

Pioneer Troubadour

Official Publication of the Pioneer District May/June 2004 Volume 55, Number 3
The Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc.

To Infinity and Beyond

Gaylord draws record crowd

By Al Bonney
Pioneer Immediate Past President

Pioneer conventions have the reputation of being fun to attend and professionally organized.

Judges, guests, dignitaries and most members all agree with this assessment.

The recently completed convention held in Gaylord April 23 – 25 was no exception to these rules. Now let me tell you . . . the rest of the story.

Anyone who has been to **Bush League** in the past 10 or 15 years is familiar with the **Gaylord Harmonie Meisters**. They are the hosts and organizers for this wonderful quartet contest and they do a great job – if you haven't been, it is a



Photos by Paul Howe

Top: Infinity (with Craig Pollard second from left). Above: Insignia (with Craig's teenage son, Wayne, second from left). Infinity won the quartet contest. Insignia came in sixth in their first contest, scoring higher than 15 other quartets.

great Barbershop party held on the last weekend of September every year.

So these guys are good at organizing things – we already know that. Let's take a look at what this

Please see GAYLORD page 5.

By Joe Serwach
Editor

Family stories continue to dominate **Pioneer District** quartet contests.

While **Craig Pollard's** quartet **Infinity** was winning the right to represent Pioneer in July's **International Quartet Championship**, his teenage son **Wayne** was stealing standing ovations with a high school quartet that finished 6th beating 15 quartets that shared the stage.

For more than a decade, Pioneer quartet contests have been dominated by the **Slamka** family quartet, **Power Play**. **Jack Slamka**, along with two sons and his nephew, became the first family quartet to win Barbershop's most coveted prize in a half century, rising from a 1989 District championship all the way to the 2003 International Championship.

As gold medalists, **Power Play** could not compete again together but opened the 2004

competition as mike testers. And it was only fitting that another Pioneer father and son combination would get the most attention in 2004.

Though this year's duo shared the same stage, they each had their own quartets going head to head.

Craig Pollard, himself the son of a great Barbershopper, didn't expect to have his own son carry on the tradition until last fall when Wayne, a **Farmington Hills High School** student, joined a quartet in choir class with three classmates, forming **Insignia**. Craig noted that his son dismissed Barbershop as his "dad's music" until his classmates inadvertently heard an Infinity practice tape, deciding they wanted to sing that kind of music too.

While Infinity was winning the Pioneer quartet championship in October 2003, Insignia was just forming. Insignia members **Please see Quartets page 3.**

Detroit-Oakland chorus champions

By Joe Serwach
Editor

With April's win, **Steve Sutherland** has directed **Pioneer District's** chorus champion seven times, taking the **Detroit-Oakland** chapter to its latest championship.

Sutherland previously directed DOC to the championship in 2001 and 1987 and previously

picked up the district Chorus Champion trophy directing **Wayne Chapter** in 1976, 1979, 1982 and 1985.

DOC impressed people from the very start. While some Barbershoppers lamented the lack of a curtain at this year's contest, the 49 DOC members on stage displayed their professionalism and

ability to turn changes into opportunities from the moment they walked toward the stage until the moment they left.

DOC had more men on stage than the second and third ranked choruses had together. Only the **Windsor Chapter**, which put 51 men on stage to honor Windsor's 60th anniversary, had more



Photos by Paul Howe

Detroit-Oakland won the Chorus Championship over Motor City Metro.

men on stage than DOC. Just two days after their win, DOC proved its ability

to build a crowd, attracting **Please see DOC page 3.**



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Photo by Paul Howe

Fermata Nowhere saw its score climb 110 points in six months.

QUARTETS: Infinity going to Louisville

Continued from Page 1.
attended the District's **Hamony Happening** weekend for more than 50 high school students March 12-13 and sang one song in the **Lansing Chapter Show** as part of that event.

The boys were too young to compete in this year's college quartet contest (college contestants must be 17 or older) so decided to make a try for the big quartet contest.

Perhaps fittingly, Insignia's first number on the contest stage was Power Play's version of "Side by Side" and they did it so well that audience members leapt to their feet. To beat out so many experienced quartets to make both rounds so quickly on their very first try had many predicting the teens could be bound for the top... Someday.

But experience still counts in Barbershop and the members of Infinity have worked a long time to win the right to represent Pioneer.

Infinity lead Craig Pollard has won three district quartet championships while Infinity Tenor **Bruce LaMarte** has

won six Pioneer quartet championships.

Infinity Bari **Mike Woodruff** has won two championships and Bass **Scott Kitzmiller** won his first with the quartet last fall. Together they scored 1,768 points or 73.7 percent in the spring competition.

Very close behind -- just 21 points and half a percentage point shy -- was another perennial top finisher, **Grosse Pointe Chapter's Fermata Nowhere**, which scored 1,747 points or 72.8 percent, their highest.

Third place went to past Pioneer District champ **Four Man Fishin' Tackle Choir** and the Top Five was rounded out by quartets **Wildcard** and **Windfall**.

While Infinity's spring score was eight points higher than the score it won in last fall's District Quartet Championship, Fermata Nowhere showed the greatest amount of improvement, leaping 110 points higher in the six months between the two contests, from 1,637 last fall to 1,747 this spring. The top Senior Quartet winner was **Brotherhood**.

By Joe Serwach
Editor

We all can learn a lot from **Lansing's Ken Gibson**.

I recently listened to two of Ken's CDs and noticed a common thread offering an important lesson.



Ken was part of the legendary 1970s quartet, the **Vagabonds** and their collected works were just released on CD as his current mixed acapella group, **Vocal Montage**, has a new CD recently recognized by the **Contemporary A Cappella Recording Awards** as one of the best jazz albums of the year.

The common thread?

At least once while listening to each CD, a song I hadn't heard before leapt out at me, made me listen carefully to the words, the message, the feeling, the mood, gasp and say "Wow." Then I re-played the

song again. And again. And again.

And again. Until I absorbed that song.

It reminded me of an early 1990s TV mini-series on the life of **Frank Sinatra**. As a young singer Sinatra tries to sing "Stormy Weather" and a vocal instructor tells him he can't do the song well because he simply can't relate to it, has never experienced it, felt it, known it.

Later in the film his beloved girl dumps him and Sinatra, in tears, runs back to his instructor and sings "Stormy Weather" and emotes, feels it, lives it, breathes it and of course, nails the meaning and mood of the song perfectly.

Power Play understood this, always singing from the heart and in the process winning Barbershop's highest honor.

But how common is it to hear someone sing a song they can't really "get?" A song they chose because they like it but not really a song that

matches their singing range or their life's experience, a song that doesn't really tell you anything about who they are.

When **Power Play**, a father, two sons and a nephew, sang "Love at Home" they were not just singing a song, they were telling us the story of their lives, who they are, why they are together. You didn't just hear the song. You shared it, felt it and knew it.

When pre-Society Barbershopper **Ronald Reagan** became one of the most successful presidents in U.S. history, his foes derided him as "just an actor."

But Reagan knew acting isn't fake or pretend, it's reaching into your heart to re-live something or pull something from your memory, feeling and believing in your role, transforming yourself into the character you are trying to share with the world.

Ken Gibson gets that. And the very best singers get that.

DOC: Detroit-Oakland 2004 Chorus Champs

Continued from Page 1.

287 to the "Road Show" in Redford to build up membership and enthusiasm about Barbershopping.

Sutherland's chorus scored 807 points or 67.3 percent to re-take the chorus champion's trophy, besting 18 other competing choruses. Two other choruses, Huron Valley and Macomb, which won in 2003 and 2002 respectively, were ineligible to compete this year but sang during other portions of the convention.

Proving that bigger isn't always better and good things do come in smaller packages, **Motor City Metro**, with just 16 men on stage, was just 19 points behind the winner, scoring 788 points

or 65.7 percent to win second place.

Now meeting at **Eastern Michigan University** and dominated by EMU music students, Motor City is by far the District's youngest chorus. Only one other chapter, **Alpena**, which put 15 men on stage, had a smaller competing chorus than Motor City.

Third place went to the relatively new **Michiana Metro Chapter**, which put 23 men on stage to score 757 points or 63.1 percent. **Kalamazoo** was in fourth place with 746 points following by fifth place **Battle Creek** with 734 points or 61.2 percent.

Rounding out the Top 10 choruses were **Grand Rapids**, **Lansing**, **Sault Ste. Marie**,

Grosse Pointe and **Pontiac-Waterford**.

The remaining top 19 competitors were **Traverse City**, **Hillsdale**, **Windsor**, **Holland**, **Gratiot County**, **Alpena**, **Saginaw Bay**, **Rochester** and **Muskegon**. Host **Gaylord**, did not compete.

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Looking out and reaching out

By Bruce Smith
Pioneer President

How often have you heard someone say, or thought to yourself that the **Barbershop Harmony Society** is a well-kept secret?



How often have you thought or said, "I wish I had known about this hobby sooner?"

Have you ever looked at the Society Vision Statement and noticed that part of that statement says that we are to be "leading the cause on encouraging vocal music in our schools and communities?"

Have you noticed that the **Harmony Foundation** mission statement says in part that it is "dedicated to perpetuating the Barbershop harmony art form for present and future generations to enjoy?"

When you hear or sing, "Keep the Whole World Singing," what comes to mind?

Have you considered that these often heard these comments, these

Society documents, our theme song and motto talk about a task and focus quite different from the ones on which we currently spend the bulk of our time, energy, and money?

We currently focus on singing better, training directors, providing a quartetting experience, or holding contest and events.

If a major portion of the reason we exist and our goals for the future are focused on impacting the world outside of the Barbershop Harmony Society, why are the bulk of our current efforts and resources focused inside of the Barbershop family?

The importance of the need to be outward looking and acting was amplified by **Roger Lewis** when he noted that "Organizations that look inward grow smaller and become less viable, those that reach out become larger and more viable."

As the title of this piece says: It's time to begin looking out and reaching out.

This is not a call for

someone else or some other Barbershopper, quartet, chapter, or district to accept this challenge. We must all sign on if we believe in our stated goals and the power and value of our music in our lives, and the lives of others.

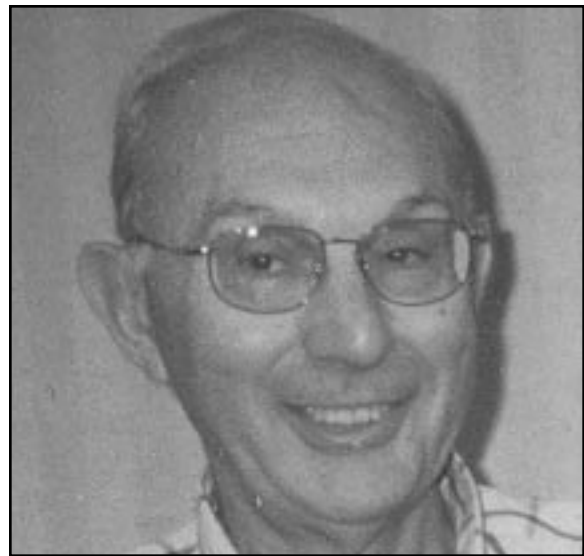
When you read this, one refocusing effort will have taken place. The **House of Delegates** Round Table discussion will have brain-stormed ways of reaching out as well as begun outlining the action steps necessary to bring several concepts to life.

The product of this small beginning will be disseminated to the chapters following the convention.

I challenge you to consider the wisdom of my comments, look at the necessity of this refocus and begin taking action.

Share your successes and failures. Seek partners outside the Barbershop world. The easy path forward for all of us is to continue to remain focused inward.

The hard work lies



Rancilio again wins District Bulletin Editor of Year Competition

By Art Lane

Robert Rancilio, editor of the **Grosse Pointe Chapter's** bulletin **The Pitch-Pipe**, has been named Bulletin Editor of the Year for 2003 in the **Pioneer District**, receiving the award for a second consecutive year.

The honor was announced April 23 at the District's **House of Delegates** meeting during the spring convention in Gaylord. Rancilio and **The Pitch-Pipe** also won the 2002 contest.

Rancilio shares the award with his wife, **Dot**, who is associate editor of **The Pitch-Pipe**. The judges commended them on having a neat, well organized bulletin with good use of headlines, plenty of news and a variety of attractive feature items. **The Pitch-Pipe** led the scoring in two of the three categories of judging, Content and Layout & Reproduction.

Second place in the bulletin editors' contest went to **Art Lane**, of the **Holland Chapter's Windmill Blade**. The **Blade** was judged tops in Grammar and Style.

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

The two top entries from Pioneer District now are entered in the International Bulletin Contest. Results of that contest will be announced at the convention in Louisville in July.

Frank Fortier(Lead) Tom Smeltzer (Bass)
ENTERTAINMENT IN FOUR PART HARMONY

IN
THE
NEIGHBORHOOD

A Barbershop Quartet (SPEBSQSA)

Jim Grogan (Tenor) Mike Proffitt (Baritone)
(313) 881-1465

Tom Conner Steve Pauling

*f*ermata Nowhere

A Barbershop Quartet

Jeff Gougeon Pete Burns
(586) 212-1972 (248) 689-0026

GAYLORD: The rest of the story....

Continued from Page 1.

little chapter that could and what they did to produce the largest and arguably most successful

the districts largest convention in a city where no one had any experience with this sort of thing. Let me have Erv Erickson, the



Detroit-Oakland Chapter won the District Chorus Championship.

convention Pioneer has ever had.

Robb Smith actually went back in the records to see if the numbers really did break the records. He had numbers back to 1981.

Convention registrations (not including individual event ticket

chapter president tell the next part of the story.

"Gaylord and the surrounding communities responded "big time" to our request for volunteers to assist the Harmonie Meisters with the Convention and Contest.

In addition to the 20 Chapter



Insignia, the new high school quartet that scored so well in their first time out, pose with one of their role models who also started singing at a young age: 2003 Gold Medal Lead Mike Slamka.

sales) numbered 1,088, exceeding the previous record in 1987 of 1062 by 26.

We had 21 choruses in attendance (19 competitors plus Macomb singing for score only and Gaylord who had their hands full running the convention did not compete) 20 quartets competed – this is not a record but adding the 3 college quartets registrants the quartet scene was a busy one.

So, Gaylord had their hands full. Let's remember, these guys have 29 men registered in their chapter and they have just hosted

members who worked countless hours, 15 wives made craft items and baked bread and cookies for the Barbershop shop in addition

to assisting with ushering and registration.

Including our wives, we had over 100 volunteers from the **Sweet Adelines, WOW** (widows or widowers), **RSVP** (an organization of retiree volunteers in the Gaylord area), **Gaylord Community Productions, Farm Fest**, family members and friends, and seven members from the **Traverse City Chapter** who picked up the Judges at the Traverse City

Airport on Friday and delivered him back to the airport on Sunday.

More than 100 volunteers coming from a chapter of 29 men! These guys have an enviable reputation and credibility in their community to be able to get this kind of response, don't you think?

Jim Quin,

convention host chapter chairman picks up the story . . . "As you know my son Jim (one of the non-society member volunteers) was working outside the stage door. He went to Wal-Mart while the judges were at their Saturday dinner and bought a printer cable to replace (Contest Administrator) **Chuck Watson's** defective one.

He fixed the printer that Watson was having problems with, and had it up and operating on his return from dinner in time for the quartet finals.

He also loaned his vehicle to go back to Tree Tops to pick up a trailer full of risers inadvertently left behind by one of the choruses, just minutes before the start of the chorus competitions. Our guys helped set up the risers in

the chapel just in time for the first chorus to warm up.

"Another incident caused several chuckles. One of the college guys from JAD forgot his uniform pants and showed up in the lobby wearing a pair of white sports shorts and looking for help.

The young man wore size 46 /29 pants! One of our member's is 6' 4" and was standing in the area had on black chorus pants. His size is 46/35.

Off came his pants, doubled up



Frontrunners for the fall quartet championship? Fermata Nowhere narrowly missed winning tops honors.

the legs inside in hopes it would not show. I watched him singing on stage; the more he moved the longer his pant legs got. Standing in the lobby watching the performance in the boy's white sports shorts, our guy said, "I didn't make it on stage but at least my pants did."

Yes, it was a great convention and the little Gaylord chapter proved that it is not size but heart and a commitment to getting the job done that matters. . . . that and having a lot of friends who will help out when the time comes.

Thanks **Jim Quin** and **Erv Erickson** – and all the folks in Gaylord who did such a great job. We are all in your debt. I am sure Kalamazoo looks forward to your coming south in the fall so they can treat you as well as you treated all of us last weekend!

**Photos by
Joe Serwach**



Infinity will represent Pioneer at Internationals.

Harmony Happening:

Barbershop's best in 29 hours



Photos and text by Joe Serwach

Troubadour Editor

EAST LANSING – Most Barbershoppers remember their first SPEBSQSA experience and wish it had happened at a younger age. Imagine if your first experience was like this:

Fifty-one high school boys from across Michigan met for Pioneer's first Harmony Happening, a new and improved Young Men in Harmony event that allowed them to learn two songs and choreography, learned from the Society's best, met the 2003 International champs and performed for more than 2,000 people.

All within 29 hours.

Not a bad day's work, eh? And certainly not a bad investment for a mere \$35 that covered the programs, food and lodging.

In recent years, the event's predecessor had been part of the District's Harmony Round-Up but was moved to March so the boys could take what they learned and join the Lansing Chapter's annual show, which included Pioneer's own 2003 International champs, **Power Play**.

The quartet met with the boys telling their own inspiring story of the way three of the members started quarteting as boys, rising up to become the best in the world.

And just to make sure they remembered what they learned, lead **Mike Slamka** generously gave each boy Power Play cassettes and T-shirts for FREE. Not to mention incredible training from an impressive faculty that included **Jamie Carrey**, **Jim DeBusman**, **Ken Gibson**, **Vickie Gibson** and **Dave Anderson**.





Pioneer Youth Fund established

The **House of Delegates** authorized the establishment of the Pioneer Youth Fund and its April meeting in Gaylord.

The fund will be used to support activities designed to introduce the Barbershop musical style to youth in the Pioneer District including **Harmony Happening**.

In the past it was made possible by a \$4,000 grant which is no longer available. The loss of this grant dramatically impacts our ability to offer this program at a reasonable fee to young men and music educators in our schools.

Chapters, quartets, individual members and others are encouraged to consider donating to this fund as a part of their charitable giving.

Donations can be sent to District Treasurer **Robb Smith**.

A goal of \$5,000 was established for 2004. The **Detroit-Oakland County chapter** has made the first donation designating the money in excess of costs collected during the April's Road Show in Redford.

Pioneer groups heading to Buckeye Invitational in Columbus August 19-22

Every August for the past 15 years, the Singing Buckeyes have hosted the **Buckeye Invitational** harmony festival. This event is an almost weeklong celebration of a capella singing.

It features competitions among men's and women's choruses and quartets, along with featured performances by the world's finest Barbershop singers.

The Singing Buckeyes are proud that the Invitational is one of the most noted singing festivals held anywhere, and is the largest event of its type presented solely by a single chapter of SPEBSQSA.

The Invitational's contests and performances are held in Columbus Palace Theatre.

The Buckeye Invitational contests are unique, in that male and female choruses and quartets compete directly against each other.

Another unusual feature of these contests is that in addition to the panel of certified

judges present, listening audience members who choose to do so may serve as entertainment judges, scoring the competitors on the overall entertainment



Sidekicks is a mixed quartet featuring Lansing Chapter members.

value of their performances.

The Buckeye Invitational includes two extraordinary shows, held Friday and Saturday evenings of Invitational week.

The Friday night show also includes a performance by the Singing Buckeyes High School Harmony Camp choruses.

This year's event promises to be one of the biggest and best Invitationals ever. In

addition to an expected 25 quartets competing in the various categories, we have 11 large choruses and six small choruses entered.

Our headliners for the Friday night show are SPEBSQSA International Quartet Champions **Power Play** and the **Gas House Gang** and SAI International Silver Medalist Chorus, **The Pride of Baltimore**. The Saturday night show features **MAX Q**, strong contender for the gold medal in Louisville this summer, **Bluegrass Student Union**, SPEBSQSA International Quartet Champion and Barbershop legend,

Brava!, 2004 Queens of Harmony from British Columbia, and the Buckeye Invitational hosts, the Singing Buckeyes Chorus, 11-time JAD Chorus Champion.

Representing the **Pioneer District** will be mixed quartet **Sidekicks** and the **Michigan Metro Chorus** and Michigan Sweet Adelines groups **Novelty Shop** and the **Shoreline Sounds** chorus.

Quartet scores

1. Infinity, 1,768, 73.7%
 2. Fermata Nowhere, 1,747, 72.8
 3. Four Man Fishin' Tackle Choir, 1,689, 70.4%
 4. Wildcard, 1,650, 68.8%
 5. Windfall, 1,639, 68.3%
 6. Insignia, 1,637, 68.2%
 7. Showtime, 1,586, 66.1%
 8. Chordiology, 1,534, 63.9%
- Alchemy (competing out of District), 1,867, 77.8%**
- Semi-Finals**
9. Border Crossing, 734, 61.2%
 10. Four Got to Shave, 732, 61%
 11. Night Shift, 722, 60.2%
 12. Harmong Transfer, 707, 58.9
 13. Brotherhood, 702, 58.5%
 14. Bootleg, 681, 56.8%
 15. In the Neighborhood, 650, 54.2%
 16. My 3 Friends, 649, 54.1%
 17. Sufficient Grounds, 643, 53.6
 18. Today's Special, 634, 52.8%

College Quartets

1. High Society (competing out of District) 763, 63.6%
2. The Extremes, 646, 53.8%
3. AKA Pella, 639, 53.3%

Top choruses

1. Detroit-Oakland, 67.3%
2. Motor City Metro, 65.7%
3. Michiana Metro, 63.1 %
4. Kalamazoo, 62.2%
5. Battle Creek, 61.2%
6. Grand Rapids, 61%
7. Lansing, 60.4%
7. Sault Ste. Marie, 60.4%
9. Grosse Pointe, 59.2%
10. Pontiac-Waterford, 58.6%
11. Traverse City, 57.2%
12. Hillsdale, 57.1%
- 13.. Windsor, 55.7%
14. Holland, 53.9%
15. Gratiot County, 53.6%
16. Alpena, 52.4%
17. Saginaw Bay, 52.3%
18. Rochester, 51.4 %
19. Muskegon, 45.7%

Infinity
a cappella quartet

craig mike bruce scott
248.474.1485 infinity@entropytech.com

"Showtime"
Barbershop Quartet

Tom McCoy - Tenor
Gary Nitz - Lead

Craig Nitz - Baritone
Jim Johnson - Bass

Jim Johnson 616-364-7183 e-mail jjohnson737@comcast.net

Detroit-Oakland supports young singers

By Tom Uicker

Detroit-Oakland Chapter is proud to participate in events under the auspices of the Barbershop Harmony Society's **Young Men in Harmony** programs.

Detroit-Oakland has underwritten the cost of two music scholarships this year. Two high school seniors each received a \$400 scholarship in order to further their music education.

They are **Tom Sklut**, a senior at **U of D Jesuit High School**, and **Jessica Hodges**, a senior at **Berkley High School**. (Young Men in Harmony activities are open to all high school music students).

Congratulations are in order not only to Tom and Jessica, but also to their music teachers **Cindy Stempin** and **Marcy Majors**. These scholarships were awarded at our March 1 Guest Night. We are hoping to

award two more scholarships next year.

In addition to the scholarship program, our YMIH chairman, **Fran Durham**, arranged to have **Jim DeBusman**, Music Specialist and Clinician from Society Headquarters in Kenosha, Wisconsin, do presentations at U of D Jesuit High School and Northville High School while he was in the Pioneer District the week of March 8-12.

He also taught a "tag" to demonstrate the style of Barbershop harmony and under the direction of the teacher, he acted as a clinician for the remainder of the class session.

Detroit-Oakland Chapter is continuing to do its part to encourage music education in the schools as we strive to "Teach The Children To Sing."

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Lansing in first online contest

By Art Lane

The **Pioneer District** is represented in the Barbershop Society's first online bulletin contest. The contest for chapter bulletins distributed electronically is being conducted by **PROBE, the Association of Public Relations Officers and Bulletin Editors**.

Going where no Pioneer editor has competed before is Paul Howe, editor of the **Woodshedder Weekly** of the **Lansing Chapter**. He submitted 12 consecutive issues of the 2003 Woodshedder Weekly for judging at the Society-level contest. Since this is the first year of the online contest, there was no district-level contest.

Howe sends out his bulletin in Adobe Acrobat (PDF) format as an e-mail attachment. distribution by e-mail accounts for more than 75 percent of the circulation of the Woodshedder Weekly.

"I do print a few copies that I take to each chapter meeting for those few members without computers or the technophobes that can't/won't learn how to download a file," he said.

Howe is an eight-year member of the Society and has been his chapter's bulletin editor for about four years. He originally published a bi-monthly bulletin while another member did a brief weekly bulletin.

When the other man had a job relocation, "In a moment of temporary insanity I agreed to take on the task of a weekly bulletin. I combined both publications into one, and now only publish the weekly newsletter, although I like to think that it is a more comprehensive publication.

It is usually two pages, but occasionally four pages.

"Whenever possible, I try to include pictures of recent chapter activities as I feel that they are important for everyone to see, and also provide material for the chapter historian," he said.

The results of PROBE's initial online bulletin contest will be announced at the international convention in Louisville in July.

Harmony Foundation Reinvented!

By Al Bonney

With the hiring of a new Executive Director for Harmony Foundation in February of 2003, the Harmony Foundation Trustees set the organization on an exciting road for all who love Barbershop Harmony and the Barbershop Harmony Society.

I spoke of this exciting and forward looking change at the House of Delegates. I also spoke of it somewhat more briefly during the Quartet semi-finals on Friday night in Gaylord several weeks ago. For those not present for either let me recap these significant changes for you here.

The first question might be, "Why?" Because the Barbershop Harmony Society needs a fiscally sound and sustainable future. Without a new and virulent funding source available to the Society Board, our organization, as we know it today, will not be sustainable into the next century. Organizations with outreach and growth goals like ours simply cannot succeed based

on the three traditional funding sources:

1. Dues
 2. Harmony Marketplace Sales
 3. Convention Income
- A fourth leg has been added to this heretofore wobbly three legged stool. A leg that makes the stability and future of the work we need the Society to do far more stable: our own foundation whose mission it is to raise money for SPEBSQSA projects.

There are three fundamental changes going on right now in Harmony Foundation:

1. Refocus the beneficiary
2. Reorganize the structure
3. Realign itself with the Districts and the chapters.

Let's look at each of these separately:

1. Refocus the beneficiary of the Foundation. This means that the money raised by Harmony Foundation will now go to fund Society projects. We used to fund Logopedics and then we funded a range of a cappella singing projects all over the country. Our beneficiary has not been clear for a good many years and that has frustrated many of us. It is now

very clear, just like any major university or charitable organization; our foundation exists to insure the sustainable future of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

2. Reorganize the structure of the Foundation:

- You can't play in the big leagues without big league players. Clarke Caldwell was the first to come on board. He has begun a campaign of hiring several other fundraising professionals. We have a professional Grant Writer now on the staff along with a professional development program person. Soon to come will be a planned giving person.

- The offices have moved from Kenosha to the Loop in downtown Chicago. Chicago is the one of the most active fundraising centers in the country. It was important to be located where the action is and where the players are.

3. Realign itself with the Districts and the chapters. We have established a new Vice President's job on the District Board called the VP of Financial Development. I have agreed to serve in this capacity during this

Please see HF, Page 11.

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Come to your Chapter meeting with a plan

By Doran McTaggart

In my first 2004 article I talked about planning for success. Both the Music Leadership Team and the Chapter Board Yearly Planning Meetings have determined the chapter activities for the current year and hopefully beyond.



None of this planning is worth very much if your membership is not having fun at your weekly Chapter meetings. The 8 Points For Fun has been stressed at COTS for three decades as a way to insure there is variety in your meeting night format.

The bulk of the evening is chorus rehearsal and improving our singing skills can be a rich, rewarding and enjoyable experience. Planning ahead can certainly provide the chorus with a variety of musical highs as they learn and polish chorus numbers.

Everyone enjoys the feeling of achievement and there is no doubt that singing well is fun.

Other fun things that can be included in chapter meetings are: Warm-ups, Woodshedding, Craft, Barberpole Cats, Tags, Quartetting, Octetting and occasionally singing a song all the way through without stopping.

Now, there's an idea whose time has come!

Must all of these things happen each

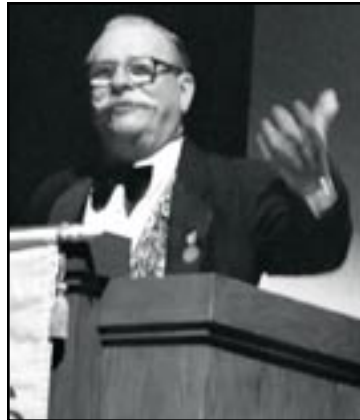
week? No! Do include some of them in your planning. Ask your chapter members what activities they enjoy doing.

Is your chapter meeting better than attending a Stanley Cup Final, the Super Bowl, the NCAA Final Four game, the Masters, the final episode of "Friends," the best restaurant in town followed by a Broadway Show, going bowling or playing golf?

It better be because this is your competition!

Each time a member finds something he values more than attending a Chapter meeting, it is that much easier to miss the next meeting and so on.

If a member is absent, is he called to find



out why?
Why
not?

You
may
find out
that the
highlight
of the
meeting
to him
was the
"Break".

This is

Windsor's 60th Anniversary and we are as

healthy now as we ever were. Five years ago, our membership was 44 with 20-22 attending our meetings.

A concentrated effort brought our numbers up to 68 with 50 or more attending weekly. We try to keep many people involved each night to provide a variety of activities. Sometimes we fall short of our goal but on the whole, we must be hitting the mark.

A sample of our meeting night format which involves 7-10 members taking a leading role follows. The activities vary a bit from week to week.

7:30 -- Welcome and "The Old Songs"
7:32 -- Warm-ups and new songs
8:15 -- Sectionals
8:30 -- Barberpole Cats
8:40 -- Announcements
8:45 -- Break -- 50/50 tickets on sale
9:00 -- Tag -- Repetitoire
9:45 -- Quartets -- Octets
9:59 -- Who's the Winner?
10:00 -- "Keep The Whole World Singing"
See you Next Week at 7:30 on time.

Up-coming events and announcements are listed at the bottom of the schedule. Let's do what we can to make our Barbershop Meetings the best thing since sliced bread. If it's going to happen at all, it will happen at the chapter meeting.

HF: Harmony Foundation has been changed

Continued from Page 10.

first year. This job will insure that the goals and strategies of the Harmony Foundation serve the needs and capabilities of the chapters and the membership. He will have a committee of four men:

• **Grant writer** who will write grants to bring money to the District to fund activities like our Youth Festival or various coaching clinics. Mike Moyer has this job.

• **Grant Educator:** who will provide training to the chapters to help them write their own grants and fund the kind of activities in their communities that will make them exciting and relevant participants in the

artistic and educational fabric of the communities they serve.

• **President's Council:** This is the man who will spearhead the annual giving programs, and particularly help drive the new President's Council. The President's Council provides significant recognition to those men and women who give in excess of \$1000 per year to Harmony Foundation.

• **Planned Giving:** We now call this the Founder's Club. While the name will remain, the program will evolve into a more beneficial program for the Society, searching for a large number of Barbershoppers who will make end of life bequests

All this change is fine, but what

happened to the little child who could not speak yet benefited from our financial gifts each year? Harmony Foundation back in those days had a FACE. We know who we were giving to and our gifts made sense to us. Harmony Foundation has a face once again-

• **Faces of youth singing our songs** in Harmony Explosion Camps all over the country.

• **Faces of educators teaching our youth** by using the barbershop tools that they learned while attending Harmony College.

• **Faces of directors providing better leadership** and musical growth for their chapters because of the scholarships funded by Harmony Foundation.

It is a brave new barbershop world we live in these days. Harmony Foundation is providing a vibrant and courageous new role in it for our benefit today and for the benefit of Barbershoppers for years to come. I welcome your questions and the opportunity to discuss any of these changes with anyone interested. Believe me; the opportunities that Harmony Foundation will provide to our beloved Society in the years to come will be significant. I am proud to be part of this today and I know you will look forward to including Harmony Foundation in your family annual charitable giving plan for years into the future.

Two-time champion recalls road to his many medals...

By **Glenn Van Tassell**

Lucky kid, this **Glenn Van Tassell**, when I was just 15, **Gordon Whitcomb**, a bass in my choir at Fairview Methodist Church in Binghamton, N.Y. decided to form a quartet for a church function.

Along with the hymns, he just happened to slip in a few Barbershop arrangements and thus was born my first quartet, the **Excelsior Four**.

Not surprisingly, Gordon, a member of the local Chapter, suggested that we attend a meeting and the harmony hook was firmly implanted. That was 1950.

I joined the Chapter right away and I have never ceased to be involved in music, particularly Barbershop music. After high school, and an impromptu audition, I began touring the United States and Canada with a professional group known as **The American Male Chorus**.

We sang everything from Bach to Begin the Beguine. I was a baritone soloist and I enjoyed the privilege of daily group voice lessons with the director, **Lewis Bullock**. Only years later, as a quartet singer, did I truly appreciate the value of that

training.

After two seasons I left the tour in Detroit, and at a chapter meeting there hooked up with then district champs, the



Wolverines who were holding auditions for a new baritone.

The Wolverines' tenor was **Al Rehkop**. You'll notice that name comes up later in my quartet activities. You see my single claim to genius is that I have been careful to associate with great singing partners.

We competed in 1954 and made the top 20. I moved on next with the **Treble Makers** and competed in 1955 and 1956, again scoring in the top 20.

In 1957, with - - - - - brace yourselves, the **Combust-A-Chords** (Remember, that was in Detroit, the Motor City) I sang lead this time.

I came home from the Los Angeles contest to find a draft

notice in my mailbox and I was off to the U.S. Army, for a tour in West Germany where, of course, I sang with another quartet, this time with Floridian, **Roy Dean**, brother of **Jesse Dean**.

Back from military service in late 1959, at a meeting with several interested singers and some trusted coaches the **Auto Towners** (there's that Motor City theme) began and surprise! - - - I was standing in the lead slot.

We competed from 1961 to 1966. Al Rehkop joined us at tenor in 1965 and we scored 4th place, bronze, winning the gold in Chicago in 1966.

In 1969, the Auto Towners disbanded and **Gentlemen's Agreement** began. I was back to baritone with **Drayton Justus** as lead.

Bob Whitledge was the bass and again, Al Rehkop was the tenor. We were fourth place bronze medallists in 1970 after only seven months together and won 1st place gold in New

Orleans in 1971.

In late 1980, **Center Stage** was formed with lead **Dennis Gore**, tenor **Wendell Pryor**, bass **Lee Hanson** and me on baritone.

We quickly scored as 4th place bronze medallists in 1981 and took 2nd place, silver medals in 1982, 1983 and 1984 and 7th in 1985. We never quite reached the top, but it was a great ride with wonderful friends.

I moved to Florida in 1986 and in 1990, competed at

international contest with **Florida Transfer** (top 20), 1992 with **Starlight Express** and in 1993 and 1994 in the top 20 with **Shenanigans**.

Quite a

quartet odyssey, I suppose, yet I also was privileged to function as a certified judge for 15 years and to coach and direct throughout the Society. I have traveled the world, but the best of it all is the great relationships formed and maintained to this day with so many fine people I encountered throughout the journey.



Plonet to switch providers soon

The **Pioneer District's** e-mail list, PioNet, will be moving, probably sometime in June.

The list has been hosted for more than seven years by the server at **Humber College** in Ontario. Humber now must use its server fully for the college; it no longer will host lists such as PioNet.

Humber also used to host **Harmonet**, which had to move to Yahoo 4 years ago. PioNet operator Jim Styer set up a successor at Yahoo 4 years ago and has renewed it periodically just for this eventuality.

Now, PioNet is preparing to make the move. But, because of

controls against spam, only 10 subscribers can be transferred each day; so the process will take several weeks.

What will this mean to subscribers?

-- Each day after the transfer begins, 10 subscribers will receive an automated "Welcome" message from Yahoo.

-- DO NOT try to respond to these notices.

-- DO NOT try to post any message to a new PioNet address on Yahoo. It will be rejected. Until the transfer is complete, the Humber College address will continue to be used.

-- PioNet subscribers will be

notified when the new list is activated for e-mail.

Much work has gone on behind the scenes to prepare for this move, and more still needs to be done. PioNet co-operator **Matt Tipton of Macomb** -- who runs several Yahoo lists and overall is happy with Yahoo as a list provider -- is a key resource and helper in this transfer.

There may be glitches, but they'll try to make this as seamless and painless as possible for users.

PLEASE announce this change at your chapter meetings. Ask everyone who doesn't get on line frequently to check his/her e-

mail for this announcement. Also check PioNet mail frequently for any updates, and of course for the changeover announcement -- and remind others to do the same.

Meanwhile, if you've appreciated the free service Humber college has offered since Feb. 1, 1997, say thanks to our techie contact there:

David Green,
david.green@humber.ca

If you have any questions, or want to join PioNet, contact Jim Styer at jimstyer@comcast.net.

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U-M experts: How to keep your voice young and healthy. . .

ANN ARBOR -- Will your voice always be there for you? If you've been sounding hoarse for a while, or you have to strain to talk, or your throat often is sore or needs clearing, you may have a problem.

And it's better to raise your concern with your doctor now than wait for it to get worse, says a [University of Michigan Health System](#) expert who specializes in voice disorders.

That's especially true if you rely on your voice for your work, whether it's teaching, preaching, singing or just leading meetings.

"Early attention to changes in your voice can accelerate the diagnosis and treatment of everything from vocal cord nodules to throat cancer," says Norman D. Hogikyan, M.D., who directs the [U-M Vocal Health Center](#). "And early detection often can mean better chances for recovery — and less time without a healthy voice."

Many times, U-M sees people who have suffered for months or years with disruptions to their voices, and went without an adequate exam to find the root cause. And when laryngeal, or throat, cancer is to blame, delays can be deadly.

That's why Hogikyan wants to spread the word about the importance of recognizing voice problems and getting prompt attention. He emphasizes that effective treatments are available, and range from voice rest and voice therapy to microsurgery and injections of botulinum toxin, or Botox, into the vocal folds.

Hogikyan developed a measuring tool for voice-related quality of life, a questionnaire that assesses how much of a problem a person's voice disorder is causing for them. He uses it in his research and clinic, and it's available online as a "[Voice Quiz](#)" through the World Voice

Day home page, www.entnet.org/news/voiceday.cfm.

That page, sponsored by the American Academy of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck

- Does your voice get "tired" easily?
- Do you repeatedly clear your throat?
- Do people regularly ask you if



College champs The Extremes

These young Barbershoppers represented Eastern Michigan University and the University of Michigan

Surgery, also contains helpful information on recognizing and understanding common voice problems and their treatment.

"The bottom line is, if you've had a change in your voice that lasts a while, especially if you smoke or use your voice professionally, see a doctor immediately," he says. "Listen carefully to your voice if it's complaining to you: it may save your voice or even your life."

Hogikyan, an associate professor in the [Department of Otolaryngology](#) at the U-M Medical School and in the Division of Vocal Arts at the U-M School of Music, explains that a few questions can help.

Ask yourself:

- Has your voice become hoarse or raspy, or low and gravelly? or airy and breathy?
- Does your throat often feel raw, achy or strained?
- Has it become an effort to talk?
- Is your voice unreliable, or "hard to find"?

you have a cold when you do not?

• Have you lost your ability to hit some high notes when singing?

• Do you have difficulty swallowing, or persistent sore throat or pain with swallowing? Do you have difficulty breathing, pain in your ear or a lump

in your neck?

The cause of these symptoms could be one of many possibilities — some benign, some dangerous. For example, it could be a side effect of acid reflux, which can harm your vocal cords with acid from your stomach. Or it could be a polyp or nodule on your vocal cords, caused by overusing your voice or using it when you have an infection that causes temporary laryngitis.

Or, the nerves that connect to your larynx (voice box) could have been damaged during an operation, a fall, an accident or an infection — a condition called vocal cord paresis or paralysis.

If you're a smoker or a heavy drinker, it could be laryngeal cancer. That's a serious diagnosis, and treatment options include radiation, surgery and/or chemotherapy, but survival rates are excellent if it is caught early.

Less commonly, you could have a condition called

spasmodic dysphonia, which results from spasms in the muscles that open or close the vocal cords when you speak. This condition can be treated with repeated Botox injections that prevent the spasms and improve voice quality.

"In order to determine the cause, your doctor may refer you to an ear, nose and throat specialist, or otolaryngologist, who can perform thorough exams using tools such as a tiny camera that films video of your vocal cords and larynx in action," says Hogikyan.

For people whose voices are central to their work, a multidisciplinary evaluation can be very helpful. At the U-M Vocal Health Center, this type of assessment includes a physician examination, plus evaluations by a speech pathologist and voice training specialist.

The Vocal Health Center clinical staff includes experts from the U-M Health System and the U-M School of Music. Freda Herseth, D.M., chair of the Voice Department at the U-M School of Music, works with such patients at the U-M Vocal Health Center to help them adopt healthy speaking and singing habits.

Hogikyan and Herseth have also teamed up to produce an educational video, "The Living Voice," which actually shows their own vocal tracts during singing and speaking, and teaches students about how the voice works. Many music educators have used it in class, with students from grade school through college. More information on the video and how to order it, is available on the Vocal Health Center's web site.

To learn more about the U-M Vocal Health Center, or the Living Voice video, visit www.med.umich.edu/oto/vocalhealthcenter or call 734-432-7666.

Save the best for last!
QUARTET
SINGING ORDER
-- LOUISVILLE

Singing order draw held in Kenosha

The draw for quartet singing order for the quarter-finals in Louisville= was held Monday, May 3. The results are as follows:

DRAW QUARTET DIST

- 1 Ringside DIX
- 2 Keep 'Em Guessin' CAR
- 3 3 Men & A Melody CSD
- 4 Hi-Fidelity FWD
- 5 Finale FWD
- 6 Sold Out EVG
- 7 MatriX JAD
- 8 Reveille NED
- 9 Reprise RMD
- 10 McKinley Street Function SWD
- 11 Hot Air Buffoons JAD
- 12 Category 4 SUN
- 13 Sterling SWD
- 14 Riptide DIX
- 15 Rounders SUN
- 16 You Bet! JAD
- 17 Overture DIX
- 18 Phat Cats MAD
- 19 State Line Grocery DIX
- 20 O.C. Times FWD
- 21 Union Station ONT
- 22 The Fixx ONT
- 23 Storm Front RMD
- 24 Genesis DIX
- 25 Bravo! LOL
- 26 Wheelhouse MAD
- 27 Wise Guys SUN
- 28 Flipside EVG
- 29 Cooligans SWD
- 30 Flashpoint EVG
- 31 Yankee Dime MAD
- 32 Impulse JAD
- 33 Harmonix SLD
- 34 Q FWD
- 35 Realtime EVG
- 36 Smackdown DIX
- 37 Road Show NED
- 38 Sound Crew BABS
- 39 My Three Sons SUN
- 40 Odds On JAD
- 41 Broadway FWD
- 42 Rhythmix JAD
- 43 12th Street Rag CSD
- 44 L'Audible SWD
- 45 Max Q SWD
- 46 Metropolis FWD
- 47 Alchemy ILL
- 48 Vocal Magic EVG
- 49 The Exchange CAR
- 50 Saturday Evening Post SWD
- 51 Gotcha! FWD
- 52 Infinity PIO



Need proof singing keeps you young? John Wearing is 79.

Pontiac-Waterford honors 'the Dick Clark of Barbershop'

By John Cowlshaw

The Big Chief Chorus welcomes its new director, **Jim Troeger**. Jim is featured in the April Smoke Signals, available online at <http://www.pontiacchapter.com/apr2004.htm>.

Our **48th Annual Woodshed Contest** was held Friday evening, April 2, with its rule that quartets are limited to two members of the same chapter or registered quartet. Here is Dick Johnson's report:

Fifty-three barbershoppers filled Waterford's Pontiac Country Club forming thirteen quartets to test their woodshedding abilities before this year's judges, **Night Shift**. **M.C. Len Barnes** made sure all quartets got a chance to be judged. **Russ Seely**, **Steve Sutherland** and **Jim Troeger** warmed up the group by directing songs of their choice.

Then the fun began.

The quartet that won the coveted badges was Sintones: **Russ Seely** (bari) and **Joe Serwach** (lead) from **Grosse Pointe** and **Mike Frye** (tenor) and **Roger Holm** (bass) from **Pontiac/Waterford**, singing "Love Me and the World is Mine."

The quartet that was awarded the "Ringers' Ribbons" was Imagination: **Tom Blackstone** (lead), **Ross Ensign** (bass) and **John Cowlshaw**

(bari) of Pontiac/Waterford joining **Jonathon Botkin** (tenor) from Rochester. **Grosse Pointe's John Wearing** was awarded "Honorary Big Chief" by Russ Seely (2003 H.B.C.) and Steve Sutherland (2002 H.B.C.)

Russ had some nice things to say about John, a Pioneer Hall of Famer who has consistently competed year after year in quartet and chorus. contests The **Flint Chapter** was presented the Bennington Trophy plaque for their winning participation in last year's contest.

Next year, the Rochester Chapter will be awarded for their wining participation in 2004. The night was capped with Jim Troeger directing the Big Chief chorus in a couple of songs and comments from Steve Sutherland thanking the Pontiac/Waterford Chapter for keeping the Woodshed Contest going that Bill Pascher started 49 years ago. Keep The Whole World Singing!!!

Recent barbershoppers of the month have included: (February) Ross Ensign, for his work on CD's and tapes and other work on the music committee; and (March) Mike Frye, for his work as Tagmeister and section co-leader and for his new tag, "Autumn Leaves."

Founding BCC member **Bill Pascher** has had several mini-

strokes and is now living at "Sunrise of Clarkston."

Wayne Chene organized our Valentines Sing Outs. We had 48 paid gigs, and cleared about \$1,850. The feedback from clients attests to the wonderful job done by our four chapter quartets - Harmony Knights, Sunnyside, Four Wheel Drive and Celebration.

Our second annual Spring Training Singing Retreat was held, March 26-8 at Ralph A MacMullan Conference Center, on the north shore of Higgins Lake.

Thirty-seven of us gathered for fun, fellowship, and improved singing. Ross Ensign introduced the Stage Presence Moves for our two contest songs, "Back in the Old Routine" and "Old St. Louis."

Saturday night, we had our intra-chapter show, with the Blues led by Len Barnes, the Greens led by Bruce Brede, the Blacks led by Jeff Doig, and the Yellows led by Bill Nevaux dueling it out.

Don Bazely of Sault Ste. Marie was our coach this year. He taught us the Barbershop Cone.

The cone reminds us that higher pitches require less volume and more head tone. We stayed in Lake Erie, Huron, and Ontario cabins, and once again serenaded the hearing-impaired folks. Hard to believe that there was still half a foot of snow on the ground.

Take these steps to become a judge

By Al Fisk

Contest & Judging VP

Here are the steps to becoming a judge. This form letter will give you some idea of the process involved.

Please don't let the form letter format overshadow the pleasure I have in answering your inquiry. You are about to enter a wonderful part of the Barbershop world.

The philosophy for selecting new applicants is to look for people who have the personal experiences and current activities that already qualify them to be judges, and then train them in using those skills in the judging program.

This mandates that you are doing your own preparation, that you are aware of what judges do, and that you only need some technicalities and some polishing. Obvious qualifications are people skills, and experience in coaching both quartets and choruses. Specific categories have particular concerns--for instance, music judges are often also arrangers.

Talk with judges, coach often, spend time in the judging area, involve yourself with the judge-type activities, and when you think you are ready, begin the following process.

There are several steps, and several different people involved. Obviously, as chairman of contest activities in the **Pioneer District**, I am involved.

The next person who has a say in all of this is the Category Specialist, who is given the responsibility of shepherding and guiding his category.

Finally, there is the Society Contest and Judging Committee who recommends you to the Society President, the one who actually signs the certificate, along with the SCJC chairman. It really is a big deal. Here's the process:

The first step is for you to request two judges in the category in which you are interested to write you a letter of recommendation. They should send those letters to: Al Fisk, Pioneer District VP C&J, 1018 River Mist Drive, Rochester, MI 48307.

Then, fill out the application form (that you can get from me) and return it to me, at the above address.

I will contact your references by mail, and upon receiving the replies, make up a package of materials to send to the Category Specialist with my recommendation that you be considered or not be considered as an APPLICANT to the judging program.

In the unlikely event that my recommendation is negative, I will include an explanation of my reasons for such a recommendation, and a copy will be sent to you. In this case, no news is good news.



The Category Specialist will review the package and make his recommendation. If he approves the application, he will send your name to Kenosha. You will have achieved APPLICANT status, and can begin receiving tests.

Linda Neuenfeld, lnuefeld@spebsqsa.org, is the staff member with whom you need to communicate regarding training materials, tests and costs. If, for some reason, the CS does not accept your application, an explanation of the reasons will be given to you.

After the General Knowledge test, and Category written test(s), and after practice-scoring and taped evaluation sessions have been reviewed by the Category Specialist, you may be invited to attend the next judge training class (Applicant School - August 2005) prior to **Harmony College** in St. Joseph, Missouri. With a passing grade from the class, you become a CANDIDATE.

As a candidate, you will be expected to practice-score a number of taped performances, and to attend contests as a practice judge. These practice scores and your taped evaluation sessions will be sent to the Category Specialist, and shared with the certified judges of your category, the DVP, C&J of the contest district, and your own DVP, C&J.

By the way, if you can become a candidate during the first year of a cycle, you have more time to practice, which is very helpful for next step.

When that time comes (every three years, the next one being 2007), the Category Specialist will invite you to attend Category School, in St. Joseph, Missouri, scheduled the week before Harmony College. Upon satisfactorily completing the Category School, you are certified for a three-year period. All judges are invited back to the next Category School in order to certify for another three-year session.

This sounds like a lot, and it seems to take a long time. The lengthy process serves two purposes: The first is that you have lots of experience in practice judging and in evaluation before you get to the real thing.

The second is that we really do depend greatly upon our judging cadre to preserve and encourage barbershop. This is not something to be taken lightly. It is a large responsibility to encourage and assist even the poorest of contestants; it may be an even greater task to motivate and help the almost-champions.

Welcome to this task. It is a demanding and rewarding responsibility. It is a privilege to serve your fellow barbershoppers in this very necessary and sometimes unappreciated role.

As you progress through the various stages, please know that I am here to assist in whatever way I can. If I can answer questions, or if I can help in some way, please ask. I am ready to work with you as you move forward.

Market your chapter one day at a time

By Greg Humbel

VP Market and PR

Marketing and public relations will always be a key component in the growth of our hobby.

On the Society, district or chapter level, we struggle with good ways to promote our love for music and to share our infatuation with this art form with everyone we meet. We need to continually develop new and exciting ways to promote our choruses, quartets, shows, guests nights and charitable mission.

Each of us needs to do our part to get guests to a chapter meeting or guest night. Each chapter must stay focused on providing an exciting chapter meeting with something available for each member to enjoy.

I continue to be convinced that we do a pretty good job of retention of our membership once we get an interested man in the door.

Your job, if you choose to accept it, will be to receive a man of note award at least once a year because you shared your excitement of your hobby.

I will guarantee you that if you ask someone in your chapter with several man of notes on their lapel how the were able to do it, they would tell you that they bring up their hobby in their every-day conversations and think nothing of it!

Try this: Make 10 personal contacts in a day, week, or month. Share your hobby with five of them and you will have two people minimum to bring to your next guest night. It's marketing!! It's a numbers game.

Share your hobby today!!

Further, and very simply, display something barbershoppy as you meet other people: Use your MBNA barbershop credit card. Wear barbershop stuff, like your "Singing is life ... the rest is just details" button

Please see Marketing, Page 18.

2004 PIONEER DISTRICT FALL CONVENTION

OCT 15-17, 2004

CONVENTION REGISTRATION

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

**REGISTRANT NAME _____

**SPOUSE/GUEST NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ E-mail: _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____
(Area Code)

**COMPETING QUARTET? YES NO QUARTET NAME _____

**COMPETING CHORUS? YES NO CHORUS NAME _____

**CHAPTER NAME _____

**VOICE PART: TENOR LEAD BARITONE BASS

EARLY REGISTRATION: \$25.00 PER PERSON

LATE REGISTRATION: \$30.00 PER PERSON

EARLY REGISTRATION MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN Oct 1, 2004

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

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: PIONEER DISTRICT SPEBSQSA, INC.

OR: MASTER CARD OR VISA NUMBER _____ EXPIR.
DATE ____/____

MAIL CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM AND FEE TO:

**Robert Smith Jr.
46210 Copper Lock Lane
Macomb, MI 48044-6202**

All Events passes will not be mail to you. Please pick them up at the convention registration desk, located in the Kalamazoo Radisson Plaza Hotel (Headquarters). Partial registrations will available at the convention's registration desk : The cost for each single event registrations is \$15. 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. _____

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

Power Play in Bay City on June 2

SAGINAW BAY

By Ralph Brown

It appears that we are going to have one of the best years of Barbershop Singing than we have seen in a number of years.

We are blessed with a 'GOLDEN' opportunity to bring our music venue to the heart of 'PIONEER'. We have the Champs that not only sing from the heart, but, think from the heart.

We have all talked about the importance of getting youth more involved and they are doing just that.

On June 2, we will have a special performance in Downtown Bay City aimed at getting young singers exposed to our style of music.

Power Play is participating and are sure to capture the musical inclinations of our youth and get them started on a musical journey of Barbershop Singing.

We have a lot of musical talent in our valley just waiting for the spark we intend to give them.

Our Chapter has had the best Valentine Event ever. With four quarters on the road.

Hundreds of school children loved our songs and enjoyed the surprised looks on the faces of their teachers and classmates. In one instance the quarter sang to a music teacher and then had the class sing to them; Great Stuff!

Again this year we had our "Annual St. Paddy's Day Thaw" show and had higher receipts, in part due to an increase in participation by more Chapter Members, and, also a growing interest in our style of singing by the community at-large.



Jim Grogan honored as Barbershopper of the Year

Grosse Pointe Chapter members gathered at the Blossom Heath to surprise Program Vice President Jim Grogan and his wife, Barb, awarding him the chapter's highest honor for all his tireless work to make numerous events successful.

Photo by M.E. McLean



MARKET : Spread word about your chapter

Continued from Page 16

from Society President **Roger Lewis**. Eventually, someone will comment on it, or it will give you an excuse to bring up the subject. And you can take it from there whenever you find a man who likes to sing... or his wife!

As you move forward to your next function or event, ask yourself if the membership component has been addressed. Ask, what do I do here?

Grow membership!

Muskegon helps 'Charlie Brown' production

By Frank Scott

Despite the poor economy, this year's Singing Valentines program was successful. The final total will be over 80 thanks to a great chapter effort.

Bob O'Brien, handled scheduling and did a great job. We had three chapter quartets, **Harmony Transfer, Act Four** and **Harbour Town Sound** plus a group put together by treasurer, **Barry Hall**.

Including some substitutes who filled in for men who, had to work or other prior commitments, we had 20 singers involved. A great experience for some of our new members.

Prior to the weekend of **Harmony Happening** we learned that three of our major area high schools had musical productions. **Fruitport High School** had a three night production of "Your a Good Man Charlie Brown". Six-year chapter member, **Tim Hall**, played the leading role as "Charlie Brown." Also in the production were **Andrew Kitchka**, as Schroeder and **Ian Hanes**, as Linus. Andrew and Ian are also singing with us.

President **John Tyler** attended two

performances and reviewed the show in his weekly chapter publication, *The Melodic*

Diphthong. John said "The writer was there for the Thursday and the Saturday performances and discovered an unusually good production rivaling the Cherry County plays. The singing was exact and we need to compliment Tim, Andrew, and Ian for their tonal qualities.

The play had a good supporting pit band, timing was also exact, acting was superb, and the audience was entertained. Also in the production was John Tyler's grand daughter, **Michele Vander Molen**, who played Peppermint Patty and was also stage manager.

Those of the chorus who attended were thrilled and proud of a very good solid performance by our "kids"...

Fifteen members of the chorus took advantage of the coaching session at MSU. on March 6. We all agreed it was a very worth while session. Lots of good

singing tips from three very knowledgeable coaches.

We felt it was well worth the effort and I believe I can remember some of the instructions! Dave Buchan is the chairman for the 64th annual Chapter show scheduled for September 25. The chorus is learning new show songs with some great arrangements.



REQUEST FOR HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

Pioneer District Association of Chapters

Radisson Plaza Hotel & Suites

KALAMAZOO, MI

October 15-17, 2004

Please fill out this form and mail to the Kalamazoo County Convention & Visitors Bureau at 346 W. Michigan Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49007-3737 or fax to (269) 343-0430.

One form for EACH room must be submitted.

Please indicate your preference:

<u>Hotel</u>	<u>Single</u>	<u>Double</u>	<u>Suites</u>	<u>Please indicate your first & second choice</u>
Radisson Plaza Hotel & Suites (HQ)	\$89.00	\$89.00	\$130-145*	_____
Country Inn & Suites	\$70.00	\$70.00	N/A	_____
Fairfield Inn East	\$59.00	\$59.00	N/A	_____
Quality Inn & Suites	\$59.00	\$59.00	N/A	_____

***Call Radisson directly (269) 343-3333 for a full description of suite configurations.**

****Room Rates do not reflect 11% state and local taxes.**

To guarantee your room, please provide the credit card information below. If credit card information is not provided, your room will **NOT** be reserved.

Name on card: _____

Card #: _____

Please Circle: Visa Card Master Card Discover Card Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

One room will be reserved for: (print clearly in pen)

Name: _____ Date of Arrival: _____

Address: _____ Date of Departure: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ E-mail: _____

Day Phone: () _____ - _____ Name of other guest(s) in room: _____

Evening Phone: () _____ - _____

1-Bed _____ 2-Beds _____

Preference for Smoking _____ Non-Smoking _____

Please indicate if you are physically challenged or need special requirements: _____

You will receive an acknowledgement from the Kalamazoo County Convention & Visitors Bureau within two weeks. If you do not hear from us within two weeks please contact the housing department at (800) 530-9192 (USA Only) or (269) 381-4003. You may also e-mail us at hotels@kazoochamber.com.

2004 CALENDAR: Upcoming events

May 1

Windsor Chapter Show

May 7

Holland Chapter Show

May 14-16

Harmony Round-Up

May 15

Grand Rapids Chapter Show

Flint Chapter Show

May 21

Wayne Chapter Show

May 22

Macomb Chapter Show

May 23

Hillsdale Chapter Show

June 4-5

Traverse City Chapter Show

June 27 - July 4

International Convention, Louisville, KY

September 18

Grosse Pointe Chapter Show

Gratiot County Chapter Show

September 24-26

Bush League

October 15-17

District Convention - Kalamazoo

October 30

Rochester Chapter Show

November 5-7

Leadership Forum

November 6

Pontiac-Waterford Chapter Show

November 20

Huron Valley Chapter Show

December 9

Grosse Pointe Christmas concert

2005

January 8-9

COTS

February 18-19

Detroit-Oakland Chapter Show

March 12

Lansing Chapter Show

Spring 2004 Senior winners: Brotherhood



Chapter Locations

