

# Pioneer Troubadour

Official Publication of the Pioneer District November/December 2003 Volume 54, Number 5  
The Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc.

## District champs: Infinity, In the Neighborhood... Macomb returning to International

By Joe Serwach

**Infinity** proved that experience and an established track record of winning counted in the 2003 **Pioneer District Quartet Contest**.

This year's contest was the third Pioneer quartet championship win for Lead **Craig Pollard** (besides 1990 and 1999). Tenor **Bruce LaMarte** won in 1999, 1991, 1990, 1987 and 1981. Bari **Mike Woodruff** also won the trophy in 1983 and it was the first Pioneer quartet win for Bass **Scott Kitzmiller**.

The quartet scored 1,760 points or 73.3 percent just 100 points ahead of the young men of **Party of Four**, which scored 1,669 or 69.5 percent. Very close behind was **Fermata Nowhere**, with 1,637 points or 68.2 percent; **Windfall**, with 1,623 or 67.6 percent and **s Roadshow**, with 1,583 or 66 percent.

Please see **WINNERS** Page 19



## DEADLINES IMPORTANT

By Doran McTaggart,  
*Pioneer DVP-CSLT*

In Canada, we celebrate "Thanksgiving Day" in October. One thing, for which we are thankful, is that October is also the month for our Chapter elections.

These elections offer us a new vitality as we plan for another successful year. Hopefully, our Nomination Committee has been working all year long looking for a balance of experienced and new men to form the Chapter's Leadership Team.

On the one hand, we need to be true to our roots, and on the other, still use creativity and imagination when we form our yearly plans that will be meaningful and exciting for our members.

The Chapter Management Guide offers tried and true ideas that can be incorporated into your programming. Do include "the fun things" that your members enjoy doing. Remember, if it's going to happen at all, it happens at the Chapter level. Do send the names of your 2004 Chapter officers to the Society headquarters on-line. If you need help ask your Chapter Counselor for assistance.

Last May, the two most disappointed people in the Pioneer District were **Dan Bezaire** and **Dave Anderson**. Why?

Ever since May 2002 they had planned and promoted Harmony Round-Up and A Cappella Blast respectively. They made arrangements with the University for classroom  
Please see **DEADLINE**. Page 3

## Chris Miller: 1950-2003

## Pontiac's Pied Piper perishes at 52

By John Cowlshaw  
*Pontiac/Waterford*

Our dear friend, our inspirational director, our Big Chief, **Chris Miller**, died September 19 at age 52 of a pulmonary embolism.

Our shock and grief are profound. He was so many things – Nancy's husband, Ryan's father, director of Pontiac/Waterford **Barbershop Chorus** for six years, and member of the **Grosse Pointe** Chapter.

At the Lynch Funeral Home, the combined choruses of Pontiac/Waterford and Grosse Pointe, more than 100 men, sang an emotional set, comprised of "Irish Blessing," "Shine on Me Medley," and "Keep America Singing."

The funeral service Wednesday was at St. Williams Catholic Church. Chris's long-time friend **Leo Oshinsky** spoke "a few words," words that implied



Chris to him.

Nancy's daughter, **Tamara**, spoke warmly of Chris's matchmaker role in arranging her meeting with her future husband. **John Cowlshaw** spoke of the shock and memories evoked. "Kingfish" sang Ave Maria.

In Tamara's simple closing words, "We will miss you, Chris." Chris will always be in our thoughts and in our stories.

We share a sense of relief and excitement that interim director **Bruce Collins** has agreed to lead us through the Fall show, November 8,

7:30, Clarkston High School.

It will feature Chris's last script-writing effort, **THE BIG CHIEF CHORUS REMEMBERS "THE ED SULLIVAN SHOW"** (...but our memory isn't very good), as well as **Power Play**.



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## Address changes

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# DEADLINE Lansing picks Jessica Thompson



Continued from  
Page 1.

and sleeping accommodations, as well as meals and snacks.

They put together a world-class faculty that could offer the attendees an outstanding musical experience. Teaching materials, plane tickets (some non-refundable) and a gold medallist quartet, **Nightlife**, were obtained for these schools.

The faculty had cleared their calendars months ahead so they could be with us. You can imagine their disappointment when they received news of the cancellation. Many had turned down other requests for their services because of their commitment to our Pioneer dates.

Thr promotion of these schools started many months ahead of the events. Flyers were available at our conventions and many promos were sent on the Pionet and to each Chapter via the Chapter president's e-mail.

As the deadlines approached, only a handful of applicants had enrolled. The planners finally begged for a quick response but in the end had to pull the plug.

Afterwards, a number of people said that they planned to attend and would register on site the day of the event.

Too few.....too late.

It is obvious that we all need to adhere to dates and register well in advance of the deadline so that those in charge of the event will never have to cancel again.

Since one of the hats that I wear is Leadership Training, I am pleading with you to have your Leadership Team register early for **Chapter Officers Training School** (January 3-4, 2004).

COTS Coordinator, Doug Lynn, will be sending each Chapter a package of materials in October.

Only four Chapters were unable to attend last year. Can we make it 100% attendance this year? All of your Chapter Counselors will be there to help you plan for a great 2004.

By Paul Howe

The **Lansing Chapter** proudly announces the selection of our new director, **Jessica Thompson**.

Jessica comes from a musically-oriented family, as her father was a big band musician. With this background, she has become an avid fan of all types of music and basically grew up singing. In the past, she sang in many select ensembles and studied music in the summers.

She was bitten by the Barbershop bug and started singing in **Water Wonderland Chorus (SAI)** about six years ago. She started out on the Visual team in the chorus in her first year and helped with visual presentation, both planning and teaching choreography.

Later on, Jessica became lead section leader and also served on the chorus board. She has also



performed with several Sweet Adeline quartets, and has appeared on the competition stage with the quartet **Calypso**.

Jessica has attended special classes about presentation (teaching and creating choreography) and is currently in the Sweet Adelines Directors Certification Program. She has been an assistant director for Water Wonderland and served as interim director for the Water Wonderland Chorus, directing the chorus at contest in the spring of this year, where she won the Novice Director of the Year award.

Jessica says that she loves Barbershop and loves the challenge

of continuing to learn and grow. Her infectious enthusiasm, fresh style, and desire to grow musically with the Lansing Chapter made her an ideal choice and perfect fit as our director.

## Our fleeting time on the stage

By Joe Serwach  
Editor

We each get our fleeting moments on stage. September was devastating. Four members of the **Grosse Pointe** family lost within a matter of weeks including a young, vital 52-year-old who should have been with us for decades to come.

And yet, the music never dies as long as the songs that connected us together remain in our hearts. Everything happens for a reason. We are but performers on a stage not wise enough to question the plan of our director who sends new performers onto the stage every time He takes some away.

It startles me to look at the photo of **Chris Miller** on July 12 at **Russ Seely's** birthday party, to see how full of life he was. On Sept. 16, he apologized for not making it to a Barbershop show saying he was sick and hoped to be there next year. Three days later, he died at his doctor's office.

Chris was really a pied piper who took the spirit of the Grosse Pointe Chapter with him and transplanted the formula to Pontiac, taking a tiny Chapter and making it swell. His loss at such a young age was stunning. But I have to believe he is in a better place now.

And I know that even as our membership numbers across Pioneer shrink as so many of our older members die, that every time a door closes, another opens.

And it was so heartening to see the new players take the stage at convention in October.

Both **Lansing** and **Kalamazoo** have new, very young directors bringing lots of energy to those fine Chapters. **Please see SERWACH. Page 25.**



Chris Miller with Nancy at Russ Seely's birthday party July 12. By September 19, Chris was gone.

# On belonging to... something bigger than me

**By Al Bonney**  
*Pioneer District President*

I have thought a lot recently about what it means to me to be a Barbershopper, and why it is so compelling to me to contribute to the organization.

One of the fundamental truths about us humans is that we value belonging to something bigger than ourselves. We like to have connection with things that add value and meaning to our lives and that contribute to our sense of purpose.

While most of us lead meaningful lives that contribute to our communities, most frequently that contribution happens through the organizations to which we belong.

**Peter Drucker**, in his book "Managing the Non-Profit Organization" says that, "Non-profit institutions are central to American society and are indeed its most distinguishing feature.

He goes on to say that while the non-profit sector is only about 2 – 3 percent of America's Gross National Product, "we now realize that it is central to the quality of life in America, central to citizenship, and indeed

carries the values of American society and the American tradition.

The reason, Mr. Drucker says that the non-profit institutions are so important is that "their product is a *changed human being*. Their "product" is a cured patient, a child that learns . . ." or indeed, as in our case, people who sing more and more often.

We like to give our time to organizations that have meaning, that change lives.

Associating ourselves with a movement, a mission that resonates within us, gives our lives added meaning.

In fact, Mr. Drucker speaks of the value that we take from such contribution as the only pay a volunteer gets.

While recognition of volunteers is admittedly important, the personal satisfaction we get from contributing to a cause in which we believe in is far stronger in the motivational continuum.

He says, "Precisely because volunteers do not have the satisfaction of a paycheck, they have to get more satisfaction out of their contribution."

This satisfaction comes, of course, because we believe in the

mission of the organization – and because our contribution does, in fact, move the mission forward. Furthering that mission adds value to our lives and makes us feel good for having played a part in the outcome.

This is why political volunteers hand out flyers, and Cancer Society volunteers make phone calls in their neighborhoods . . . and why we do sing-outs in schools and invite friends and acquaintances to Chapter meetings.

So I am back to where I

**We contribute because it fills a need within us and successful contribution fuels continued participation.**

began, aren't I?

If we believe in the mission of the organization – in our case,

perhaps to "Keep the Whole World Singing" - it is easier for us to spend time and energy to contribute to that mission.

We contribute because it fulfills a need within us and successful contribution fuels continued participation. In my case, it is important that more people in the world sing: Barbershop, classical, rock and roll or folk, it doesn't matter to me, I just want people to sing more and more often.

I think the work we do to train amateur singers and leaders is important to society and contributes to the fabric of our communities. I find this a worthy mission and important enough to enlist my time and energy. As I have successes in the schools, in Chapter meetings or in community sing-alongs, my desire to do more feeds itself.

There seems to be another benefit of individual volunteers becoming fulfilled

as they contribute to an organization's mission; that is that the organization becomes increasingly vital and relevant to the communities it serves. An organization that is relevant is one that the community values.

When a community likes having a Barbershop chorus contributing in their town they value what the chorus adds to the cultural fabric of their community. When there is relevance, selling tickets, getting performances and, indeed even getting new members becomes easier.

Want to talk about relevance?

Consider the American Red Cross, or Rotary, or the Heart Association. Each has literally millions of members. Why is that? Two reasons: They are relevant in their communities and they have missions that are clear and easy with which to identify.

So again, we have come full circle and created a self-fulfilling prophecy. When an organization offers its members a meaningful and satisfying mission, a reason to contribute, the members fulfill their own lives by participating and adding to the effort of changing people's lives.

Successful contribution to this meaningful mission fuels additional participation and the community recognizes the organizations value and adds its own support, thereby fueling greater support and recognition. Voila, more members, more tickets, more satisfaction and greater individual volunteer fulfillment and more changed lives.

I answered my own question and it sure keeps me going, but . . . Wow! Could it really be that simple?



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# 10 reasons to get to COTS Jan. 3-4

Here are profiles of the faculty who will be teaching at Pioneer District Chapter Officers Training School”:

**Jim DeBusman (Dean)** – Land O’Lakes District (Wisconsin). Jim has been a **Chapter Officers Training School** faculty member since 1985. He resides in Racine, WI and is director of the **Racine Dairy Statesmen**. He sings lead and is Voice Coach of the **Midwest Vocal Express** (5th place Portland 2002). Past Barbershop offices/committee positions held: Chapter Music VP, Chapter Program VP & EVG District Music Educator. Barbershop Award and Honors: **Evergreen District** Hall of Fame (1966) and **Land O’ Lakes District “Friendship” Award** (1966). C&J Special Service Award for 10 years (1997) and Outstanding COTS Dean (1999). Current Barbershop office/committee: Society’s Music & Performance Committee Liaison. Profession: Music Specialist – SPEBSQSA. [jdebusman@spebsqsa.org](mailto:jdebusman@spebsqsa.org)

**Don Challman (Presidents)** **Land O’Lakes District** (Minnesota). 40 year Barbershopper; 27 years with Night Howls comedy quartet; Chapter president, District president, Society Board member, Chapter BOTY, District BOTY, District Hall of Fame; Rejoined COTS faculty in 1998; Certified Presentation Judge; 15 consecutive International Chorus competitions (6 medals) with Hilltop, MN Chapter; 3 International Quartet competitions with Night Howls; USO Far East Hospital Tour with Night Howls; BABS, LAABS; SNOBS judge/guest instructor. [bdchallman@aol.com](mailto:bdchallman@aol.com).

**Thomas R. (Tom) Herman (Secretaries)** – **Land O’Lakes District** (Wisconsin). A member of the Greendale Chapter, Tom originally sang with MenoHARmonee. He is a Chapter board member and has been Treasurer, Secretary, and Show Treasurer. He was awarded the Greendale “Do-It-Award” and the “President’s Award”. Tom has been District Secretary 2 years. He is a self-employed Accountant and Tax Preparer, semi-retired. [singer@execpc.com](mailto:singer@execpc.com)

**Charles F. Rose (Treasurers)** – **Dixie District** (North Carolina). 32 year Barbershopper and 20+ 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. Certified Public Accountant, Registered Angus Cattle Breeder, tolerant of most baritones and past President of East Carolina Estate Planning Council. Currently serving on Society Audit Committee, Dixie District Nominating Committee and President of North Carolina Harmony Brigade (Society Subsidiary dedicated to quartet singing and promotion) and past Commanding General of the Confederate Harmony Brigade. Will sing with anyone, just ask. [CFROSECPA@aol.com](mailto:CFROSECPA@aol.com)

**Greg Swann (Chapter Development)** – **Johnny Appleseed District** (West Virginia). Greg has been a member of the Barbershop Harmony Society and JAD for over 30 years. He has been a JAD District Officer for 10 years, and was awarded the District BOTY in 1994. He is a member of two Chapters and sings lead. Greg has been on the COTS Faculty teaching Membership/Chapter

Development for two years. [greg.swann2@verizon.net](mailto:greg.swann2@verizon.net)

**Rick Collins (Marketing & PR)** - **Seneca Land District** (Pennsylvania). Rick is a member of the Warren, Pa. Chapter and has been a COTS faculty member since 2000. He has held all Chapter offices, including 5 stints as President and is a former Chapter counselor. He has been Barbershopper of the Year, a 2 time International Chorus Champion member, and a past District Quartet Champion. Rick has been a Barbershopper for 34 years and is currently SLD VP-Music & Performance. He is a sales representative for Exxon-Mobil Corp. [ricktall@westpa.net](mailto:ricktall@westpa.net)

**Greg Caetano (Music & Performance)** - **Northeastern District** (New Hampshire). Greg is a 16 year member of the Society and has been a member of the COTS faculty since 2001. At the Chapter level he has been Program VP, Music VP, Assistant Director and Director. He has served on several District Committees, is Past District VP of Music&Performance, District BOTY (1998) and a member of the NED Honor Society (Newcaneweng). He has sung with his Chapter in International competition twice and he is a former Certified Judge. Greg is the 2003-2004 Executive VP-elect for the NED. [gjcaetano@att.net](mailto:gjcaetano@att.net)

**Jerry Knickerbocker (Chorus Directors)** - **Seneca Land District** (Pennsylvania). Jerry has been a Barbershopper since 1976 having held every Chapter office at least once and served as chorus director of 18 years for two Chapters. He was chorus director of the District Chorus

Champion in 1981 and led a chorus to the International Contest stage in 1994 and 1995. Jerry was Chapter Barbershopper of the Year in 1981 and 1985 and was SLD Barbershopper of the Year in 1990. He teaches at many different schools each year and has served as Harmony College faculty for 10 years, Director’s College faculty for 8 years, and COTS faculty since 1995. He is a member of the Society Chorus Director Development Committee and currently is Vice-chair for Director Training. [jerrykn@csonline.net](mailto:jerrykn@csonline.net)

**Mike Fasano (Young Men in Harmony)** – **Mid-Atlantic District** (Maryland). Mike is currently an assistant to Gary Plaa, VP YMIH for the Mid-Atlantic District and is the YMIH coordinator for the Frederick, MD Chapter. He is a past Chapter Treasurer and an active quartet man. Mike was introduced to, and sang, Barbershop harmony in High school and participated in Singing Valentines throughout college. Because of those past experiences, he is a member of the Society today and has been since 1996. [fasano@afip.osd.mil](mailto:fasano@afip.osd.mil)

**Keeth Miller (Chapter Counselor)** – **Mid-Atlantic District** (Virginia). Keeth sings with The Virginians (Richmond, VA) Chapter and is a dual member with the Chester County Chordbusters (Pennsylvania). He has been a Society member since 1974 and has held all Chapter offices, except Music VP, 2 or more times – President, four times. Keeth was Chapter BOTY and has been an Area Counselor. He is currently a Chapter Counselor and is currently DVP-CSLT for the M-AD. [keethm@comcast.net](mailto:keethm@comcast.net)

# Get young students to Harmony Happening March 12-13 in East Lansing

## YMIH: The plan for 2004

By Dave Anderson  
*Young Men in  
Harmony VP*



This is the time period in which you should be having your Chapter election of officers for 2004 and I hope that you have a YMIH or Youth Outreach VP on your slate.

If you do not, then find a member that wants to do this job and appoint him as your YMIH Chairman. The VERY important second step is that you register this person with your officers on the Members Only section of the Website. This way, I can have access to all of the contacts for each Chapter so that I can help your Chapter work on projects with youth.

Now that your Chapter has an eager YMIH VP/Chairman., then the next crucial step is to send

that person to COTS in January so that person can get properly trained.

At COTS, he will get a ton of resources and procedures for doing the job. He will also get the bonus of feeling part of a District Team plus the energizing that takes place when all of these COTS attendees sing together and share ideas. Your Chapter needs to be represented in this YMIH Program at COTS!

Plans are now progressing for the **Harmony Happening (formerly A Capella Blast)** to be held on March 12-13, 2004 in East Lansing. This revised date (and format) was chosen as a weekend when the music students would not be as busy and involved in other activities as they are in May.

Clinicians are **Jamie Carey, Ken Gibson and Vicki Gibson** and will start the program Friday afternoon. The big draw will be a

chance for this chorus to perform at Wharton Center at MSU on Saturday night. The **Lansing Chapter** has very graciously invited us to be a part of their show that night and we want to



thank the **Capitol City Chorus** for giving these young men a chance to intermingle with their gang and also the likes of 2003 champs **Power Play**.

All we need from you fine people is for you to talk with your high school vocal music

teachers and get the students and teachers to attend. Maybe your Chapter would like to sponsor a few students and teachers. More information will be coming out on this in the next month or two with all of the details.

Your Pioneer YMIH Team is also planning on having a booth again this year at the Michigan Music Educators In-service Conference to be held in January in Ann Arbor. If there are some of you that would be interested in helping with this, please let me know.

As the demographics of our Society keep showing our average age getting older every year, it should be apparent to all that we really need to make the youth aware of our hobby and get them excited about singing Barbershop.

Let's all work together on this goal...it's our future.

## Kalamazoo appoints 22-year-old

*2003 WMU School of Music  
Graduate - New Music  
Director of Mall City Chorus*

**Chris Fenner** is the new music director for **Kalamazoo's Mall City Chorus**.

Fenner, 22, magna cum laude 2003 graduate from the **Western Michigan University School of Music**, has been a member of the Barbershop Harmony Society since he was 15.

For the last three years he was Assistant Director of Mall City Barbershop Chorus. Chris served as Vice President of Music & Performance from 2001 to 2002, in charge of scheduling performances, selecting music, training singers, organizing monthly Music Team meetings and facilitating long-term planning sessions.

His work in this capacity and in other related jobs led the Chapter to select him as Member of the Year for two consecutive years."

He co-directed a community-wide September 11 Memorial Chorus concert titled

**United We Sing** at Kalamazoo's Bronson Park

of the drought and give them a performance experience they will never forget."



in 2002. Christmas Show Chairman & Co-Conductor (2000 & 2001).

He also produced a Christmas charity concert with the Kalamazoo Children=92s Chorus for the benefit of local charities.

"The elusive goal for this group is an appearance at an international chorus competition," Fenner said. "We have come very close to achieving that goal more than once in the time that I have been a member. I hope I can be the one to lift this chorus out

**Ed Fritzen**, outgoing Chorus Director (transferred to Connecticut by Pfizer) said: "Chris is a talented musician whom I've watched mature since he joined the Chapter. He brings a wealth of knowledge and professionalism to the Chapter never before seen. The Chapter is fortunate to have him, and my only regret is that I won't be able to sing for Chris."

**Raleigh Bloch**, member of the Board, International Barbershop Harmony Society adds: "It's kind of neat that Chris joined us while he was in high school, because he loved the sound of Barbershop harmony, and now after graduating from Western Michigan with a Vocal Music degree, he is able to step in and be our Director. Kalamazoo Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society was formed in 1941.

## COTS: Dirty little secret Join us in Okemos January 3 and 4

By Gary Hannah

SWD COTS Coordinator

Chapter Officer Training School is an impossible thing to get your mind around. It is a mind-bending, horizon expanding, full-of-heart, built on last year's successes, damn the misses type of exercise in group therapy that results in an action oriented, hands-on, networking supported, plan of attack for the coming year that will absolutely energize YOU and make YOUR Chapter the success it deserves to be.

You positively cannot afford to miss it. You cannot disappoint your fellow Chapter members by not attending. You owe this bit of time to them or you shouldn't be in the position of authority you are in. I mean it.

At COTS, we have assembled some of the finest talent the Society has to offer. And they are dishing out waaaaay more information than anybody can be expected to absorb in so little time.

You can't possibly say it is not worth attending, that you know all you need to know to make your Chapter the success it deserves to be, that you are fully capable of leading your Chapter to the heights it is capable of achieving.

There is ALWAYS something you can learn. And it just might be the tidbit of knowledge you hear from one of the guys who has been to COTS before that makes the difference.

And this year, there is all new content. All the information you need is on the PIONEER website at <http://www.harmonize.com/pioneer/pio.htm>. Download the Class Matrix and see if there isn't so much important NEW stuff that it'll make your head swim.

Whether you are a new president or a repeating treasurer or a program VP who doesn't know what a program is, there is something for everyone. Sometimes, the something is YOU! That's right. Think of how valuable the knowledge YOU bring to your class could be to some rookie officer.

Invaluable, I say. You repeaters who scoff at returning to COTS need to think of someone other than yourselves. You are RESOURCES, revered by everyone else. Held in awe for the knowledge you are willing to share. So, help out a little. Give something back. Come to COTS.

THAT is the dirty little secret of COTS. YOU are the resource. Not the stellar faculty we have assembled, though they are wonderful. Not the materials the Society makes available, though it is expansive and invaluable. No, it is YOU and everyone else who comes to share.

Collectively, networked, working together and using the resources YOU bring to the table and coupled with the resources the Society makes available, there is NOTHING we cannot accomplish. We need the POWER OF YOU!

Come to COTS. January 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>. Holiday Inn Express, 2187 University Park Dr., Okemos, MI 48864, 517-347-6690. It's time to answer the call.

## Muskegon's success at shows

By Frank Scott

Muskegon Chapter

Our 63rd annual show was October 11 at the Mona Shores Center for the Community Arts featuring the **Four Man Fishin Tackle Choir** and **Lake Effect**, a Sweet Adeline Quartet from West Michigan Chapter.

Besides our Chapter quartets and chorus we have 11 high school singers from Reeths-Puffer and Mona Shores high school singing two Barbershop songs they learned at the Harmony Explosion Camp last summer.

Under the direction of assistant chorus director, **Mart Bomers**, the chorus made their third appearance at The Fruitland Township Blue berry festival in late July. It was a bit rainy but we had a special lady in the audience, **Ken Hampel's** wife **Marge**, who was recovering from a serious illness.

Along with The West Shore Sweet Adelines and the Holland Windmill Chorus the Muskegon Shoreline chorus, under the direction of Joel Prather, appeared at the Grand Haven Water Front Stadium on 9-11-03. Over 300 people gathered to honor the police and fireman who performed so valiantly during Twin Towers disaster in New York City.

Each group sang patriotic and inspirational songs that were much appreciated by the audience. Local officials made appropriate remarks honoring those who lost their lives in serving their community.

The Shoreline Chorus and Chapter quartets performed at the Muskegon Vikings Lodge in the evening of 10-03-03. We sort of warmed up for our up coming show with show songs and old songs. The West Shore Sweet Adeline chorus, under the direction of Mike Oonk, also performed for an appreciative audience.

The occasion was a fund-raiser dinner for the junior Vikings scholarship fund. Singing for live audiences sure beats just rehearsing all the time. Since the Sweet Adelines show it set for 11-01-03 they were glad to get the exposure.

With **Dick DeWitt** handling the ticket sales. The poster blitz is done, advertising planned along with publicity and with extra rehearsals it looks like Chapter members and guests are in for a great weekend of Barbershop harmony on 10-11-03.

We have an invitation to put on a demonstration of Barbershop Harmony for Oakridge high school choirs. Several junior high and grade school teachers want some music books so the YMIH committee should be busy. We are receiving requests for Christmas performances and hope to promote a Community Christmas Chorus.

**Richard "Dick" Warner** passed away last month. The chorus sang several sacred songs at his funeral. Dick sang baritone with the **Four Score and More**. He had a great sense of humor and we will be missed.



# Directors of the Furture trained at gathering in Gaylord

GAYLORD—Thirteen Barbershoppers and Sweet Adelines gathered to enjoy the hospitality of the Gaylord Chapter of SPEBSQSA and to benefit from a new workshop created in the Ontario District called Director of the Future.

President **Al Bonney** (Traverse City) and DVP of Chorus Director Development **Steve Foster** (Holland and Grand Rapids) discussed bringing this workshop to Pioneer for several months before contacting one of the program originators, **Bob Pyper** from Grimsby, ON, to come over and premier the course for our membership.

Originally scheduled to take

place at **Harmony Round-Up** last May, it was dropped when lack of attendance at Harmony

Convinced that the program was a good one and valuable to our Chapters if we were to



Round-Up caused the event to cancel.

develop our director corps from within, Al suggested to Bob that

he come back in September and do the course "up north". The rest is history.

Barbershoppers and Sweet Adelines from the **Sault Ste Marie** Chapters, **Gaylord** Chapters and **Traverse City** gathered at 9 a.m. and worked right through till 4 p.m.

Bob Pyper's warm folksy humor and his enabling teaching style brought out the best in the participants as they practiced preparatory beats and cutoffs, learned different directing patterns and honed their listening skills.

"Learning to be confident of your skills is important to any director" he said. "The Director Please see Gaylord. Page 17.

## Dear Pioneer Friends:

*It is with great pride and pleasure that we announce the release of our first CD — and just in time for the holiday season. We have featured a variety of musical styles that include thirteen charts arranged by some of the finest A cappella musicians in the world. We're sure the harmonies will carry you away!*

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and More . . .*

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*Here are a few of the  
selections we've included . . .*

*Ride the Morning Winds  
Singin' in the Rain  
One Note Samba  
If (That great 70's hit)  
Waltz for Debby  
Deep River  
There'll Never be  
Another You  
And a stunning new  
Arrangement of the  
Star Spangled Banner  
Plus five more!!*



# New judges, new contest/judging

## Contest and Judging Corner

By Al Fisk

### VP Contest and Judging

Greetings  
from the new kid  
on the block - me,  
Al Fisk.

"Huh? He's  
not new!"

He's been  
around since  
sliced bread!"

Hey, how did Raleigh's alter  
ego get over her? Actually, I've  
been tabbed to fill the huge void



left by the departure of our  
good friend and talented  
Barbershopper, Mr. Ed Fritzen.

Due to a job change, Ed and  
the lovely Michele (and their  
beautiful daughter Jen) have  
relocated to some state out east  
known as Connecticut.

Go figure...

Ed has been handling the  
Contest and Judging duties here  
in Pioneer for many years, and  
we will truly miss his expertise.

Sooooooooo, I have been  
asked to assume the position

... umm ... take over as DVP  
C&J. (heh-heh figure it out? If  
so, you're my assistant!)

Ed and I have been in  
constant contact since early  
August, and he has been my  
mentor during this transition  
period. Be it known that any  
mistakes I make will be due to  
ignorance rather than lack of  
effort.

My biggest goal will be  
to recruit more guys into the  
judging program.

At this point, we have **Roger**

**Lewis** (Presentation), **Mike  
O'Donnell** (Singing), and me  
(Music Candidate).

Having more certified judges  
in Pioneer can only help by  
training better singers, directors,  
and coaches.

The next three year judging  
cycle begins next August. Stay  
tuned for detailed information  
about the training procedures in  
upcoming Troub articles. Peace.

# 4 Voices!

**2002 International Gold Medal Quartet, '96 college champs**

**See one of the best quartets ever live... in Pioneer!**



**Grosse Pointe Chapter Show, September 18, 2004**

Tickets available by contacting any Grosse Pointe member or call Joe Serwach at 313-881-0531 or call

**(313)886-SING**

**www.gpsingers.com**

## QCA Update

## By Al Fisk

Since I'm writing this before contest, and the contest will be over when the Troub comes out... Hmmm...{{gazing into crystal ball}}

... something's coming into focus... what? Wow!

No way! That's great! Congrats to our new Pioneer District Quartet Champs, Senior Quartet winners, Novice Champs, and our International Chorus Reps.

Man, I think y'all will agree that the judges made the right calls!

And, hey, wasn't that QCA Show of Champions outstanding? It was great to see Power Play wow us all once again. They are truly champions in every sense. Kudos!

The recent Bush League Weekend in Gaylord was another rousing success.

This conglomeration of three entities (**Gaylord Chapter - Hank Hedges, Quartet Champions Association - Russ Seely**, and the **Pioneer District - Al Bonney**) put on a master class on show prep (FMFTC), a 13 quartet contest (congrats to **Metro Chord Authority**), a coaching session (using 12 QCA guys and certified judges), and a top notch show/glow (last year's winners - **Grand Prix**, long time comedic artists - the **Harmony Hounds**, and our own **Four Man Fishin' Tackle Choir**).

Other show highlights included a high school quartet (under **Craig Pollard's** wing), the **Gaylord Harmonie Meisters** (guys), and the **Gaylord Northern Lights** (gals). Whew! And a good time was had by Al ... err ... all. Peace.

## Time to plan for next year

By Dan Bezaire

By the time you receive this issue, we will be ready to begin our Barbershop year. There are already a number of things planned for you to enjoy and enhance your Barbershop experience.

## January

COTS - All of your Chapter officers should plan on attending. Jan 3 and 4. Top Gun - Again, paired with COTS. This school is four our top quartets. Uncle Sam Night - This annual event, hosted by Windsor, will be held as usual on the third Friday of the month. Great night to bring guests!

## February, March

Singing Valentines. Get three other guys and melt some hearts! Chorus Coaching Days. North, in Gaylord, February 21. South, in East Lansing, March 6. Your chorus can receive expert coaching from some of the Society's best.

## April

International Quartet Prelims, in Gaylord, April 23-25. Who will go to Louisville?

## May

Harmony Round-Up, May 14-16. The District's premiere music school, this year featuring Nightlife. See more info elsewhere in this issue.

## June

Return of the Jug, first Friday in June. Windsor Send-Off, second Friday in June. These two events help our representatives at the International Convention in Louisville.

**July:** International Convention, Louisville. Come and cheer our District competitors, and maybe horse around a little (groan)!

## August

Harmony College / Directors' College, first week in August. The best week of Barbershop you could have, whether you go as a regular attendee, as a director, or in a quartet.

## September

Bush League. Bring a quartet to Gaylord, and receive valuable coaching.

## October

Chorus Prelims and Quartet Championship, Lansing. Chapter elections. You can make a difference in your Chapter!

## November

Canada Night, first weekend, hosted by DOC. Great fellowship!

## December

Dust off the holiday music. There are some great recruitment opportunities at this time of year.

## Other

All year long you can get coaching for your chorus or quartet. If you need some names, the District web page has some, or contact me, and I would be glad to give you some contacts.

Investment advice  
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Edward Jones ranked best by  
Kiplinger's Personal Finance magazine.

Investment recommendations should come from someone who will take the time to understand your personal financial goals.

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Carl Taylor Bill Woodward  
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Quartet Champion

Contact — Bill Woodward  
301 Melbourne Way  
Lexington, KY 40502  
859-260-2020

Email — ABCWoodward@aol.com

## Michiana Metro adds 9 members

By Kerry M. Foley

Greetings from the Southwest corner! It's been quite a while since we've updated you on the happenings of Pioneer's newest Chapter, so here goes.

We, due to the successful efforts of our Membership VP **Bernard Sackett** and the rest of the board, held an incredibly successful guest night.

The net result: nine new active members! We have doubled our presence on the risers and are looking forward to competing in Battle Creek with somewhere between 22 and 27 men on the risers.

The excitement level of our Chapter is growing by leaps and bounds. Guys are staying around after rehearsal to sing tags and songs.

As a result, we now have three active quartets registered in our Chapter, with a possible fourth on the way. Rehearsals have become intense, yet fun and gratifying.

Our own **Metro Chord Authority** with **Gene Hanover** on lead, **David Durham** on baritone, **Bernard Worden** on tenor and **Kerry Foley** on bass recently won the 2003 **Bush League** quartet competition and look forward to contest in a few weeks.

Two of our other quartets, **Lighthouse Connection** and **EMT** are also registered for contest. (EMT would win the novice quartet award).

We are having a coaching session all day on Saturday, October 4 in order to better prepare for contest.

Needless to say, the atmosphere in the greater South Bend, IN/Benton Harbor, MI area is quite electric as of late!

The chorus is also actively looking for grants and sponsorships to further our efforts. Our goal upon formation was to be the top a-cappella singing organization in the Metro area (including Notre Dame Glee Club).

This is not an easy task with two college glee clubs, two male choruses and three other Barbershop Chapters in the immediate area.

Hopefully some additional funding will help us to realize our goal. With an active leadership team, anything is possible.

As you can see, things are rapidly changing in the Michiana Metro Chapter. We hope you like what you see from us at contest and in the coming years.

It is truly great to be part of such an active Chapter. It is even greater for us to call the Pioneer District our home. Thank you for being so supportive of our efforts as we approach our third birthday.



## NOW IS THE TIME !!!

By Brian Dunkel

**NOW** is the time to begin making the plans for your Chapter's growth for the upcoming year. As I have said before, membership growth is **HARD** work, but when you see the results of it you know it is



worthwhile!

Chapter Boards, support the efforts of your newly elected Vice President of Chapter Development as he seeks to incorporate **NEW** ideas into the plans.

Why? I simply ask – are you currently getting the results your Chapter wants (or needs)? If the answer is “no” then it should be obvious: doing the same thing will continue to get you the same results.

You **MUST** be willing to try new ideas to try to experience growth!

Congratulations to our friends at **Windsor, Sault Ste. Marie** and **Monroe North** who not only have led the way for the District in terms of recruiting new and re-instated members, but have also have met the goals that they established for themselves at the Membership Summit in January.

There are several other Chapters who are close to

meeting their goals as well as we wind down 2003.

Our District goals for membership in 2004 include “half of the Chapters will have a written membership plan covering recruitment, orientation and retention in place by the end of the year.”

This means that we need **EACH Chapter WORKING TOWARDS THAT END.**

We also have another goal that each Area Coordinator will personally visit at least two of his assigned Chapters in the upcoming year.

These visits are designed to assist your Chapter- invite them to a special guest night- to give their view on how things went, or ask them to attend a planning meeting as you formulate Chapter membership goals for the year- whatever you think will most benefit your membership growth- we are there to assist you however we can.

I have contacted Greg Swann, who will be teaching the Chapter Development COTS classes in January (hopefully you are planning to attend) and informed him of our District goals for 2004 so that we can tailor our COTS experience to best meet our needs here in Pioneer.

Chapter members, **YOU** are the key to your Chapters' plans. **YOU** need to support your Chapter and its' efforts, **YOU** must do your part in recruiting new members; **YOU** are the key to helping us grow! **YOU** are the key **NOW!!!**

## 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!

A CHANCE FOR YOUR HS AGE MALE STUDENTS TO PERFORM ON THE STAGE OF THE

# WHARTON CENTER AT MSU

**Get your young male singers excited about singing a cappella harmony. Come along with them and attend**

## HARMONY HAPPENING !

*PRESENTED BY THE PIONEER District Barbershop HARMONY SOCIETY*

**WHAT:** A learning experience on the joy of singing close harmony. Proper vocal and learning techniques taught by expert clinicians Jamie Carey, Kenneth Gibson and Vicki Gibson. This HS chorus will learn two songs and perform them on the Saturday Night Show. This will be a part of the opening act for the Lansing Chapter Barbershop Show. Our gold medalist quartet, Power Play, will be with the group on Saturday and they are headlining the show.

**WHEN:** March 12-13, 2004 Begins at 4PM Friday and concludes Saturday Night after the show. Friday Night accommodations at the Comfort Inn in Okemos.

**COST:** This program has been subsidized by a grant from Harmony Foundation, so the cost is only \$35 per student, teacher, or chaperone. This includes one night's lodging at the Comfort Inn (two per room), a pizza party on arrival Friday, and all meals on Saturday. A few scholarships are available, so in case of financial need please inquire about these.

**WHAT WE NEED FROM YOU:** Encourage your sons, grandsons or any other HS age boy to attend this fun event. Start planning for this now as we have a limited number of openings. Call or email and request your enrollment packages.

### FOR ENROLLMENT INFORMATION CONTACT:

**Bob Wisdom (248) 879-7083** [robwwis@aol.com](mailto:robwwis@aol.com)

**Or**

**Dave Anderson (586) 286-4860** [pdsing@peoplepc.com](mailto:pdsing@peoplepc.com)



## Philatoga Township

Award-Winning  
 Barbershop Quartet



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

"Spreading Harmony  
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Improve your show by  
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 Ada, Michigan 49301  
 (616) 676-8814  
 E-Mail: porgyt@aol.com

JOEL

MARK



## THE HARMONY HOUNDS

Pedigree: Barbershoppers

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

Doug  
 (517) 351-9587

Rich  
 (517) 482-0365



## The Patch Chords

Music and Mirth

(517) 521-3218  
 Roger

(517) 321-3941  
 Larry

Ed

Gene



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 Bridgman MI 49106  
 616-465-4428  
 upstagesound@iname.com  
 1998 Pioneer District Quartet Champions

Raleigh

A Registered Barbershop Quartet

Kerry



## Night Shift

A BARBERSHOP QUARTET

Jim Jay Steve Herb

J.KUNZ@kunzleigh.com

(248) 626-1679

# Harmony Round – Up 2004

## May 14-16 2004

### Registration Form

**BONUS!!!**

Take off \$100 if  
you register  
before April 1,  
2004

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Check any that apply:**

- ☐ Regular, Director \$110  
☐ Commuter \$ 85

**BONUS!!!**

Take off 10% if you register before April 1, 2004

- ☐ Quartet \$400 Quartet Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (All  
*members must* Tenor  
*fill out a registration*  
*form)* Lead

Bari

Bass

Has this quartet ever entered a competition? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

- ☐ Commuter quartet \$300 Quartet Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(All members must* Tenor  
*fill out a registration*  
*form)* Lead

Bari

Bass

Has this quartet ever entered a competition? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

*Note:* There is a limit of 10 quartets, first come, first served.

Will share room with: \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail form, along with a \$50 deposit for each person to:**

(Checks are payable to Pioneer District SPEBSQSA)

Doug Lynn

or

contact Dan Bezaire

6242 Westview

[dbezaire@wincom.net](mailto:dbezaire@wincom.net)

Grand Blanc, MI 48439

519.727.5842

**Regular students:** Make **one** choice from each class.

**Quartets, Directors:** separate program

**Friday, May 15**

**Class I** 9:00 - 10:30

- ☐ Woodshedding
- ☐ Tags

**Saturday, May 15**

**Class II** 9:00 - 12:00

- ☐ Vocal Techniques / Vocal Production
- ☐ Fundamentals of Music
- ☐ Sight Reading for Barbershoppers

**Class III** 2:00 – 5:00

- ☐ Sight Reading for Barbershoppers
- ☐ Vocal Techniques / Vocal Production
- ☐ Fundamentals of Music
- ☐ Standing Ovation Training Session, Part One

**Class IV** 7:00 – 8:00

- ☐ How To Be A Great MC
- ☐ Repertoire
- ☐ Standing Ovation Training Session, Part Two
- ☐ Judging Program, Part One

**Class V** 8:00 – 9:00

- ☐ How To Be A Great MC (*not* a continuation of Class IV)
- ☐ Repertoire
- ☐ Standing Ovation Training Session, Part Three
- ☐ Judging Program, Part Two

**Sunday, May 16**

**Class VI** 9:00-11:00

How to be a great	Lead	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bari	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Tenor	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bass	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Huron Valley's busy fall

By Gerry Mangona

Huron Valley

*The only competition worthy of a wise man is with himself. -- Washington Allston*

It's fall, and that means two things: Baseball and Barbershop. And since our Detroit Tigers are continuing their multi-decade dynasty of mediocrity, let us focus on the main event the Pioneer District Fall Convention!



Here at **Huron Valley**, the focus has turned from fun in the sun to the laborious grit of contest preparation.

Stepped-up coaching, more demanding choreography, and a few sectional rehearsals are challenging us to accomplish our ultimate goal: To raise the bar and deliver our best performance ever.

Such ambition does not come without its difficulties, of course. Each of us is moving outside our comfort zone to better ourselves as singers and performers. And as for choreography, Huron Valley has never been known for its stellar visuals and eye-popping show moves.

Adding new music to our repertoire is tough, and prepping for a holiday show while administering the needs of a growing chorus is forcing us to give our all.

But under the leadership of our director, **Lynne Peirce** and our president, **Dave Herge**, Huron Valley is setting its sights high for October.

Best of luck to all Chapters, and let's show the Society why Pioneer District is a District on the move!



## SAGINAW BAY

## Numerous events planned

By Ralph Brown

So much for 'The Good Old Summer Time' as we enter the Fall season. As a Chapter, things have been quiet for a while, but, as individuals it has been a busy time.

Many have traveled far and wide and others have been (home bods) doing things around the house and around town.

Those of you who were able to join us at the Shell in downtown Bay City, with the Tri City's Chapter of Sweet Adelines, had a great time and we pleased the crowd once again.

We hope to have a scripted show next year and make the event a target activity for this Community.

Harrisville was not attended very well by our Chapter this year and therefore ended a seven year reign over the Trophy for the highest percentage of Chapter Member present at the Harmony Week-end event.

We are back at **Christa McAliffe** after a short stint at Bangor West. We have our risers and have used them a few times as well as renting them out to the Bay City Choral for \$100.00 this Summer; thanks to **Larry Thomas** and **Dennis Datte**, who made the arrangements and **Ralph Brown** and **Steve Czarnecki** for carting them to and from the Wenona Park performance site.

Each week we have a few more in attendance and this coming week we should have close to a full chorus. We have put our traveling shoes away and brought out our singing voices.

It promises to be a busy Winter while we get ready for Sing Valentines, our St. Paddy's Day Thaw Show in March, Spring Convention and Competition.

Our new Chapter Officers are in place and are looking forward to a great year.

We are still on a high over **Power Play** becoming International Champs and join all Barbershoppers in thanking the Slamkas for showing the world what our hobby is all about through their love of music and phenomenal ability to sell a song "singing from the heart."

## Looking to add spice and sparkle to your next show?

**Then get on board with the Four Man Fishin' Tackle Choir and let us entertain the folks in your "neck of the woods."**

Visit us at our new web site, [www.4mffc.com](http://www.4mffc.com). We've got music sample from our new CD "On the Fly," a live video sample, photos, and much, much more! Or contact Neil Nugent by snail mail or phone at

6349 Crystal Ave.  
Boulah, MI 49617  
(231)882-4835

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





# Directors of the Future trained



## GAYLORD:

Continued from Page 8

of the Future workshop was developed to help men and women who want to begin to work in front of the chorus to be successful and build their confidence so they will want to learn more."

**Greg Fiebing** from Traverse City agreed.

"I found it easier to work in the intimate atmosphere of the workshop than in front of the chorus – all the stress was gone and I could concentrate on developing my own skills. Bob is a great clinician. I am glad I went, my new skills will help me to be more helpful to our chorus."

The workshop was designed for people who are not directors

now but would like to gain some skills so they could do warm-ups, conduct a section rehearsal, teach a tag or direct a pole cat.

Clinics like the Director of the Future workshop and other Director programs are sponsored in part by a generous grant from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs.

The Pioneer District conducts and sponsors several different schools and clinics aimed at supporting our chorus directors including four Chorus Director Workshop, Intensive clinics this year and sponsoring several director's scholarships to Directors college.

If you or your director wants more information on opportunities for improving skills for your chorus please contact Al Bonney at

**Above: Al Fisk shows how it's done. Above right, Don Bazely leading future directors in song.**

**Below: participants learning proper vocal technique.**



*Wanted: a Man to Lead the New Harmony Foundation Program in the Pioneer District.*

JOB DESCRIPTION

District VICE-PRESIDENT FOR FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Leader of the Financial Development Team

- To consist of DVP for Financial Development
- Four Committee chairs
  - o President' s Council Chairman
  - o Founder' s Club Chairman
  - o Grant Education Chairman
  - o Grant Writing Chairman
- To serve as an extension of the Harmony Foundation staff in planning, implementing and evaluating the Foundation' s fund-raising program for the benefit of the Chapters, Districts, and the Harmony Foundation.
- Mission is to deliver the financial development results adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Harmony Foundation at the beginning of the year
- To be a committed, trained, organized and well-managed group of volunteers
- Represent the thoughts and interests of their constituency (District members)
- They have regular access to their constituency
- They can promote fund-raising programs at public gatherings
- They can recruit additional volunteers to expand the impact of fund-raising at the Chapter level
- They can solicit funds from individuals
- Need for a strong, clear relationship between members of the District Financial Development Team and the Foundation staff

Job Description for DVP for Financial Development

Appointed by the District President ss a DVP with a renewable 1-year term

Desired Background/Capability:

- ▣ Society member for at least 5 years
- ▣ Member of a District Chapter, other than Frank Thorne
- ▣ Knowledge of principles and practices of developing and utilizing volunteer leadership
- ▣ Demonstrated understanding of total quality service, group process with proven aptitude for working as part of a team
- ▣ Proven administrative ability to provide leadership and direction to others in accomplishing goals
- ▣ Accountable for performance to the District Board and the Harmony Foundation Executive Director
- ▣ Interested in being a student of financial development

Personal Characteristics:

- ▣ Exceptional interpersonal skills with the ability to develop relationships of trust
- ▣ A high level of energy and initiative
- ▣ Advocacy skills to garner organizational support and build a comprehensive and effective District Financial Development Team
- ▣ Strong written and oral communications skills
- ▣ Ability to inspire confidence, to motivate and to persuade
- ▣ Accessible, reliable and supportive
- ▣ A collaborative, team oriented style
- ▣ Committed to, and possessing, a demonstrated ability in teamwork
- ▣ Ability to work with the Harmony Foundation Trustees and staff leadership to help ensure that their District implements an integrated, comprehensive and successful Financial Development program

Specific Duties:

- ▣ Participate in the annual fund-raising program planning process
- ▣ Insure that the best available volunteers accept the functional chairmen positions
- ▣ Plan for the training of the volunteers in all four Foundation volunteer areas
- ▣ Lead the annual District goal setting process to determine challenging yet appropriate goals
- ▣ Implement the District goal achievement program and provide the necessary information to the District recognition program
- ▣ Include potential volunteers in ways that help identify their skills and test the fit for future needs
- ▣ Provide District key item information monthly to the Foundation and the District Board
- ▣ Participate monthly with the Executive Director of the Foundation to formally review the key item report generated from data supplied by both parties at the end of each month
- ▣ Report to the District president. Sits on the District board as a full player on the work planning and budgeting team
- ▣ Attend all District board and house of delegate meetings

Communicates with:

- ▣ District president, District President, Harmony Foundation Executive Director

# WINNERS: Stars of Fall Convention



2003 Senior District Champs: In the Neighborhood.

Continued from Page 1.

For the July 2004 International Chorus Contest, **Macomb** again won the right to represent Pioneer in a contest with 16 choruses. Macomb scored 900 or 75 percent with 49 men on stage. Macomb previously represented the District in International competition in 2003, 1999 and 1991.

Macomb was followed by a near-tie for second: **Detroit-Oakland** scored 823 or 68.6 percent and Huron Valley had 821 or 68.4 percent. The young **Michiana Metro Chorus**, with just 21 men on stage, finished fourth with 778 or 64.8 percent followed closely

by **Traverse City**, with 776 or 64.7 percent.

The smallest and youngest chorus in competition, **Motor City Metro** scored 753 or 62.8 percent with just 12 men on stage. Rounding out the top 10: **Lansing, Battle Creek, Kalamazoo and Holland.**

The remaining contestants were **Grosse Pointe, Windsor, Hillsdale, Wayne, Monroe North and Gaylord.**

In the Senior Quartet contest, Grosse Pointe's **In the Neighborhood**, in just their second appearance on the District contest stage and their first try as seniors, won the Senior Quartet contest.

Contest Photos by

Karen Schaefer

Chorus Photos by

IPI InstaPlak, Inc.

Ann Arbor



Young men to watch: Party of Four impressed many with a strong second place finish.

## From John Stiegemeier, tenor of Novice Quartet winner EMT

This was a most memorable weekend for our quartet, EMT, which was a very novice quartet. The experience of singing as a quartet on stage was really quite exciting even though the results were not that great. The information from the judges will certainly help us move forward as a quartet.

But what was really great was what happened even before we appeared on stage.

About 6:30 **Jack Slamka** (Yes, THE Jack Slamka) walked into our dressing/warmup room and announced that **Power Play** would be there to walk us through to the stage, encourage, give a few tips on what we could expect from the system and what our rights were when dealing with the system.

Over time, the rest of Power Play did come in with Mark last do to his Mic testing.

This meant a lot to us and is the most memorable time this weekend by all four of us. I understand this is now something that QCA is intending to do with Novice quartets who have little or no experience at competition and I highly commend them for this and hope to see it continue.

It is unfortunate that for whatever reason, we were the only quartet identified this contest, but I am sure in the future more ways will be found to identify others.



Macomb is going back to International for the second year in a row.

# Hillsdale gives dual membership to champs

Hillsdale Town and Country Chorus

By Roger McCaskey

It has been a busy end-of-summer for the chorus. We have been giving back to the churches that our members attend, by sharing our music with their congregations.

We held our last of summer picnic at one of our member's home on Lake George, near Fremont, Indiana. It was shortly after the competition in Montreal and gave us a chance to honor **Power Play** for their first place finish.

A delicious potluck dinner was enjoyed as well as raft rides around the lake. The rest of the afternoon was spent honoring our champions. Various awards were given to the quartet including a dual membership in the **Hillsdale Chapter**.

We also paid tribute the greatest supporters



of the quartet, their wives.

Power Play shared with us their experiences in Montreal and then gave us a private concert of songs they performed in competition. The afternoon would have been amiss had we not heard tags performed by the

Slamka Daughters.

Our summer was a wrap after performing at the local county fair in a gazebo on the grounds to a very enthusiastic audience.

## Livingston Chapter hailed by local arts consortium



## Pioneer District Seeks More Bulletin, PR Contestants

Here's an early tip for bulletin editors, PR guys, Chapter development vice presidents and Chapter presidents:

The deadline for entries in the 2003 District Bulletin Editor of the Year and Public Relations Officer of the Year competition is Jan. 15, 2004. Now is the time to start motivating your Chapter toward entering these contests. Entering recognizes not only the editors and public relations officers, but also the men who sing and work for the Chapter. Top entries go on to International competition. If your Chapter has a bulletin or has had some PR successes you deserve to be in the running.

We're telling presidents and development VPs because editors may need a little prodding to select their best bulletins for competition. And good PR guys often prove exceedingly modest about their work; sometimes an alert VP or president will need to collect samples of the PR work and submit the entry on behalf of the busy Chapter promoter.

In the last District competition the Pioneer District had three entries by bulletin editors and none by PR officers. One bulletin went to International and placed 20<sup>th</sup> out of the best 22 bulletins in the Society. The Pioneer District can do better than that. In recent years Pioneer has placed as high as fifth in the International bulletin contest and has had two International PR winners.

The bulletin and PR contests are conducted by PROBE, the Society's organization for Public Relations Officers and Bulletin Editors. Information about the District and Society contests is available from Art Lane of Holland, PROBE's Pioneer District contest coordinator, at [artlane@wmol.com](mailto:artlane@wmol.com).

There is lots of information available on the PROBE website, including the actual score sheets by which bulletins are judged.

Go to [www.harmonize.com/PROBE/](http://www.harmonize.com/PROBE/) and then head for Direct Assistance for Bulletin Editors and also Contests. Are you proud of your Chapter's bulletin and public relations work? Then use these contests to tell the world.







## 2002 champs Crossfire pass the baton to 2003 champs Infinity

I wish there was a way to express the gratitude I have for the **Pioneer District, Macomb County Harmony Heritage Chorus, Power Play** and the many fans and supporters of **Crossfire** for these past few years.

I began Barbershopping here in the Pioneer District with Macomb and will certainly never forget where it all started for me. I plan to continue in this hobby of ours for many years to come, and will definitely not hesitate to let anyone know where I came from - Southeast Michigan and the Pioneer District.

Thank you all so much for the love, appreciation and best wishes you showed to Crossfire, and me personally, during this last convention. As joyous as it was to pass on the trophy to this year's champs, it was an extremely emotional weekend as well, saying farewell's to so many friends.

One moment that will always shine for me is standing in the front row of the QCA chorus, **Russ Seely's** arms squeezing every ounce of emotion out of us during the singing of "That Old Quartet of Mine."

**Mike and Jack Slamka** in my left ear, Mark in my right, **Don** within ear shot and the rest of the quartet champs' voices filling the room was the highlight of my weekend.

I am on my way to Virginia, and will be making the permanent move. All too soon for my liking, but a necessity.

Thank you all again for the fantastic experiences....and hope to sing with you all soon!

Scott "Riz" Risley  
Bass, Crossfire



# HARMONY ROUND - UP 2004

May 14-16, 2004  
Michigan State University



## Nightlife

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 NEW!!  
Woodshedding  
*and more*

### For more information, contact:

Dan Bezaire  
354 E Puce Rd  
RR#1 Belle River, ON  
N0R 1A0  
519.727.5842

[dbezaire@wincom.net](mailto:dbezaire@wincom.net)

**2004 PIONEER DISTRICT SPRING CONVENTION**  
**APRIL 23-25, 2004**

Information marked with a \*\* is  
important and is used to create  
your convention name badge

**CONVENTION REGISTRATION**

\*\*\*PLEASE FILL IN NAMES AS YOU WOULD LIKE THEM TO APPEAR ON YOUR BADGE(S)\*\*\*

\*\*REGISTRANT NAME \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*SPOUSE/GUEST NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
(Area Code)

\*\*COMPETING QUARTET? ☐ YES ☐ NO QUARTET NAME \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*COMPETING CHORUS? ☐ YES ☐ NO CHORUS NAME \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*CHAPTER NAME \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*VOICE PART: ☐ TENOR ☐ LEAD ☐ BARITONE ☐ BASS

**EARLY REGISTRATION: \$25.00 PER PERSON**

**LATE REGISTRATION: \$30.00 PER PERSON**

**EARLY REGISTRATION MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN April 8, 2004**

FEE FOR \_\_\_\_\_ PERSONS @ \$25.00/\$30.00 TOTAL REGISTRATION FEE: \_\_\_\_\_

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

OR: MASTER CARD OR VISA NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ EXPIRATION DATE \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM AND FEE TO:

**Robert Smith Jr.**

**46210 Copper Lock Lane**

**Macomb, MI 48044-6202**

All event passes will be at the convention registration desk, located in the TREETOPS RESORT(Headquarters). Partial registrations can be purchased at the convention registration desk or Gaylord Evangelical Free Church, Gospel Center, Multipurpose Room: Friday 7:00 PM- \$15.00; Saturday 11:30 AM-\$15.00; Saturday Evening 6:45-\$15.00. Children 12 and under Free.

Each member of a competing quartet or chorus must be registered for an all-events pass. Failure to do so will disqualify the quartet or chorus from the contest.

**REFUND POLICY:** REGISTRATION FEES WILL BE REFUNDED TO PERSONS  
CANCELING **IN WRITING** PRIOR TO THE 11:00 OPENING ON  
FRIDAY.

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



# Champions show



One of the high points of convention: The Quartet Champions Show, when everyone who sings is a winner. This year's show included International Champs Power Play, 2002 District champs Crossfire as well as Antiques Roadshow, 4Man Fishin Tackle Choir and the Silverdomes.



## Old friends: Barbershoppers on the move

By Raleigh Bloch

International Boardmember

Ever lose a Barbershop friend? Someone who moves away, leaving a hole in your quartet or chorus? Or maybe he was just a good friend in your Chapter. I have.

I've also been that person, as I moved from job to job in my career. I've been a part of MAD, NED, CSD, LOL (a couple of times) and PIO.

Each time I moved, I thought long and hard about it. The friends I was leaving and the

enjoyment I got from them. It was hard.

Yet the one thing that made it some-what easier, was the fact that I knew that I would be able to pick up at the other end and still be a part of this great hobby. I would meet other guys who love to sing and forge new friendships.

Well it's happening again. A Barbershop friend of mine is moving.

His job requires him to move. We sang in four quartets together, even won a District championship, he directed our chorus, he is a Singing judge, was our District C&J Vice President,

he was on the Chapter board and Chapter President, he was show chairman a couple of times and a good friend.

He will leave a big void, in the lives of many Barbershoppers he has touched.

So, am I sad? Yes, but it's not goodbye, it's only "so-long for now."

One of the neat benefits that our Society provides me (and you) is the fact that I will not lose contact with this person. Like other Barbershop friends that have left or I have left, I will still see him at conventions or Barbershop functions.

Sure, I won't see him as often,

but we will still be friends. In the mean time we will continue to meet other new friends in our Barbershop hobby and harmony will ring again.

Who is this guy I'm writing about? In this case it is Ed Fritzen, but it could about any number of good friends I have made in MAD, NED, CSD, LOL and PIO whether this country or Canada and as I think of it, all over the world.

I will miss you Ed. I know "you can sing with anybody" and I know also that I'll be one of those persons the next time we meet.



## SERWACH: Young faces taking the stage across Pioneer District

Continued from Page 3.

Lansing's **Jessica Thompson** is a very special young lady, just 32, full of energy and life who will reinvigorate that fine Chapter.

Similarly, Kalamazoo's new director, **Chris Fenner**, is just 22. Both are profiled in this issue.

**Craig Pollard**, the lead in our new District champion quartet, **Infinity**, sang with his quartet in the hospitality suites after winning but on one song he asked if we wanted to hear his son, **Wayne**, sing. Wayne had just turned 15 and is a fantastic young baritone.

My own son, **Eddie**, a Barbershopper since he was 9, smiled approvingly.

**Party of Four**, the runners up in this year's contest, are just 30-- young fellows who started singing with us 12 years ago, lured by the Society's College Quartet contest. Their lead, **Toby Shaver**, acknowledged "we were bad" when they started but they're great now. After years of

sticking with it, even working as singing waiters, these young men have bright futures.

Huron Valley is attracting talented young men like **Gerry Mangona** and while **Motor City** is a tiny Chapter, it's made a home at **Eastern Michigan University**, attracting students. The **University of Michigan**, where I work, is home to 13 -- yes, 13 -- a cappella singing groups. Is Barbershop doomed to die with the next generation? It seems unlikely when you look at the massive size of the a cappella movement in today's high schools and colleges.

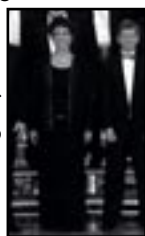
And of course, a brilliant convention organizer came up with the idea of modifying every

single nametag to give each of us the added last name of **Slamka**.

Because we all feel like part of the same extended family now, having watched this family

other young people and keeping the hobby alive.

If even 10 percent of our members can follow the example of Jack and bring their sons/



grow with the District. This family that brought Pioneer gold medals in the 2003 International Quartet contest and also built the **Macomb** and **Hillsdale** Chapters.

But **Jack Slamka's** wisest move was to get his young sons and nephew into the act. These young men, all in their 30s, are spreading their love for Barbershop, inspiring

sons-in-laws and grandsons into the Society, many of us will be around to celebrate our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2038 and keep the melody ringing all night long....



## EXTERNAL MARKETING

# It starts with you

By Greg Humbel

Do you share the same passion about this organization as many of us do?

If the answer is yes, you need to be out in the community expressing your passion for singing.

We need to make every effort to tell the world who we are and where to find us in order to thrive as an organization.

This fall, the people of Battle Creek welcomed us with open arms for (the name of the event). The Battle Creek Enquirer did a great article on the show, including some excellent quotes by our society president

"You're never mad at anyone when you're singing" and "You just try to make all your hard work pay off. It's exhilarating," said Marty Chirgwin.

At the convention, each member wore buttons prominently displaying, "Singing is Life, the rest is just details" and "Sing from the heart or don't bother."

These types of public relations initiatives plant seeds of curiosity in the minds of many and lead to new membership opportunities. Remember the goal is **growth** and **recognition**. The Society's national public relation event will be Veteran's Day November 11, 2004. Mark it on your Chapter's calendars.

We have two months left to achieve our Chapter membership goals. It's time to market your Chapter and move in to 2004 with a bang!!

Question or Concerns or just need some help! Contact Greg at [Ghumbel@comcast.net](mailto:Ghumbel@comcast.net)

## 2004 PIONEER DISTRICT SPRING CONVENTION

April 23-25, 2004

### Hotel Reservation Form

- \* All spaces must be filled out completely
- \* A credit card is required for room reservation
- \* Confirmations will be sent to the individual whose name and address appears below.  
Please contact the CTB if you do not receive your confirmation within 3 weeks.
- \* Reservations accepted only at the CTB via mail, or fax.

- \* There are limited number of rooms available at the headquarters hotel and they are reserved on a first come, first served basis
- \* Reservation request must be received no later than March 19, 2004.

Please mail, or fax form directly to:  
**Gaylord Area Convention & Tourism Bureau**  
 P.O. Box 3069 \* 101 W. Main St., Gaylord, MI 49734  
 Fax: 989-732-7990 \* Phone: 989-732-6333  
[www.gaylordmichigan.net](http://www.gaylordmichigan.net)

### Contact Information

☐

Member of Host Chapter

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (Days) (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

### Hotel Information

Please indicate your first and second choice hotel. Hotel rates are per night and do not include Rooms are available on a first come, first serve basis.

#### Treetops Resort: (Headquarters)

Inn & Chalets, 1 or 2 people \$69 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Inn & Chalets, 3 or 4 people \$79 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Lodge Rooms King or Queen \$99 \_\_\_\_\_

Best Western Alpine Lodge - \$69.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Quality Inn - \$55.95 \_\_\_\_\_

#### Otsego Club -

Tyrol Lodge-Standard Rooms \$82.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Blue Spruce & Loft Value Rooms \$55.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Hampton Inn - \$59.95 \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival Date \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Rooms \_\_\_\_\_

#### Type of Room

☐ 1 Bed  
☐ 2 Beds

#### Special Requests

☐ Barrier Free  
☐ Non Smoking  
☐ Smoking  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Credit Card Information

Card Type: AE D MC V Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

*Headquarters hotel fills up quickly, so get your reservation in early!*

## WINDSOR REPORT

### Windsor gearing up for 60th birthday

By Bill Strong

**Windsor** Chapter's first venture into our **Young Men in Harmony** program has taken off with a bang.

Our first meeting with a local high school attracted a couple dozen young men as well as a number of young women. **Ron Gibb** was our Chapter spokesperson and was ably assisted by two of our Chapter Quartets, **Desperate Measures** and **Slow Pitch Four**.

When the allotted time period was over both quartets had foursomes singing tags and with great enthusiasm. This should not be surprising.

People of all ages like to sing and with a little encouragement from "trained singers" wonderful things can happen. Plans are now in place to work with this same group in assisting them in a musical production to be held next spring. Good work Ron.

Next year marks the 60th anniversary of the Windsor Chapter and just in case it's been overlooked, the formation of the Windsor Chapter is what made our great Society International.

Plans are underway to mark this occasion with a number of events not the least of which is a very ambitious plan to put 60 men on stage at the 2004 Convention.

Pretty ambitious, but hopefully we can pull it off. The Anniversary theme will make itself known in our show themes and this will be a great assist in attracting new members to our Chapter.

The success of the Windsor Chapter over these past 60



years would not have been possible without the help and fellowship of our neighbors in Michigan.

The number of visitations that have taken place over the years, going both ways, has allowed our Chapter to flourish.

We in the Windsor Chapter would be remiss in not acknowledging all the things that **Power Play** have accomplished in their still young Championship year. We know that they will go down as one of our Society's greatest Champions. Windsor loves you guys.

## FRED KENDALL

### Sang in Barbershop quartets for more than 50 years

Fred Milner Kendall, 90, died Aug. 14, 2003, at a Grand Haven nursing home.

Fred was a charter member and the first treasurer of the First Presbyterian church of Muskegon, and attended Spring Lake Presbyterian Church. He was a member of the church choir for 40 years. He sang in Barbershop quartets for more than 50 years and was a member of SPEBSQSA. He was also previously involved with the Toastmasters. He owned and operated Byldan Construction Co., and had been involved in various sales positions throughout his career. Fred formed a quartet early in the 40's, after the Muskegon Chapter was formed. His quartet was **The Sheldonaire**s, **Frank Cabacai**, **Bill Griffith**, **John Buitendorp**, and **Fred**. They sang over a wide



range of functions, including a stint at the **Palmer House** in Chicago. His most popular quartet was **The Occasional Four**, with **Bill Wickstrom** (Tenor), **Al Martin** (Bass), **Webb Scrivnor** (Baritone) and **Fred** (Lead).

They won the **Novice Champion Award** that year and later finished second at **Bush League** (behind the **Four Fits**).

In recent years, he sang in the Dune Tones until it no longer seemed practical for anything except fellowship.

He sang in nearly every Chapter Show and Contest, and traveled to International with the **Port City Chorus** six different times, and was still singing in the **Shoreline Chorus** several days before his fall that resulted in a broken hip.

Survivors include his wife, Virginia; a daughter, Leane Kendall of Reno, Nev.; two step-sons, John (Carol) McNitt of Spring Lake and Kirk (Lisa) McNitt of Fruitport; two step-daughters, Cynthia (Gary) Rummeler of Grand Haven and Kerilyn (Kerry) Hinds of Even; two sisters, Ruth Taylor of Florida and Dorothy Boseker of Spring Lake; nine grandchildren; and two great-grand-children. He was preceded in death by a brother and a sister

### Tributes: Other Barbershoppers lost in late 2003

**Sel Burchenal, Grosse Pointe**, known for his deep-bass rendition of "Casey at the bat."

**Don Hein, Grosse Pointe**, champion ticket seller, broadcasting pioneer, Barbershopper of the Year and past officer.

**Frank Richards, Lansing**, member of many quartets, past president, officer, Barbershopper of the Year.

**Marge Wearing, Grosse Pointe**, helped found Harrisville Weekend and active in Barbershopping supporting husband John for several decades.

## CALENDAR: Upcoming events

### November 7

Canada Night - Detroit-Oakland, host

### November 8

Pontiac-Waterford Chapter Show

### November 11

Livingston Chapter Show

### December 6

Huron Valley Christmas Show

### December 11

Grosse Pointe Chapter Christmas Show

### 2004

### January 3-4

COTS - Lansing

### January. 25-February. 1

Mid-Winter Convention, Biloxi, MS

### February 20-21

Detroit-Oakland Chapter Show

### March 6

Wayne Chapter Show

### March 12-13

Harmony Happening

### March 13

Lansing Chapter Show

March 13

Kalamazoo Chapter Show

### April 23-25

District Convention - Gaylord

### May 7

Holland Chapter Show

### May 14-16

Harmony Round-Up

### May 15

Grand Rapids Chapter Show

May 22

Macomb Chapter Show

### June 27 - July 4

International Convention, Louisville, KY

### September 18

Grosse Pointe Chapter show featuring 2002 Gold Medal Champs 4 Voices

### October 15-17

District Convention - Location to be determined

### October 30

Rochester Chapter Show

### November 5-7

Leadership Forum

Wayne Chapter, SPEBSQSA, Inc.  
36500 Ann Arbor Trail  
Livonia MI 48150

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An official publication of the Pioneer District Association of Chapters of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc.

## Chapter Locations

