.

Just as a reminder, all competitors are required to abide by the contest rules, and I'm wondering just how many competitors have read the rules regarding the eligibility of quartets, choruses, and members.

In case you're interested in having your own personal copy of the contest rules, you can download them from the Society's web site. You can find them at the following url: <http://www.spebsqsa.org/web/groups/public/documents/webassets/doccenter.hcst>

It would be wise to read the rules every now and then so as to avoid problems

which might otherwise spoil your contest experience. As an example, I would like to point out Article I.A.4:

"A member may compete with more than one quartet only in any division or District contest."

Since our Spring Quartet contest is an International Preliminary Quartet Contest, and not a District contest, a man can only sing in one quartet for this contest.

This has been a point of confusion, and I just want to clear it up. Of course, one can sing in as many quartets as physically possible at our District Quartet Contest, held during our Fall convention.

If you have any questions regarding the contest rules, just drop me a line. It's better to ask before you hit the contest stage!

Quartets: Want to make \$\$\$ and sing in more shows??

Advertise in the Troubadour for just \$13 per ad or \$55 for a full YEAR's worth of ads reaching every Pioneer Barbershopper!

What marketing and PR VP does

By **Greg Humbel**

Pioneer VP of Marketing and Public Relations

What does the District's Marketing and Public Relations Vice President do for you at the Chapter level?

Good question! Allow me to answer that for you.

My goal this year is to have goals and projects that have results that can be measured.

Looking back to the first of the year and forward at least through the spring convention, I have had many projects in the fire:

-- Searched for and found a new editor for the Troubadour.

-- Completed a new marketing section on the Pioneer web site, which is a great resource for your Chapter.

-- Establish a date for a mass sing of the National Anthem at a Detroit Tigers game.



-- Working with the **Macomb** Chapter to put up a Barbershop booth at the Michigan State Fair.

-- Introducing a "big screen" at the Pioneer District competitions, another Pioneer first.

-- Working on some unusual Public Relations for the convention and the birthday of the Society.

-- Worked with **Huron Valley** to establish Pioneer Gear, a line of District apparel to be available at the convention's Barbershop shop.

What do I do for your Chapter? I create opportunities for awareness of Barbershopping in general and develop resources for your Chapter to promote public image and awareness in the individual communities.

The Chapters should take advantage of the District efforts in marketing and public relations at the Chapter level. If your Chapter doesn't have a marketing person signed on to the e-mail list,

M&PR@yahoogroups.com, you are missing an incredible chance to network with some very talented people at the District and Society level. A lot of information is available to you. Just send me your e-mail and I'll sign you up.

The marketing button on the District web site is a one-stop shop for all your Chapter marketing needs: Logos, letterheads, marketing ideas, links to various areas on the Society site.

The goal in building this site was to have everything that you need in a very convenient place.

What does your District marketing guy do for your Chapter? A lot or little, depending on whether you choose to use him.

Guys, I get paid the big bucks; please contact me for any help you may need or with any questions you may have. I'm here to assist. E-mail me at

ghumbel@comcast.net or phone me at 313-790-4598.

Dare to be different: We must change, grow

By **Brian Dunckel**

Pioneer VP Membership Development

Like all of us on the information highway, I get LOTS of e-mail.

Some of it is personal, some are the forwarded jokes and others are the dreaded spam, but the ones I enjoy the most are the Barbershop e-mails I get.

The Chapter member that is looking for a Chapter to visit while on vacation, or the guy with a dues renewal

question, or even the Chapter Development Vice President with a question about a Society membership program.

I recently got an e-mail from Society President **Roger Lewis** and the "signature" held my attention.

It said, "All progress is dependent on progress at the Chapter level".

That is exactly why we in Pioneer created the concept of the Membership Summit, (and I am happy to report that three other Districts have held a Summit and several others are planning theirs).

No matter how many

new recruiting programs are created at the Society level, or how many District sponsored events are held, the bottom line is this- until a Chapter decides that the issue of growth is important to them, there isn't going to be much growth!

Oh sure, I know we get the guy from time to time, who manages to find our Chapter and joins us in harmony, but without a concentrated effort towards making growth happen we are going to remain about where we are.

Doing the same things will continue to give us the same results! We

have all been in Chapter meetings where the "membership guy" says - next month we are having a guest night.

A couple of weeks later we are told that in two weeks we are having a guest night, and the following week we are reminded that guest night is next week, but sadly little happens.

We MUST start to do what we were challenged to do at the Summit.

Look at the proven programs available from the Society, talk to your Membership Team and Chapter Counselor, talk to other Chapters about their successes, then DARE

TO BE DIFFERENT and make the plans (then implement them) to MAKE GROWTH HAPPEN!

The March membership Summary show 12 Pioneer Chapters that have yet to take the first step towards membership growth for their Chapter or our District by getting a new or reinstated member.

We presently trail both our Society recommended goal and far behind the goal that Chapter Development VP's set for themselves.

Life is change,



WANTED, Troubadour business manager.

The Troubadour needs a new business manager to help with advertising sales. Like everything else in Barbershopping, this has to be something you enjoy cause the money will NOT follow. Want to help? Contact Troubadour Editor Joe Serwach at JSerwach@aol.com.

Recruiting the next generation



Left, Pioneer District President Al Bonney teaching young people about Barbershop. Above: High school girls at the Michigan Educators's Convention at the University of Michigan watch in amusement as young male singers are taught one of the best places to ring a chord is a bathroom.

Life is good... in Pioneer!

By Dave Anderson
Pioneer VP YMIH

Working with young people is very rewarding. Just read my article in the previous issue of the **Troubadour** and you can feel the excitement we all had teaching those tags and watching those young faces light up when the chords rang!

The **Michigan Music Educator's Convention** was another roaring success with our booth and a special program presented by **Bill Rashleigh**.

We now have a special week for Bill to visit schools in Michigan,



starting the week of May 11, where he will spread the fun news of using Barbershop in the vocal music program.

A big "thank you" to **Raleigh Bloch** for setting up the western side of the state.

We are now ready to host the third annual **A Cappella Blast!** to be held May 16-18 at MSU in conjunction with our own **Pioneer Harmony Round Up**.

It is with great pleasure that we announce the addition of **Jamie Carey** to our educational staff.

His teaching background, music skills, quartet and chorus experience, plus his fine sense of humor will be a real plus to our team.

We will also have Bill Rashleigh with us Friday night to help do voice placement and to also present his very entertaining program.

What we need for you to do is to contact all the high school vocal music teachers in

your area and get them to attend with their young male singers.

We also would encourage your Chapter to help pay for some of the \$40 fee for them to attend. If you missed your chance to do this in 2003, then start planning now for 2004.

We have also received a \$5,000 grant from the Society's **Harmony Foundation** to help subsidize the cost of this fun weekend for the young men. As your Chapter raises money to send in to the Foundation, please keep in mind the good things that this money is doing right here in Pioneer.

There are a lot of really super things happening in Pioneer right now and we had a fantastic board meeting to keep the momentum building.

Please look around and ask yourself: "What can I do to make our great hobby even better?" Then "Just do it".

Yes, life is good in Pioneer!

Help wanted: Support needed for new extension site, future Chapters

Jackson, Ludington and Clare areas seen as areas for potential 'missing piece'

One of our District goals for 2003 is to license a new extension site (with the hopes that it will become a full fledged Chapter in the future). We have explored several areas, but as yet have not found the right components to start the process. The Jackson and Ludington areas have individuals who are hopeful that a Chapter will materialize, but they are not willing to undertake the process of making a new Chapter happen.

We have done preliminary work in the Clare area and think it could be the missing link between the northern Chapters and those downstate, but we have no catalyst there either. Do you know of anyone in those areas who might be that "go to guy" we need? Do you know of another area that you think might support a Chapter and even better, do you know of a man to be our spark in that area?

If so, please contact Brian Duncel, District Vice President of Chapter Development and let him know where and whom might be of assistance as we seek to grow our District in the area of new Chapters as well.

Philatoga TownshipAward-Winning
Barbershop Quartet

Contact: Gary Nitz
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1998 Pioneer District Quartet Champions

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Kerry

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A BARBERSHOP QUARTET

Jim Jay Steve Herb

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CHAMPS: Power Play, Huron Valley prevail

Continued from Page 1

with 1,676 points.

In the chorus contest, Huron Valley scored 848 points, 70.7 percent, with 37 men on stage. The Chapter served as hosts for the Lansing convention, running the Barbershop Shop, setting things up *and* entering and winning the contest. Fifteen choruses competed.

Under the direction of **Lynne Peirce**, the chorus has been expanding and came dressed in snappy black formal wear, singing "Each time I fall in love" and "Rock a bye your baby with a Dixie melody."

Kalamazoo finished in second place with 803 points or 66.9 percent. Director **Ed Fritzen** had his 38 men dressed in railroad costumes and had a train crossing sign set up as the chorus sang two railroad-related songs.

In third place, **Grand Rapids** scored 774 points (64.5 percent) with just 26 men on stage, proving large numbers are not required to rack up big scores. Fourth place went to the **Grosse Pointe Lakeshore Chorus**, which had the largest turn-out of any Pioneer chorus, putting 42 men on stage who scored 765 points (63.8 percent).

Just one point behind in fifth place, **Pontiac-Waterford** "Big Chief" **Chris Miller** won the most laughs as well as applause of support for the **Big Chief Chorus'** comedic entry. As Society President **Roger Lewis** introduced Pontiac, tom-tom drums could be heard pounding from the auditorium.

Then Miller walked out in full "Big Chief" Indian dress. The curtains opened and the full Big Chief Chorus stood dressed as chefs near a sign that said "Big Chef" chorus and Miller mocked surprise at being out-of-kilter with his men. The crowd roared as they went into a cooking-oriented rendition of "Let's get away from it all."

Miller dropped his Indian garb and became a chef, only to find his men now dressed as Indians with their sign changed back to "Big Chief Chorus. Under Miller's leadership with his focus on fun, the once tiny Pontiac Chapter has grown rapidly to more than 60 men (40 were on stage for contest) as the music scores have climbed in tandem.

Rounding out the Top 10 finishers were **Lansing, Traverse City, Holland, Gratiot County** and **Michiana Metro**. The other competing choruses were **Saginaw Bay, Wayne, Windsor, Hillsdale and Rochester**.



Photos by Gary Simon and George Lorimer

Top: Power Play sings with style.
Middle: Infinity was just 77 points shy of the 1,824 needed to go to International.
Above : Metro Chord Authority singing in the finals.



Pioneer schedules directing workshops to sharpen skills

By Steve Foster

*Pioneer District
VP Chorus Director
Development*

On March 22, the **Holland Chapter** hosted our **Chorus Director Workshop Intensive (CDWI)**.

If you are a front-line director and have not attended one of these sessions, I hope you plan to soon.

I was not a participant in this workshop, however, I did observe and came away with a totally new respect for our District directors.

These guys took a Saturday from their schedules and spent it working on their skills without any hesitation whatsoever.

The first half of the session, the trainers and directors spend in a round table discussion and the directors are asked specific questions which allow the trainers to hypothesize where

each attendee might need work.

What impressed me was they were right on.

When each attendee stood and directed for the first time, they were treated with respect then worked on specific skills needing room for improvement.

Once each attendee directed the small chorus consisting of the trainers, remaining attendees and myself, we broke for lunch.

After lunch, a small chorus of about 20 Joe Barbershoppers assembled on the risers.

Each attendee directed the chorus through a full song. The directors were coached throughout the song by the trainers all the while they were video-taped.

As each attendee completed his

session, he and one of the trainers went to a different room and watched his video.

Once all five directors completed the first cycle, the process started all over again.

I knew the CDWI was a success as I had dinner with the trainers **Tom Hawkins** and **Eric Jackson**.

However, the comments I heard from each director solidified my assumption that the Society and our District have a winning program for our directors and assistant directors.

Mike Oonk, who directs the **Grand Haven Chapter of Sweet Adeline's** and has been to many of the workshop tracts for our sisters in Harmony, said: "This was the most intense training session I have ever participated in."

We have

scheduled two more CDWI's this year April 12, hosted by **Detroit-Oakland Chapter** and June 14, hosted by **Huron Valley**.

There are also workshops during the **Harmony Round-Up** May 16-18 for any Joe Barbershopper who has wanted to direct but was not given the opportunity at MSU.

If you are a front-line director or assistant director, I encourage you to attend one of the CDWI workshops.

I will also schedule two **CDWI-2** sessions during the latter part of the year for directors who have attended **CDWI-1**.

Please feel free to contact me regarding any questions concerning these events.
(616)281-9389
(HOME)
(800) 827-2296 Ext. 2088 (WORK)

MONTREAL CHORUS DRAW

Below are the results of the Draw for Appearance for choruses in Montreal.

Draw	Chorus	Risers
1	Midwest Vocal Express Greendale, WI	9
2	Great Northern Union Hilltop, MN	9
3	Southern Gateway Western Hills (Cincinnati), OH	9
4	Granite Statesmen Nashua, NH	9
5	Senate-Aires Salem, OR	9
6	Garden City Chorus San Jose, CA	9
7	Cambridge Chord Company	7
8	Banks of the Wabash Terre Haute, IN	7
9	West Towns Chorus Chicagoland West Suburban, IL	7
10	Harmony Heritage Chorus Macomb County, MI	7
11	MegaCity Chorus Gtr. Toronto, ON	7
12	Chorus of the Genesee Rochester, NY	7
13	Northern Lights Toronto, ON	7
14	Banana Blenders	7
15	Alliance Gtr Central Ohio, OH	7
16	Vocal Majority Dallas Metro, TX	11
17	Ambassadors of Harmony St. Charles, MO	11
18	Tidelanders Houston, TX	11
19	Big Chicken Chorus Marietta, GA	11
20	Alexandria Harmonizers Alexandria, VA	11
21	Sound of the Rockies Denver Mile High, CO	11
22	Heralds of Harmony Tampa, FL	11

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Boulah, MI 49617
(231)882-4835

Let the Four Man Fishin' Tackle Choir get your audiences "hooked on harmony."



Don't miss 'Live Radio,' Macomb's May 10 show

By Dave Anderson

Our regular reporter, **Roy Gurney**, asked me to write this up for him as he would be reclining on the beach in Hawaii.

Now as I write this, I'm looking at snow on the ground in April... really tough Roy!

The **Macomb Chapter** has been busily preparing our show for the Friday Night of convention and also our Saturday Night performance.

In the mean time, we have also been getting coached by **Don Slamka, Mike Slamka, and Barry Towner**.

We would also like to thank the **Pioneer District** for a special three hour coaching session with **Thom Hine, Ken Buckner, and**

Raymond Schwartzkopf.

This session was held on Saturday, March 1 following the regular District coaching day. This type of

Show features Metropolis, Night Watch and Doran

support from Pioneer is really appreciated.

Our Macomb **Barbershopper of the Year for 2002** is **Nick Pastor**.

He stepped up and volunteered for jobs when no one wanted them, and always with a smile.

The best part was the results that he generated when all was

done.

He is a master salesman of ads for our Chapter show program and is really an asset to



Macomb performs during Spring Convention. The Chorus will represent Pioneer at International competition.

the Chapter. Thanks, Nick.

I hope that this gets to you before our Macomb Show, "Live Radio", has been

performed on May 10, as we would like to have you all attend.

This great show features **Metropolis**, followed by that great comedy quartet, **Night Watch**. Also, **Doran McTaggart** will be featured in the crazy radio part of the show.

The **Harmony Heritage Chorus** will be singing their finest along with **Border Crossing and Singing With Dad**, so you don't want to miss this great show.

It's on at 7:30 p.m. at the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts. Call any Macomb member for tickets or call the box office at (586) 286-2222.

We hope that many of you will be in Montreal to cheer us on, as we are working hard to

Hillsdale show set for May 18

By Roger McCaskey

We returned the "jug" to the **Mid State Chorus** in **Alma** on Tuesday March 25 in a surprise visit.

A total of 29 of our members from our riser strength of 32, made the 2-hour trek from Hillsdale to join the Alma chorus for a night of song.

We continue to prepare and look forward to the District competition to be held in Lansing on April 26.

We are

determined to improve our scores from the fall competition and have set our goals to become a chorus to be reckoned with.

Mark your calendars for May 18, 2003 at 3:00 p.m., at the Hillsdale College Sage Center for the Performing Arts.

We will present our annual spring show entitled "Follow Your Star".

Captain Don Slamka, having just returned from the "Power Play Cruise" at

internationals, will be at the helm of the flagship "Nina".

Our guest quartets are **Musicality** and **Philatoga Township**.

Musicality recently placed 10th in international Sweet Adeline competition.

If you come early, you will have the chance to listen to the Hillsdale High School Jazz Band starting at 2:30 p.m.

Tickets may be purchased at the door.



By Nick Piccione

Each year, the **Grosse Pointe Chapter** holds its Ladies Night celebration to honor their wives and dates.

On March 21, festivities began with cocktails and extensive appetizers in the lavish surroundings of Blossom Heath in St. Clair Shores.

The mellow sounds of a Chapter favorite, the Leo Tallieu Orchestra, entertained through dinner and dancing.

It has been the custom to announce the name of our Barbershopper of

the Year at this gala function. This year, the honor went to 25-year member Jim Kinner, who has worn many hats for the Chapter.

As historian, he researched and wrote our 50-year history (no easy task) and has been a writer for the Chapter in many other ways, including our articles in the Troubadour for six years.

He has been a provider of music and tapes for our rehearsals and sandwich-maker extraordinaire for our Chapter functions.

He has been featured in many of

our Chapter shows, sometimes playing his ukulele and often appearing using his own **W.C. Fields** characterization.

With all this and more in mind, I close with this thought:

Jim does Chapter chores whatever they may be.

With that dry sense of humor, as you can see.

I can still hear him say.

In that W.C. Field way.

"Get out of here kid, you bother me."

Kinner wins top honor in Grosse Pointe

Holland show May 9, member push follows

By Art Lane

A missing chorus member, a series of clues, a search punctuated by songs, and a happy ending.

That's the outline of the big Tulip Time show by the **Holland Windmill Chorus**, Friday, May 9.

The show, written by **Jack C. Oonk**, features a series of Southern songs directed by **Jim Johnson, Mike Oonk** and **Jack Oonk**.

Guests quartets are Pioneer District's own bronze medalist **Power Play** and Wisconsin comedy quartet **Nightwatch**, winner of the Chicago Harmony Sweepstakes.

Tickets are \$14, available from Show Chair **Steve Foster**, (800) 827-2269 Ex. 2088 or sfoster@perrigo.com

The Holland Chapter seeks to gain 10 new members in 2003 and a key time is May 13 to June 3, when a series of membership-

oriented Chapter meetings will be held.

On June 10, the chorus will join with the Holland American Legion Band to kick off the band's summer series of concerts in Kollen Park with a number of patriotic songs.

The Chapter's Chester P. Oonk Memorial Tag Contest will be Saturday, Aug. 2. If you like tags you'll love competing in this down-home, sandals and barbecue event, or just listening

to quartets sing the best parts of songs. Bring your own quartet or we'll furnish one. Contact Steve Foster to reserve a plate – uh – place.

On Aug. 14 the chorus will head for Columbus, Ohio, to represent the Pioneer District in the Small Chorus competition of the Buckeye Invitational and hear some of the best choruses and quartets in the Society.

Pontiac up to 63 members

By John Cowlshaw

The **Pontiac Waterford Chapter** 47th Annual Woodshed Contest was held March 28, at Pontiac Country Club.

This year's judging quartet was Macomb Chapter's **Singing with Dad** whose "dad" was this year's Honorary "Big Chief," **Dave Anderson**.

Eight area Chapters were represented, but the Bennington Trophy was awarded to Flint, based on their having 21 percent of their 41 members present.

(A Chapter gets a full point if the member sings, a half point for mere presence.) The 49 singers mixed and matched to form sixteen quartets, all assembled according to the usual rules that no more than two members can be from the same Chapter, and no more than one member from the same registered quartet.

Multiple quartetting was legal and common as singers vied for "best part" badges, won this year by the members of **ATTRIBUTES** – **Mike Frye**, Pontiac/Waterford (tenor), **Tom Collins**, Grosse Pointe (lead), **Chris Miller** Pontiac/Waterford (Bari), and **Dave Lindstram**, Flint (bass) – singing "I'm forever blowing bubbles."

Of course, Barbershopping originated in woodshedding and is maintained by such events as this and by such organizations as (AHSOW) Ancient and Harmonious Society of Woodshedders, of which we have four members, **Bill**

Dabbs, Chris Miller, Bill Pascher, and **John Smith** (who will be back in time to lead the AHSOW Woodshedding Room at the Pioneer District competition in Lansing.)

Our membership has reached 63 with the addition of four new young enthusiastic singers – **Bruce Collins, Fred DeVries, Gayle Mohler,** and **Greg Moss**.

Two-thirds of us assembled for a weekend singing retreat (March 21-3) at the Ralph A. MacMullan Center on the north shore of Higgins Lake.

Our trainer was **Dr. Jeff Taylor**, Choral Music Director at the Unionville School of Arts, Toronto, Canada, and **SPEBSQSA Music Judge**.

Jeff praised the tremendous history and potential of our Chapter. We have the ability; what we need now is better discipline.

There is an institutional self-perception that needs to be raised. None of the attendees will forget the powerful experience of spatial-grouping-based sound. And Jeff's mantra: "Work the abdomen, Free the throat, Fill the head." And his contribution to our parodies.

Wayne Cheyne and **Gene Downie** managed this year's Valentine's Day Singouts; **B Natural, Four Wheel Drive, Harmony Knights**, and a reconstituted **Harmony Way** sang their hearts out, netting \$1,700.

Our Barbershoppers of the month included ex-President **Gene Downie** in February and **Wayne Cheyne** in March.

Huron Valley: "Never bigger, never better,"

By Jerry Mangona

The pistons are pumping, and we're running on all cylinders as the **Huron Valley Harmonizers** keep their momentum into the spring.

After an incredible singing Valentine production led by **Delruss Wolfe**, the chorus is changing its focus to hosting the Pioneer District Convention on the weekend of the 25th.

Several new attractions we're excited about: (1) **PIONEER GEAR!!!** A new way to show your support for a District on the move! Let's go to Montreal with pride...

(2) A new and improved Barbershop Shop! **Delruss Wolfe** and **Hal Thompson** have been working their tails off to bring a new spin to this timeless tradition. Silent auctions? Norman Rockwell photo op? Greater selection? All this and more!

(3) **Historians corner!** **Clay Jones** is working hard to preserve a significant part of our District's heritage. Be sure not to miss it!

While on the topic of convention preparation – thanks to an intensive three-day retreat with coach **Bill Rashleigh**, this chorus is raising its bar for excellence.

In the words of our president, **Dave Herge**, "We've never been better. We've never been bigger."

Excitement and anticipation hangs in the air! Lastly, growing the Chapter is still a successful endeavor thanks to the work of **Greg Humbel**, membership chair; **Lynne Peirce**, our director; and the efforts of the entire membership.

All in all, the chorus is starting to make its presence known in the metro Ann Arbor area.

Lots of hard work and a little bit of luck will help us continue upward and onward.

Are we glad to be here? You bet!

HURON VALLEY ROCKS!!!

Livingston lures snowbird back for one day...

By Cal Bock

A GREAT DAY FOR THE SERENADED AND SERENADERS

The **Livingston Lamplighters** fielded three terrific quartets to deliver Singing Valentines to the unsuspecting, astonished, surprised, emotionally vulnerable, happy, many times tearful, but always appreciative 'targets', to whom an admirer sent a special message of love.

The pictures posted on the Lamplighters web page tell the story.

Two pictures including young children are special. The first picture shows young faces reflecting concern because they don't understand why the eyes of their teacher are welling up with tears and emotion as this group of men, known as 'By Appointment

Only', began to serenade her. The second picture speaks for itself.

After serenading their teacher, the quartet sang some of their 'specialty' songs that the children could relate to.

The reaction is obvious. The smiles and laughs on their faces reflected their approval. This is what Barbershopping is all about.

How enjoyable were the Singing Valentines to the Barbershoppers?

Would you believe that one of our Lamplighter 'snowbirds', spending the winter in Florida and not scheduled to return until April, flew home just for Valentines Day and then returned to Florida the next day!!

No kidding. **Jerry Place** enjoyed the Singing Valentines so much last year that he flew home just for Valentines Day to sing with his quartet, 'FUNdamentally Sound'.

It was a great day for the serenaded, and the serenaders. As one of the guys remarked, "...and just think, on top of it all, we get paid for this."

The 2003 budget needs of the Livingston Chapter were met through the Valentines Day proceeds and through our participation in the Brighton Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Extravaganza. Coordinated by our Assistant Director, **Ralph LeRoy**, the Lamplighters, their families and friends, devoted their time on a March 1 Saturday night, helped and participated with the Chamber in this very successful fund raiser. With our budget needs now satisfied, the Lamplighters can now devote 2003 towards our mission, being a positive presence in the Livingston County communities.

Gaylord /QCA planning 2003 Bush League

Plans for this fall's 56th annual **Bush League** and the 2nd annual **District Quartet Coaching** event September 26-28 in **Gaylord** are well underway.

This year's singfest has an exciting new venue with the addition of the fabulous TreeTops Resort as the Headquarters Facility. The joint committee plans to use the Resort's fine Special Activity locations for the housing, feeding, meetings and afterglow sessions.

This means that we are essentially separate from the other activities of the Resort yet integral with all of its emanates. -- Meaning we can do what Barbershoppers do best- Sing! Sing! Sing!

Because last year's coaching segment was reported to be a super and beneficial segment, it will be repeated and improved as will the contest and evening educational and just plain Goofy stuff that has become a "tradition." Watch for the coming Bush League Updates that will be on the PioNet each month.

The theme this year is "A champ you can be at Bush League 2003." It is aimed at newer quartets, combinations of veteran and novice member quartets including those that have "competed" before and want to take the coveted Spittoon Trophy home to their Chapters.

What a great place to experience the fun and rush of "competition," especially just before the 2003 Fall District.

Grab your pitchpipe and work on your songs!

CMU quartet wins

Accidental Consonance, a college quartet from Central Michigan University will represent Pioneer at International in July.

The students, one of three college quartets that sang at the April 26 Pioneer District Quartet

competition, scored 721 points or 60.1 percent when they sang "If I could be with you" and "Masquerade is over."

The other quartets that sang were **Late Night Serenade** and **Relevance**.

Lost Brothers in Harmony

Harley "Dutch" Stadelman

Harley "Dutch" Stadelman, long-time member of **Wayne Chapter**, passed away April 10.

Dutch sang bass with the Chapter for many years and in many competitions. He had been inactive for the past several years due to health concerns. Dutch passed at the age of 84.

- *Marvin Skupski*

Roger Shoudel

Former **Motor City Metro** and **Wayne Chapters** member **Roger Shoudel** died of cancer on March 17. He was 60. Son of Sylvia Mallard and the late Clarence. He leaves daughters Laura Shoudel and Jennifer LaRose, and seven grandchildren.

Visitation was March 20 in Warren with burial at Lakeside Cemetery in Fremont, Indiana.

College quartet winners



CALENDAR: 2003

events

May 9

Holland Chapter Show

May 10

Macomb Chapter Show

May 16-18

Harmony Round-Up, MSU

June 1

Macomb Show (Sunday)

June 6

Return of the Jug Night - Detroit-Oakland, host

June 6-7

Traverse City Show

June 13

Send-Off Show - Windsor, host

June 14

CDWI Huron Valley

June 29 - July 6

International Convention, Montreal

August 9

District Board of Directors Meeting and Planning Session,
Lansing, MI

September 6

Grosse Pointe show, "My Big Fat Italian wedding"

September 13

Gratiot County Chapter Show

September 26-27-28

Bush League and pre-contest Quartet Coaching

October 17-19

District Convention - Battle Creek

October 25

Rochester Chapter Show

October 30-November 2

Leadership Forum, Racine, WI

November 7

Canada Night - Detroit-Oakland, host

November 8

Pontiac-Waterford Chapter Show

2004

January. 25-February. 1

Mid-Winter Convention, Biloxi, MS

February 20-21

Detroit-Oakland Chapter Show

April 23-25

District Convention - Gaylord

June 27 - July 4

International Convention, Louisville, KY

October 15-17

District Convention - Location to be determined

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Chapter Locations

