



Pioneer Troubadour

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The Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc.

Power Play 1st Slamkas 2003 International Quartet Champs

By Joe Serwach and Jim Styer/Troubadour Staff
Seabiscuit and Power Play share similar stories: the contender with the most heart wins.

The ones who look the most "right" or perfect on paper don't beat the ones with the most heart. July 5 proved: true love prevails.

Seabiscuit, the famous race horse in this summer's film, was written off as being too little but beat the odds. **Jack Slamka**, with 32-years in the Society, remembers being the "old guy" in top quartet competitions where the second oldest was 38. A father-son quartet had never won the top medal and a family quartet hadn't won in half a century.

Our International champs were the first Pioneer quartet to win Barbershop's highest honor since the **Gentlemen's Agreement** won the gold in 1971.

Like the little engine that could, the Slamka family began its quest for the gold back in the 1980s, slowly moving up and vowing not to stop trying until



they made it. They rose to fifth place in 2000 and 2001, moved to third in 2002 and finally won the biggest prize in July

A "power play" is a hockey term, denoting impact, requiring teamwork and resulting in an advantage. In Barbershop, it denotes "singing from the heart," family and now: a gold medal.

In winning the gold, Power Play tallied 8,088 points, its highest score ever, its highest percentage of perfection ever (90%) and 340 points above its score last year. Placing 2nd, 27 points behind Power Play, was **Gotcha!** from the Far West District.

Power Play was the most consistent among the top quartets throughout the competition, ranking among the top two in all of the three rounds

Please see 1st. Page 3.

The improbable dream: 1st director recalls how father-son gold winners joined SPEBSQSA
By Russ Seely

So this kind-of tough lookin' guy, complete with a pack of smokes rolled up in the sleeve of his T-shirt, tattoos and DA haircut, swaggers over and asks: "whadd' ya call this kind of music?"

"Barbershop," I said, and so began a long journey necessary to fulfill a dream.

The "tough guy" in this dream was, of course, **Jack Slamka**. He had recently discharged from the Navy and was urged by his young, very attractive, Irish wife, **Kitty**, to find out what the marquee on the **Macomb Mall** proclaiming, "Auditions for Admissions" was all about. (Throughout this journey, Kitty has become the Chief Prodder for the quartet). This took place over 30 years ago. As **Grosse Pointe's** Music Director, I explained to Jack that Barbershop singing was accapella, that is; no musical accompaniment.

Jack told me that his dad and uncle sang with the **GM Glee Club**, which used a piano in performances and he was considering trying out with them since he enjoyed singing almost as much as he did baseball (he's good at that too!)

Of all our prospects that evening, we must admit that we thought Jack would be the least likely to make a return visit to our next regular meeting. But visit us he did. He started in the Lead section and handled it quite well. Please see **How it began**, page 17.

Join us at the State Fair to spread our hobby

Barbershoppers will have a booth at the **Michigan State Fair** introducing our artform to the masses. Please bring your family to the fair and then find our booth in the Agriculture Building.

You might also find a quartet strolling around that will let you sing a song or a tag. The idea was started late last fall by **Floyd McDaniel** of the **Macomb County Chapter** and is an unofficial project of the entire **Pioneer District**, as all Chapters were invited to participate.

Due to the geographic location of the fair in Detroit, it has become more of a regional project with several of the area Chapters providing manpower for the booth and quartets to be there daily.

The objective of the project is to make everyone aware that we exist in Michigan through a joint membership and public relations thrust. A handout list of the location and meeting nights of all Pioneer Chapters will be available.

A list of all Chapter shows will be given out, so make sure that Floyd has all the required information. We will even have information for someone wanting to start a new Chapter for fair patrons not near an existing Chapter.

The decorated booth will have a Barbershop chair and photo opportunities in the **Norman Rockwell** style. We will also be selling some CDs and tapes and a few other Barbershop items. Come to the fair!



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1ST: gold won

Continued from Page 1.

For five of its six songs, Power Play's highest judging-category score was in presentation, compared with its music and singing category scores. (On the sixth song, the music scores tied the presentation scores.) Overall, the differences between the music and singing scores were quite small.

The repertoire was vintage Power Play: "Sunshine of Your Smile" and "Taking a Chance on Love" in the quarterfinals; "Time After Time" and "Side by Side" in the quarter finals; and "When There's Love at Home" and "The Best Times I Ever Had" in the finals.

The Slamkas' climb to the gold began with **Family Forum** in fall 1985, placing 5th in District competition. Members were brothers **Jack** and **Mike** and their sons, **Mike** and **Don**, respectively.

The family continued to compete, placing 2nd in 1988 as **Power Play** and becoming District champs in 1989. The quartet then included Jack's son Mark and **Jason Oyler**; they had replaced Jack's brother Mike and the latter's son Don.

Since then, the quartet has scored first in the District's international prelims every spring it has competed. With Oyler on tenor, the foursome came in 39th in international competition in 1990, and 24th the following year.

Don returned to replace Oyler in 1992 as the quartet placed 17th then 14th in 1993-94. After not competing in 1995-96, Power Play first climbed into the international Top 10 in 1997, placing 9th.

All told, Power Play has placed twice in the international quarterfinals, four times in the semifinals (11-20) and six times in the international finals (top 10). The quartet medaled in the last four outings: 5th, 5th, 3rd and now 1st.

Power Play was the first District quartet to reach the Society finals since **The Ritz** in 1987, with **Clay Shumard** of **Grand Rapids** on baritone. With a change in personnel, The Ritz went on to claim the international title in 1991 as a **Johnny Appleseed District** quartet.

Power Play is the first family quartet to win the gold since the **Schmidt Brothers** in 1951.

The only other father-son combination to win gold medals were **Harlan Wilson** (**Suntones**, 1961) and **Todd Wilson** (**Acoustix**, 1990).

"Team Slamka" is the only quartet to have done it with dad and son in the same quartet.

Showing how long the journey was, Mike noted that Power Play was the only quartet in this year's finals that had also competed against the legendary **Acoustix** back in 1990.

Singing, living each day with heart: all or nothing at all...

By Joe Serwach/Editor

It was October 1997, one of the best months of my life. A few special people reminded me of something I never again forgot: how to live and love every day with all your heart. You take nothing for granted, focus totally on what you're doing with all your heart, all or nothing at all.

I attended my first **Pioneer** Convention that month and was singing "Wild Irish Rose" in a quartet with the great **Marv Burke**. He told me to stop, asked if I had even the a clue what that song was about. He told me exactly what it truly means and it startled me.



Ever since that day, I've constantly realized most of us sing songs without "getting" the message, without really considering or knowing the meaning of the words. As if we were singing a Latin Mass without the translation. Most of us constantly say things without thinking of the real meaning of what we are saying.

But the best singers, like the people who love with the most loving hearts, do sing and live with heart. At that convention, I first heard the Slamkas, who have made it their motto to sing with heart or don't bother. That attitude won them our Society's highest honor and this issue is dedicated to that special family.

During that same month, I first saw someone else who also sang and lived his whole life with that same attitude. Someone asked "who's the guy with the earring?" **Kelly Brummett** always stood out in a crowd.

He was the lead in **The Detroit Sound Company**, which won the District championship that year. Kelly loved to sing and couldn't get enough of it. You saw Kelly and his quartet everywhere, heard them on the radio. They were true champs in every sense.

My son had just become one of Pioneer's youngest Barbershoppers at age 10. At our first **Uncle Sam Night**, Kelly called him down at the end of the evening and asked him to sing with the quartet for the show finale before the entire watching crowd of Barbershoppers.

Eddie, too young to be scared or think of what just happened, ran right up and sang with the champs. He never forgot that. I never forgot that and so I always paid attention whenever I heard about Kelly and The Detroit Sound Company, chuckled when a Pioneer debate ensued over whether one man should be singing multiple parts in multiple quartets!

Well, we all knew who they were talking about. We all know that many of today's Barbershoppers have begun to shy away from quartet singing preferring the safety in numbers of big choruses where one man doesn't have to carry the entire load.

Kelly carried more than his share of any load, singing in more quartets than most can remember including The Detroit Sound Company, **Smorgaschord**, **LYRIC**, **Chordiology** and senior quartet qualifiers **New Wrinkle** (didn't he look too young to be in a senior quartet?). He wound up singing lead, baritone and tenor in those groups and he also sang in the gospel group, **Cherry Hill Brothers** and served as assistant director of **Huron Valley**, which won its first championship this past spring.

When the news of Kelly's death arrived recently, we were stunned. He seemed so young and to go so fast. But in the spirit of that youth, his friends gathered at an Ann Arbor bowling alley where we all sang karaoke in his memory. Four of those Barbershoppers shut off the music at one point, told the crowd a little about Barbershop and sang "Wild Irish Rose." I'm told that two karaoke guys who'd never heard Barbershop before came down to Huron Valley after that to learn more..

Can't think of a better tribute to Kelly than for Barbershoppers to start going to the karaoke bars and letting that large number of singers know what we have in our society.. What a great place to find new guys.

The Slamkas had been competing on the International stage longer than all the other contenders, coming year after year, learning more each year, improving each year until they finally were declared this year to be the best Barbershop Quartet in the world.

The ones who give it their all, love with all their hearts, always are the best. At everything. More than you know.



Kelly (second from left) with the Detroit Sound Co. in 1997 and more



Let's have fun in Barbershop

By Al Bonney

Pioneer District President

It's the middle of the summer, I am just back from the greatest International Convention

ever, **Harmony College** and the District summer planning meeting is just around the corner, my chorus is learning some great fun new music and you want

me to write an article that says something worth reading.

That, my friends is a challenge!

All I can think of is having fun in

Barbershop – which, of course, is why we joined up, isn't it? Why else would we take time from our families and friends, leave the fishing, our sailboats or the golf course to learn our music?

Why else would we spend the money and endure the many rehearsal hours on the risers? Why else would we do the administrative work, like writing **Troubadour** articles or planning board meeting agendas, that keep the organization going?

It better be fun or most of us will go buy a bowling ball and find another hobby!

Thinking of FUN puts me in mind of the work I have had the privilege of doing over the past seven months – working on a task force to examine the Society's governance and management structure – not a great summertime topic, but the relevant part is that the whole reason any of us do this leadership thing is to make Barbershopping more fun for every one of the 32,000 members of our society.

I mean, what other reason could there be to have board meetings, put on events, write manuals or put on contests? If the leadership work doesn't somehow contribute to making

the guy in the back row on the risers every Tuesday night glad he is a Barbershopper what's the point?

What the GMTF (that's the acronym for the Task Force I am working on) realized was that, in the stilted language of these kinds of groups, adding value to the member's Barbershop experience is the **ONLY** reason for spending resources on the organization that keeps the Society alive and going forward. Having accepted that, we are now stuck with the need to understand what the membership thinks is fun!

We have a very broad membership – one with a wide variety of complex needs and values.

Some (like our dear newly be-medalled friends the **Slamka** family) believe that musical excellence is fun and belong to the Society so they can get help growing and becoming increasingly excellent in their craft.

There are quite a number who agree with this, but this is not the only value, is it?

Some think outreach -- doing good through singing in their communities -- is an important value and want the Society to help Chapters and members do more in their communities.

Others believe that the camaraderie they feel in every Chapter meeting, ringing chords with their buddies and renewing friendships is a critical value and the reason they belong.

We all know guys who simply love the sound of their voice within the chorus, learning new music and pleasing their audiences with good toe-tapping fun music. These guys love singing in a chorus that works hard and sings as good as it can.

I know there are some guys who like singing the music but really value the opportunity to contribute to an organization through their administrative or

leadership skills.

There are so many values that our 32,000 members have that need attention and support.

I have not begun to name them all, have I? Most of us would fall into the category of having several of these values, don't you agree?

As we head into the District Planning meeting for 2004 where we will put the budget and the work plan together (for review at the House Of Delegates in October) what I find really on my mind is, "how can I contribute to making Barbershop more fun?"

That will be our goal as we meet on August 9. I look forward to receiving your comments and suggestions on how YOU think we can do that?

Are we addressing YOUR values? Does YOUR CHAPTER get what it needs to be all it can be for you and the guys who sing there every week?

What more or different could the District of the Society do for YOU AND YOUR CHAPTER to make every rehearsal every week more fun for you?

Like I said, THAT is the challenge!

So . . . while we are at it, let's not forget to make some Barbershop fun for ourselves and

Giving something
your very best...

Words of a champion:

I spoke with **Jack Slamka** following the Wednesday performance (the one where everyone thought they were near perfect) and Jack recounted a conversation in the wings where he said to the three younger guys, "Boys, you just got all there was from the old man. I can do it again but don't ask for more, - that's all there is!"

Metropolis 3rd: Possible future champs also have Pioneer

Metropolis, from the **Far West District**, may be the next Society championship quartet with **Pioneer District** links.

With two former Pioneer champion quartetters in its ranks, Metropolis has medaled for the second time in international competition, placing 3rd this year in Montreal.

The quartet came out strong, placing first in the quarterfinals. It ranked 2nd in the semifinals and 3rd in the finals.

Metropolis lead **Bob Hartley** and bass **Brian Philbin** are former members of **Ivy League**, which won the Pioneer championship in 1985.

The quartet was known for its comedy routines, appearing variously as superheroes, nudists, nerds, Cub Scouts and tourists. It competed internationally four times. Ivy League members have held reunions periodically.

Hartley and Philbin now are members of the **Santa Fe Springs Chapter**, home of 2002 international chorus champions, **Masters of Harmony**. Both have been chorus section leaders.

The first medal for Metropolis was a 5th-place bronze last year in Portland, Ore.

In previous international competitions, Metropolis ranked in the top 10 twice and the top 20 three times.

The quartet has sung on the network TV show "Diagnosis, Murder" with **Dick VanDyke**, an honorary SPEBSQSA member and celebrity spokesman for the **Harmony Foundation**.

In 1998, a year after Metropolis began competing internationally, it was the first Barbershop quartet to win the **National A Cappella Harmony Sweepstakes**.



What else happened in Montreal?

By Raleign Bloch

I'm sure by now you know who won and all that stuff and yes there was a society board meeting, a Barbershopper shop, AIC show, tours, College Quartet Contest, a web-cast, singing with the champs, seminars for all, and you name it.



It was a wonderful convention and contest and the City of Montreal couldn't have been nicer. But what was this thing called "Key Leadership Alignment Meeting"?

Glad you asked. On Sunday night June 29 all of the Board members, Headquarters Staff,

District Presidents and Committee Chairmen met together to become one team for the purpose of leading the Society forward in 2004 through the efficient and productive use of the work plan as proposed by the BOD.

The meeting was about HOW we are going to work together more effectively, rather than what will go into the work plan. The meeting was facilitated by, **Al Blixt** of Danner Miller Associates from Ann Arbor.

So how does a large group (60-plus-people) like this work together? We worked as smaller groups of seven to eight and then reported back to the larger group.

Each group was made up of a mix of individuals from the groups represented. After getting to know one another, with a brief exercise, we reviewed the Strategic Planning Guidance and recorded comments based on our experience as Barbershoppers that began with, "we always" or "we

never".

Next we individually wrote what we called "Valentines" to each of the groups represented in the meeting. These were comments on what we thought the various groups needed to do differently so that we can work better together to achieve our goals in the 2004-2005 Work Plan.

Each group then met and reviewed their "Valentines" and then decided what they were going to do differently, based on this feedback.

Since I was in the Society Board Group, I will only report on some of the actions the board will take and they are as follows:

The themes we heard in our Valentines:

1. Connection to the member and his value
2. Effective communication
3. Unified Vision
4. Don't micro-manage
5. Succession/nominating planning

6. Hold people accountable **The things we will do to help achieve our goals:**

1. We will again make home phone calls to one third of the Chapter Presidents.
2. We will phone 150 Joe Barbershoppers in 2003 and 150 more in 2004.
3. We will provide a structured opportunity for Society BOD members and Joe Barbershopper to interact at District Conventions.
4. Continue to support Marketing Taskforce study.
5. The BOD will change procedures and focus on policy.
6. Focus on each District's five to seven goals.

The other groups will hopefully report on the actions they will take. In the mean time, who knows you will have more say in what is happening in your Society.

Bringing Gold Home

Power Play at the Slamka party July 26



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'My Big Fat Italian Chorus,' original Barbershop musical September 6

Grosse Pointe's show includes top quartets

"My Big Fat Italian Chorus," an original Barbershop musical/comedy debuts Sept. 6 at Roseville Jr. High School.

Grosse Pointe's annual musical also will include quartet appearances by top quartets **Afterthought** and **Novelty Shop**.

You Barbershop veterans who think you've seen every kind of Barbershop show cannot say you've seen it all until you've seen at least one **Russ Seely**-produced show.

Afterthought, a rapidly rising quartet out of Indiana, is the current **Cardinal District** champ and Novelty Shop is a hilarious Sweet Adelines comedy



Comedy quartet Novelty Shop "crowning" Power Play July 26..

quartet that caused quite a stir by "crowning" **Power Play** champs at the Slamka party July 26.

The show will also feature

Grosse Pointe quartets such as **Fermata Nowhere**, one of the top-ranked quartets in Pioneer and past Senior champ quartet the **Silverdomes** as well **In the**

Neighborhood and District champs **Crossfire**.

"My Big Fat Italian Chorus," lampoons the famous hit movie, "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" except there are all Barbershoppers in this production and a lot of Italians.. So wait till you get a load of the bride, who sings one mean bass!

Tickets are \$15 for a 7:30 p.m. show. A fantastic afterglow (no one throws a party like Grosse Pointe does) will follow..

For more information, please call Show Chairman **Joe Serwach** at (734)647-1844 (days) or (313)881-0531. Or e-mail: jserwach@aol.com.

Holland bulletin 20th

By Art Lane

PROBE, the association of **Public Relations Officers and Bulletin Editors** serving the members of the Society, made two important changes during the convention in Montreal.

The annual contest for bulletin editors was expanded to include online bulletins starting in 2004. Entries of online bulletins will be invited starting Jan. 1, 2004, and the winners will be announced in July at the convention in Louisville.

Expanding the contest to the new electronic form of communication is expected to help make the bulletin competition more international, by encouraging entries from other continents.

The members of **PROBE** also changed to six from eight the number of bulletins that must be published annually in order to be eligible for the International Bulletin Contest.

Results of **PROBE**'s contests for bulletin editors and public relations officers for 2002 were announced.

The International Bulletin Contest winner was **John Conrad**, editor of the St. Louis Suburban *By-Lines* in the Central States District. Second place went to **Rich Nelson**, editor of the *Harmony Gazette* of Northbrook in the Illinois District. The sole entry from the Pioneer District, **Art Lane's Windmill Blade** from Holland, placed 20th.

Public Relations Officer of the Year awards went to **Philip Maxfield**, **Northwest Louisiana Chapter**, **SWD**, for a year-long effort, and to **Lee Roth** of the **Hunterdon Harmonizers** in New Jersey, **MAD**, for a single event.

And a personal note to Power Play:

It was great to sit in the Bell Centre in Montreal and listen to **Power Play** continue to sing from the heart, to sing fully but not over the top, to sing meaningful songs that engage the imagination of the listeners, and, finally, to win. Thanks for representing the Pioneer District so long and so well.

Motor City at Harmony College

The article below is from the Harmony College/Directors College newsletter.

Ypsilanti brings 30% of Chapter to HCDC!

Jeff Woodruff, director of the **Ypsilanti Motor City Metro Chapter**, has known some hard times.

We were the powerhouse a few years ago, an international competitor under director **Bob Whitlege**, said Woodruff, telling familiar tale. But a lot of guys left when Bob moved on, and we haven't ever recovered. Once a large chorus: now, we're not even large enough to compete at our **Pioneer District** competition. I became director after losing about four or five

directors and inherited about five singing members. Desperate times called for desperate measures. placed an ad in the Talent Wanted section of a local alternative newspaper inviting vocal musicians to audition for a vocal ensemble

Brandon Mattson answered the ad and has been hooked ever since. Brandon has managed to bring in four new members in the last two years, including friend-of-a-friend **Aaron Wolf**.

All three are here this week, meaning 30 percent of the 10 active member sare taking a step up in their Barbershopping skills.

This fits the Chapter's philosophy:

Build the individual singer, build the chorus. Because we only have 10 singers, there can be no learners in our chorus, said Woodruff. Everyone sings in a quartet at least once each week, sometimes more to give everyone a chance. No one refuses; as guests come in they don't know any different. Our guests sing in quartets the first day they visit. We stop what we are doing to teach them a simple song or at least a tag and they are asked to sing before the night is over.

We are building a chorus of men who love to sing in quartets and chorus, said Woodruff. Isn't that what it's all about?

Lansing: Bringing back fun on Fridays



By Don Horton
Lansing Events Chairman

Lansing Chapter decided to bring back the Good Old Days of Friday n=fun nights with Wing Ding Sing May 2. Men from throughout the District showed up to participate.

Steve Warner looked like an old time Barbershopper but is really Lansing's newest member and served as the designated photographer on his first Barbershop FUN NIGHT.

The "pick up four" from **Wayne** and Lansing had fun together forming a pick-up quartet.

The **Parts Unlimited** from Lansing give it their best shot. Nine Chapter in all were represented among the 65 fun loving Barbershoppers from around the **Pioneer District**.

Fred McFadden from **Macomb** directed an OLD CHESTNUT everyone loved. **Whatever Four** from **Hillsdale** came. Together, the quartet has more than a 100 years experience -- more than our District Seniors Champs **Shades of Gray** and they have been woodshedding songs the likes of which most Barbershoppers today have never heard of. I think they must be the original AHSOW!!!!

Saginaw Bay Chapter had seven guys down. **Renaissance** and **Parts Unlimited** shared the same bass, **Bob Fox**, which could be why they came together and made an octet with only seven members.

The host **Lansing Capitol City Chordsmen** belted out their recent contest set under the direction of Larry Parker.

There were BEANS and BURGERS and SONGS OF GOOD CHEER and if THE LORD BE WILLIN AND THE CREEK DON'T RISE there will be many more of these Wing Ding Sings around the District.



New gospel Barbershop group forming

I'm **Doug Joppie**. I sing lead with the **Detroit-Oakland Chapter** and the **Today's Special** quartet.

The folks at the **Troubadour** have graciously granted me some space to tell you about a new ensemble I'm trying to start.

I have always felt that singing to, for, and about My Lord and My God is the reason God gave

me the voice that I have.

For a couple of years, now, I have had this vision of a Christian Barbershop Ensemble that would bring Praise and Worship songs, in the Barbershop style, to a different church every Sunday.

The main goal of this group would be "To provide a 30 to 60 minute program of Christian music, free of charge, to any church that wants it".

A secondary goal would be

"To (gently) promote Barbershop singing to the folks in the audience".

I'm thinking of a group of about 12 guys that would perform interesting and challenging Christian music in a high quality, Barbershop Style.

This article is a call for help in making this vision a reality. We need singers, coaches, arrangers, and an organization person.

So, please, if any of this strikes a chord with you, if you have felt drawn to do more to praise and worship Our Lord, if you'd be willing to help see this dream come to life, please contact me at:

Doug Joppie
19550 Butternut Lane
Southfield, MI 48076-1764
(248) 569-8037 Home, (586) 497-3385 Work
DWJoppie@comcast.net.



NOTICES OF CONTESTS

2003 International Preliminary Chorus Contest

2003 Pioneer District Quartet Contest

2003 Pioneer District Seniors Quartet Contest

On Friday, October 17, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. the Pioneer District Preliminary Quartet Contest and the Pioneer District Seniors Quartet Contest will be held together. Singing order for the combined contests will be determined by the draw at 12:00 noon on Saturday, October 4, 2003. All Quartets entered for either contest will be in the draw for singing position.

On Saturday, October 18, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. the Pioneer District Quartet Finals will be held.

On Saturday, October 18, 2003 at 12:00 noon, the International Preliminary Chorus Contest will be held.

All contests will be held at W. K. Kellogg Auditorium, Battle Creek, Michigan.

No contest entry forms will be distributed. We are encouraging all quartets and choruses to enter the contests by submitting an entry form online.

On line registration may be accomplished by accessing the Society's forms site, <http://www.spebsqsa.org/Forms/>, completing the form and clicking submit, or by going on the Pioneer District Web Site, clicking on Fall Convention and then clicking on Contest Entry Form for Quartet or Chorus. THE FORM, INCLUDING ALL INFORMATION REQUESTED FOR BOTH QUARTET AND CHORUS ENTRIES, MUST BE COMPLETED IN FULL AND SUBMITTED TO VP EDWARD FRITZEN NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 3, 2003 to be entered in the drawing to be held October 4, 2003.

NO LATE ENTRIES, QUARTET OR CHORUS, WILL BE PERMITTED.



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Dear Pioneer Friends:

It was a pleasure sharing our music with you at the Spring Convention in Lansing. Your warm applause and kind words were greatly appreciated.

Please consider Vocal Montage when planning your next show or chapter event. We offer a variety of music sure to please Barbershop singers, their Families and Friends.

Notice of Election of District Officers

President
Secretary
Treasurer
Executive Vice President
Vice President of Member Services
Vice President of Chapter Support and Leadership Training
Vice President of Chorus Director Development
Vice President of Contest and Judging
Vice President of Events
Vice President of Marketing and Public Relations
Vice President of Music and Performance
Vice President of Youth Outreach
Vice President of Finance

Notice of Nomination Procedures

The election of the District Officers listed above will take place at the **House of Delegates** Meeting at the Fall District Convention on Friday, October 17, 2003. The President and the Executive Vice President each will be elected to serve a two-year term. Election of persons to all other offices will be for a one-year term. The Executive Vice President will be a separate office and will not be filled by one of the other Vice Presidents serving in a dual capacity.

The District By-Laws in effect since January 1, 1997 require that all nominations of persons for District office be reviewed by and be acceptable to the appropriate Society Committee. This procedure must be followed for nominations anticipated to be made from the floor at the fall House of Delegates Meeting as well as for nominations by the District Nominating Committee. Persons nominated for District office must be active members of a District Chapter. Persons who belong only to the **Frank Thorne Chapter** are ineligible to run for a District office.

Therefore, nomination from the floor at the fall House of Delegates Meeting of any person to fill a District office must be preceded by submission of the potential nominee's written permission, résumé and credentials to the District Nominating Committee by June 20, 2003 for forwarding to the appropriate Society Committee for review and acceptance. Nomination from the floor of any person for any District office will be disallowed if this procedure has not been followed. Additionally, nomination from the floor of any individual whose name has been submitted to the appropriate Society Committee and who has been found not qualified will not be disallowed, but the nomination from the floor must be accompanied by the Society Committee's reasons for disapproval and its recommendations, if any, as to what steps can be taken to make the proposed candidate acceptable to the Society Committee.

Marvin Skupski

Pioneer District Secretary

QCA ready for Bush League

By Al Fisk/QCA

Greetings from the Quartet Champions Association:
Howdy, gang, enjoying your summer? As an educator, I find the three best things about teaching are June, July, and August. LOL

The QCA is pleased and proud to welcome the Pioneer District Senior Quartet Champions into our fold. I spent a fair amount of time digging up ... err ... locating the quartets and their names so take a peek at the Pioneer web site

http://www.harmonize.com/Pioneer/honor_roll/honorfrm.htm) for the full listing. (It all started in '88.)

Our latest gathering was at the infamous **Slamka** party on July 26. We socialized, sang (between 4:30 dinner and the 7:00 show), and had a wonderful time. More than 300 attended.

Craig Pollard is hard at work lining up the coaching faculty (consisting of QCA members!) for this year's **Bush League** bash in **Gaylord** (last weekend in September).

We are pleased to be working with the District and the Gaylord Chapter. The QCA will supply the judges (**Ed Fritzen?** - Singing, **Roger Lewis** - Presentation, and me, **Al Fisk**, - Music), the coaching of the quartets (after the morning competition), and a master class. The headliners for the show will be our own **Four Man Fishin' Tackle Choir!**

Finally, let's feature Craig Pollard, in his own words, in this month's spotlight.

"I grew up a Barbershop brat (with my father being involved in it for 36 years). I have been in the Society for 26 years and have two boys who love to sing. As a matter of fact, they may compete at Bush League this year! I met Jill, my wife of 18 years, in Sweet Adeline's.

I have competed on the International stage six times: three choruses and three quartets.

With the QCA getting involved with Bush League this year, I will be running the coaching school.

I work for **Guhring**, a German cutting tool manufacturer. My other love is being with the boys in **Harrisville** all summer. We have been doing this Labor Day tradition for 40 years. I will keep it going as long as possible!"

Brian Kaufman

Bruce LaMarte



ACAPELLA
QUARTET

Craig Pollard

248-474-1485

caponyx@entropytech.com

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or Brian McDougall @ (519) 245 - 5747

www.crossfirequartet.com

A new fuse for the blast

By Dave Anderson

It was a real disappointment when the third **A CAPPELLA BLAST!** had to be canceled in May due to the cancellation of the **Harmony Round-up** and also low registrations for the BLAST!.



I will admonish all of you fine Pioneer Barbershoppers that said they had planned to attend the HRU and then just never sent in any registrations.

You must pay attention to deadlines and get things in on time. Your hard working officers cannot make commitments just on a guess of who's coming.

What has happened is that your BLAST! redo team has met and is planning a new, revised format at a different date when the schools are not so busy. **Jamie Carey, Vicki and Ken Gibson, Chuck Hatch** and myself have met and are busy planning this new event.

We are going to need the push and support from the Chapter level, so be prepared to be contacted for help. You will be requested to contact your local vocal music teachers and offer them support and information on this event. Like the Pres sez, if its going to happen, it must happen in the Chapter.

We did have a very successful week in May when **Bill Rashleigh** spent time visiting choir classes in Michigan schools. A big thank you to **Raleigh Bloch** for arranging his visit on the West side of the state. Bill does a very fun and educational program and lays the ground work for the local Chapters to further work with these schools.

It was very nice to have **Gordy Dubrul** come with us to the **Grosse Pointe University Liggett** school and **Chuck Hatch** join us at **Dakota HS in Macomb Township**.

We need your help! The future YMIH focus is changing from a District Team concept to a local Chapter involvement, so look forward after the Montreal Convention to hearing more about this. Right now I need to go shine my shoes and get ready for the performance of a lifetime!

Your Friend in Harmony, Dave A.

Hi-tech electronic communication: District takes the latest step

By Marvin Skupski

Pioneer District Secretary

Beginning this fall, Notice of Contests will be published in the **Troubadour** and sent by e-mail attachment to all Pioneer District registered quartets, except for those quartets which do not have an e-mail contact. Those few will continue to be sent by US Postal Service.

Quartets: Make sure you have your current address listed with your quartet registration in Kenosha because the Notice of Contests will be sent to the address listed with Kenosha. (For those not current: "address" is the new term for "e-mail address.")

We began sending notices to District Officers, Chapter Presidents and some committee chairmen by e-mail attachment for the Spring 2002 Convention and have continued that practice ever since. The District has found it not only a successful manner of communicating but also a way to realize a huge reduction in our annual paper expense, envelope expense and postal expense.

One hundred years ago at the turn of the century the transportation industry began ending ten thousand years of reliance on animal power by converting to all things motorized.

Now, one hundred years later, the communication industry is just now completing the conversion to all things electronic. It has become an electronic world out there, and Pioneer District must stay current. Please e-mail your comments to me at marvinskup@wwnet.net.

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Barbershop still best kept secret in town...

By Doran McTaggart

*Chapter Support/Leadership
Vice President
THE BEST KEPT SECRET IN
TOWN..."*

How many times have you heard our great hobby referred to with that statement? Sadly, the answer to that question is FAR TOO MANY!!!

But, if we are to perpetuate the style of music we so dearly love, and have the Society experience the growth it must have, then we must make sure that statement doesn't any longer apply!

So how do we go about that? It's quite a simple concept- get your Chapters in front of the public, and when you do so,



make it a memorable musical experience for the listeners and make it a recruiting opportunity for your Chapter.

Here we are starting the second half of the year, in the middle of summer- a time that many Chapters kick back a bit and relax, or say "it's vacation time- we can't hold a guest night", but what if...

What if your chorus, instead of sitting back were to take the initiative to make plans to sing at ballparks and ballgames?

I know the Tigers are pathetic, and only a couple of Chapters have minor league teams in their cities, but we don't have to limit ourselves to those.

I'm sure that nearly every community in which we reside has summer recreation leagues and we are closing in on what

would be "championship time" in those leagues- a time that more spectators will be present than on a normal game night.

Or maybe you live in an area that hosts State Tournament games- another GREAT opportunity!

Another chance to get in front of the public will occur on September 11, as "Barbershoppers will gather at city halls, state capitals and community centers everywhere, to give vocal tribute to those who died and to the men and women in uniform who protect our land with "United We Sing".

Your Chapters will want to be a part of this massive show of support and commitment. Your Society team has contacted several patriotic groups to partner with Barbershoppers to make for a thrilling event.

The **American Legion** and the **VFW** are among those who have agreed to provide color guards and flag ceremonies to create a memorable scene."

And of course at EVERY performance you should have information to pass out to interested listeners.

Have non- performing members (or spouses) posted in the crowd to identify those individuals who are singing along, or actively involved in viewing your performance and then make sure a Chapter member talks to them following the performance.

MAKE EVERY PERFORMANCE A RECRUITING OPPORTUNITY- you just might find out that you are no longer the best kept secret in town!

Pioneer District directors are taking advantage of Directors College Scholarships

By Steve Foster

Pioneer VP Chorus Director Development

Five Frontline Director's from the **Pioneer District** attended **Directors College** July 27 - August 3, 2003 in St. Joseph, Mo. and taking advantage of Scholarship's offered by the District and the Society.

The Recipients of four Society-sponsored scholarships were: **Larry Parker (Lansing Chapter)**, **Jim Johnson (Holland Chapter)**, **Jeff Woodruff (Motor City Metro)** and **Marilyn Byrd (Gaylord Chapter)**.

Lynne Pierce (Huron Valley) and **Bruce Collins (Pontiac-Waterford Big Chief Chorus)** were offered and accepted one of the three scholarships offered by the District.

Other directors from the Pioneer who attended were **Al Bonney (Traverse City)**,

Dan Bezaire (Windsor Chapter) and several assistant directors also attended. Pioneer was well-represented.

As I look back at 2003 as a Barbershopper, I have truly gained a tremendous amount of respect for our Frontline Directors.

I attended a CDWI workshop in April and quickly learned if I was ever going to be a front line director, I have a lot of work to do.

For that reason, I would like to personally thank all the directors and assistants for all their efforts.

Anyone can stand out front and wave their arms and direct a chorus.

However, it takes many hours of planning and dedication by a director preparing for your Chapter meeting.

Then why do they all want more training?

The obvious answer would be to become better directors; nonetheless, they can all accomplish that goal without going to workshops.

After getting to know many of our directors, I have learned that they all want the Pioneer Joe Barbershoppers to become better singers and therefore, want to draw from the experience of some of the Society's most experienced trainers.

They all have a desire to teach as well as be taught. Are you that dedicated to our hobby? The next time you see your director, let him/her know how much you appreciate their efforts.

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!

Huron Valley mourns loss of Kelly Brummett

*"In winter I get up at night,
And dress by yellow candle light.
In summer quite the other way,
I have to go to bed by day" -- Robert Louis Stevenson*

By Jerry Mangona

Summertime is rolling right along here at Huron Valley, and so are the **Harmonizers**. **Jug Night** and the **Windsor Send Off Show** were lots of fun as its always nice to experience the camaraderie of song.

And, of course, we knew we would be previewing a future Gold Medal Quartet!!!

HUGE congratulations to **Power Play** on their new championship status! Pioneer District couldn't ask for more -- we really are a "District ON THE MOVE!"

As usual, there's no shortage of "goings-on" in the chorus. Work on our up-tune for

the international qualifier competition has begun, and we'll be proud to bring it to the stage in the fall.

The church choirs in our area usually take the summer off -- so our Church Performance Ensemble is going out to fill the gap and spread the music of Pioneer District and Huron Valley out of the community.

And while on the topic of community, Huron Valley just sang and hosted a booth at the **Celtic Festival** in Saline. This annual event is a great time for us to meet the people, press the flesh, attract new members, and show people what we can do! Every year we meet a few ambitious souls who might want to join us (or sometimes, "re-join") in song on Tuesdays --- this year was no different, and we all had a good time.

On a sad note, we are all mourning the loss of **Kelly Brummett**. Kelly passed away the morning of June 23. Kelly was a member of many quartets over the years, an avid Barbershopper whose enthusiasm for song is

matched by few, and at one time he was also assistant director of the Huron Valley Harmonizers.

In the intermediate future, there will be a celebration of Kelly's life. When those plans have been made everyone will be properly informed so that we can all share in and recall Kelly's love for music and his influence on our lives.

Donations can be made to the following vocal harmony scholarship fund:
KELLY BRUMMETT FUND
C/O PAULMARK AGENCY
33900 W. EIGHT MILE ROAD, SUITE 175
FARMINGTON HILLS, MICHIGAN 48335
Phone: 248-471-7130

As always, you're all welcome to stop in and join us for some brotherhood and song on Tuesday nights. Just give us a call, and we'll roll out the red carpet for you. Till next time...Keep the Whole World Singing.



Sault Chapter draws all kinds at Novice contest

College quartet



Pioneer's Accidental Consonance finished 17th out of 21 college competitors at International



By Don Bazely
Sault Chapter

Once a year, just before our summer recess, the **Sault Chapter** holds a novice quartet contest.

We have opened the contest to: Mixed voice quartets, Sweet Adeline quartets, and kids as well as male quartets. Past champions and quartets with more than two members of current organized quartets were not eligible.

We had 14 male quartets, three SAI's, and one junior quartet.

For judges we had, in the past, asked our wives to adjudicate. We found, however, that they were awarding points for such non-musical attributes such as: cute buns, great smiles nice legs and pity-points for those guys that simply couldn't sing.!

Well this year we were rescued from such indignities by a quartet from Pontiac. Yes, the **B-Naturals** drove 300 miles, each way, ostensibly just to visit the Chapter.

They were pressed into service as

judges; and a great job they did too. No more did we have to wonder, "how on earth did THEY get a prize"?

Not surprisingly, the kids walked off with the female quartet prize. Bill Webb, co-director of the chorus, Chapter president and lead of, "Relative Harmony," coached the 11-12 year olds for at least eight weeks before the contest.

You know the old adage:- never share the stage with kids and animals.!

The novice night is a highlight of Chapter life. If you haven't tried it Why not schedule one for your Chapter.

The Sault Chapter is indebted to B-Natural for their willingness to drive so far just to enhance our evening.

The **4MFTC** also visited us a couple of years ago and did the judges' thing.

Before them the Smithtonians from Detroit were our only other visitors Since 1961 when this Chapter chartered.

To the B-Naturals and 4MFTC we say a heart felt "thanks".

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Macomb chrous manager: My first trip to International

If you have never been to International as an observer, take the chance to go and see the top choruses and quartets sing their hearts out to 10,000 plus people in the audience.

This year, they kept the house lights up some, and you could see the audience that you were singing to. The stage was the most live one that I have ever sang on, and the chorus was just buzzing with overtones

throughout the performance. When we came to the high point in Churchbells, the part with "Hear comes the Bride" and paused, the sound continued to echo throughout the arena. Same with the final chord in "My Fair Lady."

The camaraderie between the choruses was phenomenal. **Macomers** had the opportunity to see several top notch choruses rehearse, including the VM, and

I for one, was humbled by the greatness of these guys on the risers.

Although we did not move up from where we started, the chorus improved by three percentage points from where we were last fall. We also had the eyes of quite a few people who did not expect the chorus to have the sound that we put out on stage.

There was a lot of great comments from everyone we

talked with after the chorus competition, not only from the Pioneerers who were in Montreal, but from those that have been attending for years.

My favorite memory is when we started through processing at the hotel, there was quite a long delay, and the guys were getting antsy. We gathered together, and sang "Everything's Coming Up Roses" in the lobby, with

Please see Macomb Page 27.



The Grosse Pointe Chapter S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A Presents

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B- Natural completes another Florida Mini Tour:

By Lyle Howard

Lead – B-Natural

A little bit of old news is better than no news at all. In February, **Dick** (bari) **Roger** (bass) and **Lyle** (lead) met **John** (tenor – what else) at Ft. Myers International. John put us up for a couple of days at his Bonito Springs Ranch wherefrom we visited the **Naples Chapter** on Thursday night. Although the Chapter was refining their annual show scheduled for the following weekend, we were welcomed with open arms, and refreshments and songs afterwards.

Friday morning we headed southeast to Marathon Key where we were put up for a couple of days in some beautiful waterfront homes. Friday evening we performed with some very talented non-Barbershop acts at the local high school to help raise money to send a teacher and some students to **Harmony Explosion** in Florida. All in all, it was a successful endeavor whereas about \$1,000 was raised. We headlined the show and were sent off with a Standing O.

Saturday we entertained at a private party for local key area Barbershoppers and guests. We were pleased to hear a couple of songs from the two lead parts from a local presentation of Music Man, in which John Smith played the part of one of the school board members. The play opened after we left for home. I understand that John acted and sang in nine performances. Now this man is a glutton for punishment. For several weeks he drove a round trip every week of 450 miles to rehearse. I think on the last week before opening he did it twice.

Sunday morning we sang at the local Presbyterian Church service and headed back to Bonita Springs in the afternoon. We managed to make Cape Coral's meeting on Monday night. They had just completed their show and were in a more relaxed mood. Cape Coral has a new director who seems to really know his stuff. We really had a good time with these guys.

Tuesday it was to the airport where we discovered that our plane was grounded for maintenance problems and ----- But, that's another story.



Fun and patriotism with the Livingston Lamplighters

By Cal Bock

At the May 3 opening of the **Brighton Farmers Market** and the May 17 **Relay for Life**, the **Livingston Lamplighters** began their summer staying true to our mission, being a positive presence in the Livingston County community.

Both of these community affairs were enlivened with songs of patriotism and good old Barbershopping fun from the Lamplighters Chorus and two Chapter quartets, **By Appointment Only** and **FUNDAMENTALLY SOUND**.

Patriotism ran deep on July 4 as the Lamplighters opened the Brighton Fourth of July parade with the singing of our National Anthem, preceeded by some old Barbershopping favorites.

We were pleased and honored that our director, **Judie Sharpe**, was chosen to participate in the Chorus Directors Workshop Intensive (CDWI).

Judie recently had knee surgery. We are happy to report that she has recovered very well and is back with us again doing her terrific job.

The remainder of the summer moves into somewhat relaxed activity for the Chorus.

An annual pool party was scheduled for July, and a Barbecue on one of our regular August rehearsal nights is planned to include spouses.

The Lamplighters wish all of our Barbershop friends a continued enjoyable and safe summer.

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."

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



Windsor Chapter grows to 68 members

By Bill Strong
Windsor Chapter

The smoke has settled in Montreal and the Gold is finally in the hands of **Power Play**. Was Pioneer well represented or not?

With **Roger Lewis**, our Society president, doing the quartet finals and **Doran McTaggart** doing the chorus competition we were well represented.

Hats off to **Harmony Heritage** for a fine presentation and also to **Accidental Consonance** for a being such fine representatives of our District. The webcast made it possible for we "stay at home" guys to savour the Convention just a little.

Things have been real active in Windsor this spring and summer. We had 29 people at the **Return of the Jug** night. What a night. And then not to be outdone, Windsor held their annual sent off show the following Friday and what a success that was. Musically and financially. A tip of the hat to Doran for a fantastic job.

Both of these events are "must attend" for two reasons. They help support our contestants going to convention and the music is outstanding. Plan to attend next year. Our membership drive has paid big bonuses as we increased our membership to 68 men and we have our sights set to go even higher.

Could 100 be attainable? This feat could not have been accomplished without the hard work of many members especially **Ron Gigg**, our Chapter development VP. Great job Ron. Ron and Co-Chair **Mike Drouillard** are also putting much effort into getting our **Young Men in Harmony** program off the ground and we're looking forward to a lot of interest from our local school groups. Good luck guys. Summertime doesn't slow down our Chapter activities as we have a number of sing outs planned and our Monday night meetings are well attended in spite of the warm weather. And that's good news because our fall convention is just around the corner.

DOC gets 241 at Jug

By Tom Uicker

This year's **Return of the Jug** party, held on the first Friday in June, was the best one in this writer's memory.

Since we had over 160 in attendance last year, we were hoping to break 180 people at the Stitt Post of the American Legion in Dearborn Heights. As the evening started, we were expecting 210 people. We wound up with 241 people celebrating the Jugs' return to **Detroit-Oakland Chapter** and to cheer **Power Play** on to Montreal in their quest for the gold. Thank goodness our caterers were able to rise to the challenge of so many extra mouths to feed.

With such a crowd on hand, we didn't try to get choruses up to sing. Instead, the night was devoted to quartets interspersed with lots of gang singing.

The quartets on record were **What-ever Four** (a pick-up quartet), **B Natural** from **Pontiac-Waterford**, **Night Shift** from **Detroit-Oakland**, **Desperate Measures** from **Windsor**, **Border Crossing** from **Windsor** and **Macomb County**, **Fermata Nowhere** from **Grosse Pointe** and current District Champs **Crossfire** from **Grosse Pointe**, **London**, **Sarnia** and **Macomb**. Of course, the culmination of the evening

was hearing our International Reps **Power Play** as they demonstrated the talent that won them the right to go to Montreal.

As for the travels of the jugs themselves, the out-state jug was moved along nicely and it visited all 10 of its designated Chapters. The jug making the rounds of south-east Michigan got bogged down in a couple of spots. Despite a valiant push towards the end of the season, only eight of its designated Chapters were visited. Four Chapters were missed completely. A change in policy, designating \$1 of the admission charge at "Return of the Jug" Night to the jug funds, allowed us to present a respectable amount of \$1,337 to our international representative quartet.

During the next few weeks, we are looking at another change to the Traveling Jug policy; doing away with the surprise visits between Chapters in favor of scheduled and publicized visits.

We hope, by this change, to add to the camaraderie during the visits as well as to keep the jugs on schedule. And of course we look forward to an even bigger party next year, when the jugs return to **Detroit-Oakland Chapter** on the first Friday in June.



Sweet sounds at honey house

My name is **Ed Wracan**. I sing with the **Flint Arrowhead Chorus** and I am also a beekeeper.

Mike Slamka called about three years ago looking for a place for **Power Play** to rehearse. He had drawn a circle with a 30-mile radius trying to find a place they could all drive about the same distance to rehearse. The center of the circle was Lennon. Mike found out that I lived in Lennon and called asking if I knew of a place for their rehearsal.

I told him that Lennon had 2 bars and a grain elevator, but I had a honey house they could use.

He said they had practiced in a pig barn before and wanted to know if bees would be flying around. I assured him there would be no bees. So they came and rehearsed once a week for about one year.

At that time they were learning "Time after Time" and I was able to sit in on some of the practices. Their dedication to each other and their music was overwhelming. They had a job to do and they did it. What a pleasure it was to listen to them learn the music and witness how they felt about each other. It paid off. They are now **NUMBER ONE**.

Hillsdale Town and Country Chorus sell-out

By Roger McCaskey

Our May show was a huge success, a sellout for the show and the afterglow. President **Roger** and wife honored us with their presence and a surprise visit from **Power Play** added to the excitement.

Special treat for the evening was the quartet of **Don Slamka**, **Power Play**, **Staci Slamka**, **Musicality**, **Phil Haines**, **Philatoga Township**, and Don and Staci's daughter and Phil's granddaughter, Holly doing a rendition of "My Wild Irish Rose".

If any of you are in town and plan a visit, check ahead, because remodeling of the chorus room at the high school, caused us to find temporary quarters at the Senior Center on the West side of Hillsdale.

Summer is not a slow time for us as we already have several sing-outs planned for the next three months. Planning has already begun for next year's activities, including "Singing Valentines" and our 2004 May show.

HOW IT BEGAN: Journey to gold started in Grosse Pointe

Continued from page 1.

well, especially for a beginner.

He eventually switched to bass since he felt lead was "too high" for his voice range. Within a couple of years, he tried his hand (no pun intended) at directing and, in fact, made his first contest appearance as a Director with the **Grosse Pointe Lakeshore Chorus**.

Chapter social events that included family participation gave us the first opportunity to meet and marvel at the singing skills of Jack and Kitty's two youngest sons (they have three) **Mike** and

Mark. Fond memories of these two little squirts not yet 10, were of the two of them standing on picnic tables or the like to equalize heights of the men that they'd sing tags with.

They amazed everyone with not only their singing ability but also the concentration to learn a new tag or song with minimal repetitions.

Sing a part to them once and they nailed it..

By the time Mike was 10 he simply had to join since he couldn't wait for conventions or

social outings to fulfill his need to ring chords.

The Slamkas became very active in the Chapter, competing as well as having major parts in our shows. This was the beginning of a fairy tale journey that ultimately concluded with Pioneer's own, Society President **Roger Lewis** crowning Power Play the Best of the Best in Montreal.

Imagine the length of the journey and the dedication to stick with it until the Zenith of Gold was reached.

*Singing, directing and

winning with choruses at the District level. Performing and winning with several quartets until the final "right combination" of cousin, **Don**, brothers Mike and Mark and Dad - Jack as we know him - put it all together with their love to achieve the ultimate Barbershop dream.

A fairy tale? No, oodles of hard work, personal sacrifice and, certainly, family and employer cooperation and most of all; HEART to reach that Golden Destination.

*we're sure the Harmonizer will list all their statistics



An interview with Pioneer's own Roger Lewis, President of our Society

Pioneer's own **Roger Lewis** was with **Power Play**. He shared his thoughts with **Jim Styer**.

Describe what you saw in Power Play as the winner was announced.

Power Play was huddled with (Society music specialist) **Jim DeBusman** (and someone else?) with their heads down, waiting for the announcement.

I'm sure there was controlled jubilation: There were still six quartets backstage, and you can't count on it till the announcement. Then the announcement, and everything exploded.

It takes a minute to get on stage, as everyone wanted to hug them or congratulate them on their way.

When (Society Executive Director) **Darryl Flinn** and I went on stage to give them the trophies, I hugged each one of them. I thought Jack (dad, the bass) was never going to let go. Mark (son, baritone) had promised me at the Sendoff Show that they were going to do it -- and he reminded me of that when I hugged him.

What was it like to be the first Society president to present gold medals to a quartet from his own District?

Turns out that I'm not. In 1986, **Gil Lefholz** handed trophies to Rural Route 4, and they were all members of the same Chapter. Still, it's pretty exclusive company.

What can you report about the reception of Power Play at the hospitality rooms and afterglows after they won?

The first stop is the AIC (Association of International Champions) reception. Darryl Flinn, myself and our wives are formally invited to this ceremony. They serve champagne, and have special etched glasses for the quartet (without the name of the

quartet on them, of course) and for the Society president, AIC president, etc. I now have two in my collection.

Each of us presents a toast to the new champion. In spite of the fact that I had two years to prepare for this one, I really didn't have anything ready. So I took the tack of the Barbershop family, the AIC family and now a new family.

Needless to say, it was family night! The entourage was all of the family, and maybe a few more close friends (Slamka wannabees). Again, it took a long time to get through the crowds to the stage. They asked me if I had any request for them to sing, and I said "Jericho." They sang three songs, and closed with Jericho. All three songs got a standing ovation, of course!

You have been close to Family Forum, and then Power Play, from the beginning. What changes did you see during the long trek to the gold, both on stage and off?

A rising confidence level. Wednesday afternoon, they came on stage like champions, they sang and performed like champions, and left no doubts in the minds and hearts of the audience.

What remained the same?

They're just always the same four guys. Caring, friendly, outgoing, lovable. I don't think that will ever change.

Do you have any observations about the off-stage Slamka family (wives, children, etc.)?

Has Kitty (wife and mother) stopped crying yet? The dream came true. Yet, I'd venture a guess that they still have a hard time believing it.

Any idea how they hung in there for so many years?

I don't know either. Family helped, I'd bet.

Why do you believe Power Play won?

They were the best. They sung from the heart, and that fostered comparison to those quartets who didn't. I've never seen them so comfortable or so confident on stage. All of that came across the footlights in every set.

Any thoughts as a judge?

The basis of my category, presentation, is singing from the heart. No one does it better, and they walked away with that part of the category. It was also great that they sang Barbershop songs. Nothing that was pushing the envelope. Just great music.

What have they done for Barbershopping besides singing on stage and in shows?

Over the years, they've done a lot of school and college programs, festivals, in-service programs, etc.. More, too, I'm sure, that I'm not aware of.

What does Power Play's win mean for the Society?

Family is important. "Singing from the heart" is important. Singing Barbershop songs is important. Sincerity is important. They will be an exemplary champion that will set some new standards.

What does it mean for the Pioneer District?

The celebration will be years-long, I predict. No District has ever loved their quartet champion the way Pioneer loves Power Play. Only the **Gas House Gang** and **Rural Route Four** may have come close.

Any other thoughts?

I'm not sure they believe it yet. It's like a dream. Most winning quartets tell me it takes a couple months of wearing that gold medal 24 hours a day before you wake up and say "Wow! I'm a champion!" The post-convention Barbershop cruise must have been an incredible experience for them.

Pioneer's past champs get new company

By Jim Styer

Pioneer District's other Society medalists have high praise for **Power Play**, the District's latest gold-medal quartet.

They include members of international champion quartets **Gentlemen's Agreement** (1971) and the **Auto Towners** (1966), and two medalists, **Center Stage** and the **Vagabonds**.

The other champion from Pioneer was the **Harmony Halls** (1944) of Grand Rapids.

GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT

The District's previous champion was Gentlemen's Agreement, with **Drayton Justus** as lead. In 1980, Justus replaced Bob Franklin as lead in the Suntones from Florida, 1961 champ and one of the Society's best-known quartets. Now living in Atlanta, he recently retired from a career in college administration. He joined the Society board last year and was just elevated to executive vice president; so, he may be in line for Society presidency in 2006.

Other members of Gentlemen's Agreement were **Al Rehkop** as tenor, **Glenn Van Tassell** as bari and **Bob Whitledge** as bass. Rehkop and Whitledge now are with the Cleveland, Tenn., Chapter, in which 2002 quartet champ **Four Voices** is involved. Whitledge in the 1990s directed the **Motor City Metro** chorus, **City Lights**.

Asked for his comments by e-mail,

Justus wrote:

"Hooray for Power Play! Hooray for Pioneer! Hooray for Barbershop!"

In my mind, there are at least three reasons why our new champions are very special and will hold a special place in the hearts and minds of Barbershoppers for years to come: (1) They are a family, and personify the family values so

and coached several quartets and choruses, including the gold-medal **Phoenecians**. He is retired in Sarasota, Fla., where he directed the **Chorus of the Keys** for a while.

Van Tassell wrote:

"There seems to be a thread again on the Harmonet addressing the ever-present problem of over-singing in contest and elsewhere. It seems

presentations of Power Play this year won over the audience so much that, by Saturday's finals, though several partial standing ovations were noted before and after them, the entire audience jumped to its feet at the end of Power Play's set. It was the total performance that prevailed.

Wonderful faces reflected the moods as

they

were presented.

Beautifully matched voices stroked the chords with loving precision. Thoughtful music gave the audience an opportunity to experience rich moods and the audience got the message. Power Play will be

among our fine champions."

Another member of the Auto Towners, Clint Bostick of West Palm Beach, Fla., is married to Bobbie, who sang with the **Cracker Jills**, 1957 Sweet Adelines quartet champion. They were the first married couple to take the gold in their

respective societies.

Bostick wrote:

"The Bostick FAMILY has been enthralled with the Slamka family since they first came on the Barbershop scene. Bobbie and I have

watched and listened

to the growth of Power Play and, even though we have lived the past 30 years in Florida, our Michigan hearts have cheered for them each year. We sense the same love of family and love for our craft. Our only regret is we were unable

to be in Montreal to tell them, personally, how proud we are of their achievement. We were able to hear the entire contest on the webcast and the three solid, flawless performances of this quartet left no doubts in our minds who would be the new champs.

Congratulations

Don, Mike, Mark and Jack. You will be great champions and a credit to our Society."

CENTER STAGE

Center Stage competed internationally for Pioneer five times, in 1981-1985. Bass **Lee Hanson** wrote:

"The Montreal contest was the first time in many years all four members of Center Stage could be together: **Denny Gore** from Sterling Heights, **Wendell Pryor** from Pennsylvania, **Glenn Van Tassell** from Florida and myself from Port Huron. As you know, we worked pretty hard to get over the goal line and ended up with a bronze and three silvers, so we know what Power Play was going through over their 12 years. They did a great job in Montreal and were very deserving of the win over some awfully good quartets. The four of us were very proud of them and the way they represented Pioneer."



dear to us all, (2) there is no question that their primary focus is solid Barbershop harmony, and (3) the message of their songs is paramount -- they sing with incomparable heart."

AUTO TOWNERS

The Auto Towners (1966) included two members who later were in Gentlemen's Agreement, tenor Rehkop and lead Van Tassell. Others were bari **Clint Bostick** and bass **Carl Dahlke**. Dahlke now directs **Macomb's Harmony Heritage** Chorus, which competed in Montreal.

Van Tassell, after winning two gold medals, continued competing with another Pioneer medalist quartet, Center Stage, was an interpretation judge for 15 years,

that the success of the entirely musical Power Play this year bodes well for attitudes among the up-and-coming. I have for a long time contended that the quartet singers who hope to climb the ranks of quartet competition learn much from the contest and judging system.



They observe what works and they try to emulate it. I truly hope beginners will see the beauty in the performance style of our newest champs and try very hard to reach the same sort of quality.

"The contest

Top Five Quartets

1. *Power Play*
2. *Gotcha!*
3. *Metropolis*
4. *Uptown Sound*
5. *Riptide*

Best coaches: Slamkas 1st family of Barbershop

By Jim Styer

Power Play has worked with some of the best coaches in the Society, including **Darryl Flinn**, **Cindy Hansen**, **Joe Connelly** and **Ev Nau**.

Flinn, the Society's executive director, raised a toast to Power Play at the AIC (Association of International Champions) reception during the Society convention in Montreal.

He said his toast "was a reminder that in our governing documents it is stated that singing Barbershop harmony adds value to a man's family life. I toasted not only the quartet but (dad and mom) Jack and Kitty and Grandpa Jack as well. The Slamkas are truly the first family of Barbershop."

Before he became executive director in 1996, Flinn said, "my real passion in our hobby was coaching or mentoring quartets and choruses. Much of that has occurred at Society schools."

He has been on the **Harmony College** coaching staff for 31 years and this year also is coaching quartets and choruses at three District schools. He hopes to continue this when he retires in August.

When he came to Society headquarters in Kenosha, Wis., he said, "We decided to open the doors to any quartet who wanted to come here for coaching."

We see the mentoring of our quartets as a very important part of our musical mission. Many staff guys are first-class coaches and are often a part of coaching groups who come to town. Power Play has been here often as have Metropolis, Freestyle, Uptown Sound, Revival and literally dozens of quartets not part of our top 10."

Also, Flinn and other Kenosha staffers "often venture out to mentor choruses," he said. "I have done so with many medalist choruses over the long years and many District level competitors who simply want to be better at

what we do."

Flinn, who has had a personal relationship with Power Play for years, said, "I did my very best coaching with Power Play this past year."

But then he added, "I recommended to them that they needed to be in a relationship with **Cindy Hansen**, presentation coach extraordinaire. Obviously it worked per plan."

The guys looked smashing and had the best visual plan ever. Cindy has the answer to melding the visuals with the music in a way that is both natural and still very exact. She is the best and does her best work with groups



who have learned the rudiments of an artistic performance. Cindy and Power Play are a match made in heaven."

CINDY HANSEN

As Flinn deferred to Hansen, she also deferred to others: "I know Power Play would agree that all their coaches over the years have molded them to be the great champs they are today."

Hansen, now in San Antonio, Texas, began her Society and Sweet Adeline experience in Greenville, here in the Pioneer District, and developed her skills with directors and choreographers in the Midwest.

Among the choruses she has coached are **Vocal Majority**, **Masters of Harmony**, **Northbrook**, **Northern Lights** and **Big Chicken**. She has worked with Society quartet champions **4 Voices**, **FRED**, **Revival**, **The**

Ritz and **Acoustix**; medalists **Riptide**, **Freestyle**, **Metropolis** and **Uptown Sound**; and the two latest Sweet Adeline quartet champions, **A Cappella Gold** and **Swinglish Mix**.

She has been a teacher at many schools and workshops, travels to other countries to help in education and development of the Barbershop style, and works with organizations outside the Barbershop world, including Disney World and Mainstreet Entertainment.

This powerhouse coach commented: "In these last few years of coaching Power Play, one recurring issue has been, front and

center, helping them reach that goal of A Gold Medalist.

That is: What do they do better than anyone else? What do they love to do? And what music do they love to sing? This past year, we only focused on songs they loved to sing, because they sing them more often and

work harder on the ones they like. I believe this was a huge payoff. That is why they brought back 'Singing with my Dad' among others.

JOE CONNELLY

Also working with Power Play recently was lead singer **Joe Connelly** of Tampa, Fla., the only Society member to win three gold medals: 1987 **Interstate Rivals** (1987), **Keepsake** (1992) and **PLATINUM** (2000). He also has been director of the Sweet Adelines' **Toast of Tampa** chorus.

Connelly e-mailed: "I have been a BIG fan of Power Play since the beginning! It was a thrill to finally see them win their well-deserved International championship!"

While "we definitely did some fine-tuning in the technical aspect of their performance, he wrote: "The biggest thing I tried to help them with over the past few

months was simply to believe in themselves and trust in each other. There's no doubt in my mind that they will be one of our Society's greatest champions. Their fresh, natural, heart-felt delivery is unparalleled in our Barbershop genre.

Long live the Champs! AND long live the FAMILY!!!"

Ev Nau, a Kenosha staffer for 15 years, was another Power Play coach. He was a music specialist and now is in the membership development field. He has coached choruses and quartets in stage presence and show performance throughout North America and Europe. He couldn't be reached for comment.

From arranger Roger Payne:

Power Play sings my arrangement of "I Been Workin' On The Railroad," though they didn't use it in contest this year.

My sole contribution this year was the idea and basic arrangement for the INTRO to "Love At Home." That's it: four measures, and even those were edited for the quartet by my good friend **Tom Gentry** and Michael himself with my willing permission.

Imagine my surprise, delight, and to some extent, embarrassment when, as they sang at the chorditorium on their gold medal night, they saw me standing on the side with a smile as wide as the Mississippi, identified me to the crowd as someone they needed to thank, and then sang Railroad to the crowd's roar of approval!

What class! On what must have been one of the greatest nights of their lives, they willingly and instantly chose to share their so richly deserved public spotlight with someone who, in the grand scheme of things, has really been a very minor though enthusiastic part of Team Slamka over the years. I was deeply moved and humbled. And I was re-affirmed in my conviction that they will be the finest possible representatives Barbershop could have as champions. But of course they've been that all along. Just so happens they now have the gold medals.

Slamkas inspiring the next generation

My name is **Brandon Mattson**. I am a 21 year old, a three year Barbershopper from Ypsilanti Michigan and a vocal Ed Major at **Eastern Michigan University**.

When I started Barbershop three years ago, I didn't really know what to expect. My singing experience was mainly in contemporary a capella and I honestly hadn't ever heard a single Barbershop group in my entire life. But like so many others, all it took was one tag to get me hooked for life.

I loved the idea of quartet singing, and the fellowship of so many wonderful people. But when I went to my first convention, this is when Barbershop really started to become such a huge part of my life.

It was a fall convention, so Power Play didn't perform. Although they did have a hospitality room back at the hotel. I had heard so much about them, but I had never actually heard them sing.

Well, later on that night after the quartet finals were over and Philatoga Township was crowned the champs, my friends and I went back to the hotel to search for Power Play's hospitality room.

When we found it, we made our way to the front row and watched about 15 or 20 quartets perform while Power Play just stood around and remained part of the crowd.

I knew it was them because they had their red Bronze medals around their necks. I thought it was so cool that all throughout the night, they never once tried to steal the spotlight.

They watched and genuinely applauded every quartet that sang. FINALLY, about 1:30 am after every quartet had performed, the crowd finally got them to sing. When I heard them, My Jaw dropped to the floor. I had seen hundreds of a capella groups both Barbershop and non-Barbershop

up until that moment, but I had NEVER heard a sound like that. Their blend was beyond amazing!!!!

I heard that they were fifth place international and the only thing I could think of was who the heck could have beaten them!!!!

an audience has taught me more as a lead singer than any teacher in any school ever could! This quartet will never understand what they have done for me as a young Barbershopper with so many dreams of being where they are now! Looking back on my

Years in SPEBSQSA

Jack Slamka (bass): 32

Mike Slamka (lead): 22

Mark Slamka (bari): 17

Don Slamka (tenor) 19



Years passed as I got to know each of them more and more every time I saw them perform. They were, are and always will be the pride and Joy of this District.

I have gotten an incredible amount of young singers into this society and have always found myself saying "Just wait until you hear Power Play, then you'll understand why I love this hobby so much!" It gets them hooked every time!!!

In conclusion, I will say that these four guys are unlike any other top name quartet that I have been around. From the time that Mike stood and listened to my quartet and gave us pointers, to the time that they performed railroad for me in the hotel lobby simply because I had missed them perform it and I requested it right there on the spot!

Mike's ability as a lead to sing from the heart and sell a song to

experiences watching them on their Journey to the top,

I honestly can't believe that it's taken them this long to do it! I never doubted them for a second!! Hearing their name called as international champions over my computer on July 5, 2003 brought chills to my entire body!

I let out a big breath of relief knowing that these four guys finally got what they had deserved for so many years!

It feels so good to know that this District is where they call home! And if their reading this, I want you guys to know that we love you and we are so proud of you!

You are and always will be an incredible inspiration for me as a young quartet singer! I can't wait to see what the future holds for you as world champions! WAY TO GO GUYS!!!!



Mike Slamka: Lead and Jack's son



Jack Slamka (center) with son, Mark



(Left to right) Don (the nephew) with Mike, Jack and Mark...



SPEBSQSA's best Master of Ceremonies: *How Power Play* showed they have true class

I know that you will receive many **Power Play** stories praising their talents, dedication and growth throughout the years on their way to the GOLD.

Power Play is so much more than four talented singers. "When There's Love At Home" is not just a song but it expresses the Slamka family way of life.

I want to share just one anecdote that shows their depth of understanding and concern for others.

I will never forget the quartet asking me if I would be upset if they sang, "Singing With My Dad," on the Quartet Finals several years ago.

This was two months after my son, **David**, died and I would be introducing them. I told them that **Margaret** and I loved the song and that we would be honoured to have them sing it. They were prepared to change their song for us. What empathy they showed!

-- **Doran McTaggart**



Power Play peaks at Number 1 and 90%:

Perfection in pictures



2003 PIONEER DISTRICT FALL CONVENTION

OCTOBER 17-19, 2003

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: \$20.00 PER PERSON

LATE REGISTRATION: \$25.00 PER PERSON

EARLY REGISTRATION MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 2, 2003.

FEE FOR _____ PERSONS @ \$20.00/\$25.00 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:

Stan Williams

421 Franklin Street

Leslie, Michigan 49251

All event passes will be at the convention registration desk, located in the McCamly Plaza Hotel (Headquarters). Partial registrations can be purchased at the convention registration desk or W.K. Kellogg Auditorium: Friday \$12.00; Saturday Noon \$12.00; Saturday Evening \$12.00. 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. _____

Muskegon working with high schools to boost Barbershop

By Frank Scott

Muskegon Chapter

Muskegon High area school singers attend HXC in LaCross, WI. The old news is that with **John Tyler** and **Mart Bomers** organizing our **Singing Valentines** promotion we had our most successful year.

We have signed up three new members so far this year, and we have a few more prospects.

The YMIH committee contacted Shawn Lawton, choir director at Mona Shores high school, who selected four students to attend HXC at La Cross, WI June 12 through June 15.

Regina Schlaff, of Reeths-Puffer High School also signed

up seven students. The Chapter donated \$1,400 towards their tuition.

The Reeths -Puffer Choir parents came up with money to help rent a van. We thank **Matt Caruso**, music teacher from Mona Shores, who transported the 11 students in a large van.

The group, Matt Caruso, and Regina Schlaff attended our June 19 meeting along with many relatives and friends.

The students had many positive remarks about the HXC weekend.

They performed the Barbershop songs they learned and enjoyed singing tags with several members.

The group may appear on

our October 13 show. We had an opportunity to have our chorus and **Harbour Sound** quartet sing for the parents, grand parents and friends while the students were warming up under the direction of Matt Caruso.

It was a nice evening and a delightful change from the usual chorus rehearsal.

Henry and Mayme Malmquist hoisted a wonderful summer picnic on June 22 for the Muskegon Chapter and wives.

Mayme is a member of the Sweet Adelines **West Shore Chorus**. She invited the members and their partners. We gathered on the afternoon of June 22 and we all enjoyed fine weather, good food, music and fellowship.

Our Harbour Town Sound performed along with a great performance from **Lake Effect** from the Sweet Adelines. Both Choruses sang.

The chorus has appeared in two parades with two more to go. We recruited a few guests to get the right balance.

Have had enough voices to make a good sound.

The next concert is at the Fruitland Twp. Blue Berry Festival on July 26.

Joel Prather keeps us working on show music.

Fifty year member, **Fred Kendall**, fell and is living in Shore Haven-Mercy Living center in Grand Haven.

Pontiac, now in top 5, continues its big momentum, but still having fun doing so...

Pontiac-Waterford

By John Cowlshaw

Pontiac-Waterford Chapter

What a day this has been...

What a rare mood I'm in...

Why it's ... almost... like ... being ... VM!

Yes, could the **Vocal Majority** be any happier than we are after placing 5th out of 15 in the **Pioneer District** Spring Convention in Lansing?

What was it like? Curtains opened with director **Chris Miller** parading confidently in Indian gear. Chris milked the moment.

Big CHIEF chorus?? Big CHEF chorus?? Oh, no! What has our dumb director done now??

Bravely we begin our first son, "Let's Get Away From It All."

"I'm so tired of this dull routine(-aH). Aint gonna cook no chili beans(-aH)! Back in Paris at cooking school, they said we'd be famous... and (heh-heh) make money too. (How did we end up in THIS greasy spoon?) Let's cook a chicken piccata...."

Can we repair the damage? Let's get rid of

these stupid chef outfits and just sing straight! OH, NO, Chris is 180 out of phase again! This is terrible.

"Well, DON'T BLAME ME. I didn't choose this song, the chords just wont ring, no 7th's to sing...7th's to sing...7th's to sing-n-n-ng."

AH, there we got it! That sounds Barbershoppy enough to satisfy these bossy judges.

"DID YOU HEAR ALL THOSE 7TH CHORDS???" (My god! They're practically rolling in the aisles!)

Our Hospitality room topped off the day. Thanks to all the quartets that showed up to sing, including **Fermata Nowhere, Singing with Dad, Crossfire, Infinity, Night Shift, Mach 1, Power Play, Border Crossing, Today's Special, Antiques Road Show**. And two Sweet Adeline's quartets: **Spotlight, and Musicality**.

On behalf of the **Grosse Pointe Chapter**, **Joe Serwach** invited the BCC to a Chapter Night, Tuesday, May 27. So how did we repay them? By putting them to parody:

*"I'm so tired of hearing old routine
'Georgia On My Mind' just leaves me green
But Seely said he'd feed us and buy us*

beer,

That's why the Big Chief Chorus is here.

...

*Imagine that we placed just one point
Behind Grosse Pointe
Darn it all!"*

Doc Mann has agreed to step in as Interim President while **Pete Mazzara** is taking a leave of absence.

Bill Pascher was finally out of the Pontiac Osteopathic Hospital in time to travel to Montreal to pick up his special 60th award.

VP of Music and Performance, John Smith, started a Tag Contest, modeled after **Burt Szabo's** in **The SUNBURST**.

The first two entries in the tag contest have been "If the Stars Go Out Tomorrow," by **J. Smitty Smith**, and "Ode to Baritones" by **John Cowlshaw**.

Barbershoppers of the month have been: **Art Carinci** in May, for his work as chorus manager and Hospitality emcee in Lansing, and **Bruce Collins** in June, for his work as Assistant Director, and awarding of a scholarship to attend **Directors' College**.

2003 PIONEER DISTRICT FALL CONVENTION

OCTOBER 17-19, 2003

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 VCB if you do not receive your confirmation within 3 weeks
- Reservations accepted only at the VCB via mail, email, or fax
- There are a limited number of rooms available at the headquarters hotel and they are reserved on a first come, first serve basis
- Reservation requests must be received no later than September 15, 2003

Please mail or fax form directly to:

Calhoun County Visitor & Convention Bureau • Housing Department
77 East Michigan, Suite 100 • Battle Creek, Michigan 49017
Fax: 269-962-6917 • Phone: 800-397-2240 or 269-962-2240

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 do not include tax. Rooms are available on a first come, first serve basis.

 McCamly Plaza Hotel-\$87.00 _____
(HEADQUARTERS)

Knight's Inn-\$47.95 _____

Econo Lodge-\$49.95 _____

Super 8 Motel-\$55.00 _____

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!

Macomb chorus returns to International



MACOMB Continued from page 14.

West Towns Chorus in front of us. These guys were great, and our chorus got a loud round of applause from them. They, in turn, sang a song for us, and then both choruses joined together and sang the most beautiful sounding rendition of "Heart of My Heart."

It was the tightest quartet competition. To watch our own Chapter quartet, **Power Play**, not only sing, but receive the Gold, was most impressive, and I wouldn't have missed it for the world. **Mike Slamka** was beside himself, and rightfully so, as this has been a dream of his for so many years, and now the dream is real.

From the chorus manager's point of view, the host Chapter, **Island City Chorus**, went the extra mile to make sure that all the competitors needs were met.

A most special thanks to **Gerry Silverberg**, who went above and beyond to make sure that Macomb was well taken care of. The staff from Kenosha was outstanding. A special thanks to **Carl Dahlke** for believing in us, and guiding us each step of the way. To have the privilege of singing in a chorus for someone of his caliber is not only special, but I am humbled by his special gift to us.

Also, a most special thanks to all my riser mates, who gave their all in the best performance we as a chorus have given thus far, and also for believing and trusting me to do what needed to be done to make Montreal an experience we will never forget.

We have grown not only as a chorus, but also an extended family who are there to help when needed. And last of all, Thanks to all who came to see us in Montreal from the Pioneer District.

Your love, support, and encouragement while we were in Montreal

meant the world to the chorus, more than you can imagine. The party was sweet, and the memories will last forever. Our performance on stage was dedicated to those that have gone on to that great chorus in the sky, with special thoughts of **Kelly Brummett** in our hearts, only wishing that he could be there singing with us up on that stage. In a way he was.

I thought I heard his voice in the beauty of the overtones during our performance.

With a song in my heart,
David "Bart" Bartkowiak



A CHAMP YOU CAN BE IN 2003

Presented By Harmonie Meisters of Gaylord, MI

BUSH LEAGUE 2003

ARRIVAL Friday, September 26, 2003

DEPART Sunday, September 28, 2003

TREETOPS RESORT ROOM RESERVATIONS

Return this form to:
Reservations Department
TREETOPS RESORT
3962 WILKINSON ROAD
GAYLORD, MICHIGAN 49735

CHECK-IN TIME:
after 4:00 PM
CHECK-OUT TIME:
12 Noon

NAME(S) 1. _____ 2. _____

ADDRESS _____ Home Phone _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ Business Phone _____

QUARTET NAME IF APPLICABLE _____

You are welcome to arrive early or extend your stay following this scheduled event. Every effort will be made to reserve the room type requested as well as any special requests such as connecting rooms, non-smoking, location, etc.. Should we not be able to do so, we reserve the right to assign the next available room type and rate. CHILDREN: 17 years and under sleep free when in room with parents.

ARRIVAL DATE: _____ DEPART DATE: _____

PLEASE RESERVE THE FOLLOWING ACCOMMODATIONS:

Package: Each night includes lodging in a standard room, one breakfast, one. AfterGlo and all applicable taxes and gratuities.

One Night _____ \$98.00 Single Occupancy, _____ \$58.00 Double Occupancy
per person

Two Nights: _____ \$196.00 Single Occupancy, _____ \$116.00 Double Occupancy
per person

Lodging Only: Price Quoted per room, per night. Includes one nights lodging in a standard room, and all applicable taxes.

\$79.92 per night _____ Single Occupancy or _____ Double Occupancy
per room, per night

DEPOSIT POLICY: You may guarantee your room reservation with a major credit card or a deposit of one nights lodging, no later than August 26, 2003. Refund of your deposit will be made if cancellation occurs at least 14 days prior to arrival.

*Treetops will be sending you a confirmation of this reservation request. Upon receipt, please review all information. You should receive your confirmation within 3 to 5 working days.

Do you require any special lodging requirements? _____ Barrier free room _____ Main floor _____ Non-Smoking.

PHONE RESERVATIONS NOT ACCEPTED

FAX NUMBER 989-732-8459

Quartet Name:
RA R

Circle: T L

CALENDAR: Upcoming events

August 9

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

September 6

Grosse Pointe show, "My Big Fat Italian Chorus"

September 13

Gratiot County Chapter Show

September 20

Alpena 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 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 13

Lansing Chapter Show

April 23-25

District Convention - Gaylord

May 15

Grand Rapids Chapter Show

June 27 - July 4

International Convention, Louisville, KY

October 15-17

District Convention - Location to be determined

October 30

Rochester Chapter Show

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

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U. S. POSTAGE

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Chapter Locations

