



# Pioneer Troubadour

Official Publication of the Pioneer District November/December 2004 Volume 55, Number 5

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

## Every point counts

Wild Card 2004 District champs with 1,734 points, Fermata Nowhere 2nd with 1,733

Right:  
2004 District  
Champs  
Wild Card.

Below:  
One point out  
of 1st, Grosse  
Pointe  
Chapter's  
Fermata  
Nowhere.



By Joe Serwach

How significant is one point out of 3,467? Something like perhaps 200<sup>th</sup> of a percent? And the difference between first and second place in the 2004 Pioneer District Quartet Championship.

This year's top quartet, **Wild Card**, almost scratched because its members didn't feel quite ready a few weeks before the contest.

The same quartet caught people's attention by singing very well last spring despite a cracking voice among one of the men.

The champs beat perennial finalists **Fermata Nowhere** 1,734 to 1,733 and went out and thanked Fermata, noting how much they admire and look up to the quartet that has been at the top in quartet contests for the past four years then sang their heart out with the classic

"This is the Moment" made famous by 1991 gold medalists **Acoustix**.

Wild Card Baritone Curt Struyk thanked and congratulated chorus International representative Macomb Harmony Heritage Chorus and wrote to Fermata, "What can I say? You guys are great, and I must say, very gracious in dealing with yet another 2nd place. I don't know of two quartets that have been this consistently close in scoring. Last spring, only two points separated us in the first round and now, only one point!! Wow!!!!"

He added "The hotel accommodations were outstanding. The warm-up rooms were very spacious. The stage and sound system was great. Our host (Ron), who escorted us on both nights, was extremely supportive and genuinely **Please see Wild Card Page 3**



## Macomb returning to International

By Joe Serwach

**Macomb Harmony Heritage Chorus** will represent the **Pioneer District** at the 2005 International Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Macomb's own **Jack Slamka**, who stepped down as director to focus on winning an international gold medal in quarteting in 2003, was back as director, leading the chorus as it sang "If we can't be the same old sweethearts" and a "My Fair Lady" medley. Macomb scored 882 or 73.5 percent with 53 men on stage.

Hot on Macomb's trail was 2003 District Chorus champion **Detroit-Oakland**, with 847 or 70.6 percent. Detroit-Oakland had the most men on stage, 57, while third place **Motor City** had the smallest chorus, scoring 771 or

performances in district contest history as they blew their pitch and their first pitch was drow out by a series of alarm tones that sounded like an electronic pitchpipe playing a series of notes sounding like a bad song.

not it was a false alarm. The entire crowd evacuated into a pouring rain storm as guests and other convention goers also poured down into the streets.

Several men took advantage of the impromptu gathering and



64.3 percent with just 13 men on stage.

Detroit-Oakland, the last chorus to perform in the contest, had one of the most unexpected

Only the sound was from a fire alarm followed by a message to evacuate the building. The men in the chorus stood in their tuxes, smiling, waiting to see whether or

began to sing before everyone returned back to the hotel ballroom to resume the contest. This was the first time that the **Please see Contest, Page 7.**



### November/December 2004 Pioneer Troubadour

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

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## Next copy deadline: December 15

Rates quoted are for scanner-ready copy or properly formatted electronic files. Please send check with copy, payable to "**Pioneer District.**"

### Ad sizes available:

Full page \$100  
2/3 page \$75  
1/2 page \$65  
1/3 page \$50  
Quartet-size card \$13  
Quartet-size card (annual) \$55

### Troubadour PUBLISHING INFORMATION

Published in January, March, May, August, and November. Copy deadline: 5th of the month prior to the month of publication. The *Troubadour* is published by the authority of the Pioneer District Association of Chapters of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc. All articles not by-lined are by the editor and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the members or officers of the District. Space will be made available for opposing views relevant to any issue. Nothing will be published that is in violation of the Society's Code of Ethics.

Subscription rate for non-members: \$6.00 annually, \$1.50 for single copy. Remit check, payable to "**Pioneer District,**" to editor.

### PioNet subscriptions

To subscribe to the PioNet at no cost, e-mail your name and Chapter name to **JimStyer@comcast.net**. Visit Pioneer District Web site: **[www.harmonize.com/Pioneer/pio.htm](http://www.harmonize.com/Pioneer/pio.htm)**

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# The big picture value of music and singing

By Joe Serwach

Most Americans noticed U.S. Sen. Zell Miller when the Georgia Democrat campaigned for Republican George W. Bush, becoming the only man to keynote both a Democratic and a Republican national nominating convention.

And his 2003 book, "A National Party No More," predicted the outcome of the 2004 presidential election but Barbershoppers may be especially interested in what Miller wrote about music.

When he was governor of Georgia in the early 1990s, Miller advocated having every parent play classic music CDs to their newborns and convinced a music distributor to give a CD to every new parent in the state as part of a bag of gifts given at Georgia hospitals.

Miller argues that culture is what differentiates humans from animals, that art preserves the fabric of society, that art (including music) is one of the few vehicles for transferring culture from one generation to the next.

He also argues that our stories and beliefs, largely told through songs, literature and drama, tie our nation together and "help us to understand that truth is too big to be contained by any one culture, that there are underlying truths and principles that go beyond culture and tradition and unite humankind around the world and across the ages."

He also notes:

- The ear is the first sensory organ to develop, with unborn babies hearing just 16 weeks into pregnancy.
- Research suggests that sounds have a direct connection to brain development with the first sounds unborn babies hear being the sound of their mother's heartbeat and the corresponding rhythms from blood moving through the placenta.
- Throughout life, humans tend to enjoy music with rhythms at the same tempo as our heartbeats.
- Babies have 100 billion or more neurons forming more than 50 trillion connections but early in life, that number explodes to more than 1,000

trillion and research shows reading, talking or playing soothing music for a baby helps those connections develop, especially those related to math skills,

- By 4-months-old, babies react to changes in melodies and as early as six months, they can notice when notes are out of tune or sing back pitches they've heard.
- People talk about "left brained" and "right brained" people because the left hemisphere of the brain controls analytical, logical and language skills while the right hemisphere controls creativity, visual skills and direct perception. But music engages both parts of the brain,
- Music brings out emotions and creativity in the right brain and engages the mechanics of deciphering a melody rhythm and pitch intervals on the left half. He argues that people with early exposure to music have a larger corpus callosum, the bundle of nerves connecting the two halves.



## WILD CARD

Continued from Page 1

interested in sharing our experience. And best of all, the response that you, the audience, gave us during the competition was one of the most exciting and uplifting moments that we have ever experienced.

By 1:30 a.m., he thought they'd sung at every hospitality suite they knew of, adding "By the time we were wrapping things up about 1:30, we couldn't find any place else to sing. Wildcard is truly pleased and proud to be your 2004 Pioneer District Champion!! We thank all of you for your support and look forward to representing this district in any way that we can. We look forward to singing for you again!"

The scores were just as tight percentagewise with Wild Card scoring 72.3 percent to Fermata's 72.2 percent.

**Party of Four** took third place with 1,687 or 70.3 percent followed by **Antiques Roadshow**, with 1,606 or 66.9 percent and **Windfall**, which scored 1,566 or 65.3 percent.

Rounding out the eight finalists were **Chordiology** with 1,523 points or 63.5 percent, **Border Crossing** with 1,487 or 62 percent and **Harmony Transfer** with 1,471 or 61.3 percent.

In all, 17 quartets competed in the contest. The remaining quartet contest competitors included: **Crescendo**, **Moxy**, **Night Shift**, **Fools Gold**, **Something Big**, **Today's Special**, **Brotherhood**, **Sufficient Grounds** and **Singing with Dad**.

Crescendo, with a ninth place score of 60.3 percent that narrowly kept its members from singing in the finals was the Novice Quartet Champion. Antiques Roadshow won the right to represent Pioneer at the International Seniors contest at the Mid-Winter Convention.

Anyone interested in getting convention photos, may visit [www.AnthonyDugal.com/Pioneer](http://www.AnthonyDugal.com/Pioneer).

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Pioneer Troubadour (USPS# P000-011) is published bi-monthly by the Pioneer District SPEBSQSA 275 N. Groesbeck Hwy., Mt. Clemens, MI 48043. Application to mail at Periodicals postage rates is pending at Mt. Clemens, MI and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Pioneer District SPEBSQSA, 275 N. Groesbeck Hwy., Mt. Clemens, MI 48043.

# New beginnings

By Bruce Smith

*Pioneer District President*

Golfers have mulligans, children can be heard requesting a "Do over" and chapters have annual elections.

Yes, I know that many officers remain year after year and that's fine. It doesn't eliminate the concept of new beginnings.

A new beginning starts by asking probing questions



regarding the health and direction of the chapter and responding to the answers.

Categories of questions you might ask are:

## Membership:

Are we happy with our ability to attract and keep members? Does your chapter have a plan relating to membership growth?

If you do, does it include ways to attract prospective members, make them feel wanted and welcome, assimilate them into the life of the Chapter, and retain them once they join by determining and meeting their Barbershop needs?

What membership goals has the Chapter agreed to support?

Who is responsible for making sure everyone does their part?

## Performance:

Has the Chapter discussed and agreed on the number

of performances it will undertake?

Do you want to improve your singing?

If you said "yes," how are you going to make it happen?

Ways that come to mind are coaching, attending District and Society schools.

Do you want to compete?

What person, or persons, makes these things happen?

## Chapter Life:

Have you discussed and agreed on the overall purpose of the Chapter and the mix and emphasis on singing, performing, fellowship, and fun activities?

Who watches over this balance?

There are other areas of Chapter life that can be examined, but if you just had a chapter discussion on those topics listed above, reached consensus on the answers and the goals, and spent the year implementing what was agreed on, what would your chapter look like at the end of the year?

If you need help organizing a "New Beginnings" discussion, ask your Chapter Counselor to help.

We do ourselves a disservice when we don't ask: Where have we been? Where do we want to go? How do we get there?

## QCA Update:

# Meet Gene Hanover

By Al Fisk

Greetings. I hope everybody enjoyed the recent convention. Thanks to the Kazoo crew for throwing a great party.

Thanks to those who attended our QCA show. We appreciate your support. Thanks, also, to the great QCA quartets who graced the stage with their talent. Hopefully, in the future, we can garner enough interest to have a QCA chorus.

This month, we will put the spot light on Mr. **Gene Hanover**:

*I have just taken over as the Music Director and Vocal Instructor of CMW, a local children's musical group.*

*I began singing Barbershop in 1974 when I joined the **Niles-Buchanan Chapter**. I began directing choruses in 1984 with the **St. Joe Valley (Three Rivers, Michigan) Covered Bridge Chorus**. From there, I began directing the **South Bend-Mishawaka Valleyaires Chorus** in South Bend, Indiana taking them to three District Championships, five Plateau Championships and twice to Buckeye Invitational.*

*I also directed the **Kalamazoo Mall City Chorus** for 13 years taking them to several Plateau Championships, three Buckeyes and directed them on their first CD.*

*I am one of the founding members of the **Michiana Metro, Lighthouse Chorus** taking them to a couple of Plateau Championships, and who is representing the Pioneer District in the 2004 Buckeye Invitational Small Chorus Contest.*

*I have sung in six quartets, or so, winning the 1998 Pioneer District Quartet Championship in **Upstage Sound** singing lead, along with **Raleigh Bloch, Kerry Foley and Ed Fritzen**.*

*My most recent quartet was **Metro Chord Authority**.*

*My main interest in Barbershop is and always has been the Chorus. My mission to help as many Barbershoppers learn to sing well as I can.*

*I own and operate a vocal studio in Bridgman where I have 25 private students and always have room for more. I work with singers from all over Michigan, Indiana, Illinois and Ontario and there is always room for more.*

*I perform as a soloist throughout the tri-state area and am in the process of recording a CD featuring several show tunes and more.*

*Oh yes, I have a dog. He is a small mixed breed that is named, of all things, **TAG**.*



Gene Hanover (top right) with Metro Chord Authority.

Frank Fortier (Lead)	Tom Smeltzer (Bass)
ENTERTAINMENT IN FOUR PART HARMONY	
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Tom Conner	Steve Pauling
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A Barbershop Quartet	
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# President's Council discusses Society's vision, giving

By Al Bonney

On September 27, about 30 Pioneer District leaders and their wives came together at the English Inn in Lansing for a luncheon and executive briefing from Society Executive Director



Marcia Wisdom, Russ Seely and John Wearing

**Don Harris and Clarke Caldwell**, executive director of **Harmony Foundation**, the Society's charitable arm.

The subject: the Society's vision and the role that Harmony Foundation must play to insure that future.

The day was one of Michigan's finest fall days and the service impeccable at this landmark inn just south of Lansing. But even the weather and service could not dampen the enthusiasm these leaders and their wives felt for the significance of the message that Messrs. Harris and Caldwell brought with them from Kenosha. If the Society is to grow and flourish throughout the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Harmony Foundation must plan a strong and central role in funding that growth.



Don Harris

Clarke Caldwell

Don Harris said, "Ladies and Gentlemen, our job is to keep the whole world singing . . . and a melody ringing in our hearts. We can do this . . . . we CAN do this together."

Harris evoked several visions of the past Barbershop Harmony Society and assured the group that there would be no casting off of tradition that served to promote our mission, vision or the



Society First Lady Sue Lewis presents the Wife's perspective on the importance of Harmony Foundation



T.C. Connor and Jim Kunz discuss one of the finer points of Don Harris' presentation.



Pioneer President Bruce Smith (left) with Al Bonney.

values that have made our Society what it is today. He emphasized, however, that growth was requisite to continued existence. As the world is changing around us we can either adapt or die. The group agreed that this made sense.

Caldwell explained how the relationship between the Society and the Foundation had evolved to be exactly like that of any major **Continued on page 6**

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Clarke Caldwell, Executive Director of Harmony Foundation, answers one of Fran Durham's questions



Dave and Pat Anderson and T.C. Connor.

university and its development office; that the Harmony Foundation existed to raise money to fund Society outreach and growth programs.

"Money follows programs," Caldwell said. As the Society defines its programs better and better we will be able to raise more and more money to support those programs.

The Harmony Foundation raises money to fund Society Programs through a number of vehicles:

**Grants:** by writing grants for programs at

the Society, District and Chapter level and by training District and Chapters to write grants for those levels, soon we will become sufficiently skilled to bring literally millions of dollars to support our programs throughout the organization. There are private foundations and government agencies giving millions of dollars away every year to organizations just like ours. We have several districts and chapters already enjoying grant money.



Doran and Margaret Mc Taggart and Betty and Alex Willox discuss Harmony Foundation.

**Planned Giving:** end of life bequests by members and friends to the Harmony Foundation are a very effective way to build our endowment to a substantial and meaningful size. The money will not be available to spend for several years, but it is important for all Barbershoppers to consider including the Society in their end of life bequests. We call this program the **Founders Club**. Planned gifts to Harmony Foundation can be any size. Membership in the Founders Club starts at \$10,000.

**Annual Giving:** cash gifts to Harmony Foundation make up the general fund from which each year the Society runs youth camps, sponsors scholarships to **Directors College**, subsidized music teachers to **Harmony College** and many other programs. Annual gifts are welcome in any amount at any time.

The Presidents Council is the leadership level of annual giving, starting at \$1000 per year per couple for membership.

Philanthropic giving in the United States and Canada is a huge part of our economy. Last year over \$240 billion passed into philanthropic organizations. More than 84 percent of those dollars came from private individuals just like us who decided to support the philanthropic and



Jim Kunz makes a point following the briefing to Clarke Caldwell.

charitable organizations whose work they believe in.

These groups are diverse, such as churches, medical research

organizations, educational and arts groups. The Barbershop Harmony Society is no different from these groups and deserves our consideration

when our families plan our annual budgets for charitable giving. Surely, if we believe in the work that our organization is doing we would want to support that, just as we do the work of our churches and schools.

The luncheon was a wonderful success – a typical gathering of Barbershop friends committed to leading our Society forward, freely giving of their time,

energy and, yes, even their money. If you would like more information about how you can take a leadership role to help our society prosper and grow throughout the 21<sup>st</sup> century, call Al Bonney at 231-223-4064 or e-mail at

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**Photos by  
Joan Bonney**

Bruce Scott Mike Craig

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# CONTEST: Alarm sounded odd pitch

**Continued from Page 1.** all events and activities were under the same roof as the main convention hotel. This was also the first time the convention had been in Kalamazoo since the 1970s though the convention will again return to Kalamazoo in spring 2005.

Most thought the advantages

of having everything under one roof in a totally renovated hotel complex outweighed any downsides. Most chapters had hospitality suites making it rather simple for quartets and convention goes to move from suite to suite throughout Saturday night.

Rounding out the top five

were **Michiana Metro** with a score of 762 or 63.5 percent and a three-way tie for fifth place between **Lansing, Hillsdale** and **Traverse City**, which each scored 750 or 62.5 percent.

The remaining top 10 finishers were Kalamazoo with 733 points or 61.1 percent, **Battle**

**Creek** with 726 or 60.5 percent and **Grand Rapids**, with 702 or 58.5 percent.

Also competing were **Holland, Windsor, Grosse Pointe, Pontiac-Waterford** and **Wayne**.



**Above and right: The hotel after the fire alarm. Second from bottom: Detroit-Oakland pauses after their final song was interrupted by the alarm, waiting to see whether or not it was a false alarm. Below: The directors of Pioneer District take a bow.**

Photos by Joe Serwach

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# It all begins at COTS Jan. 8

By **Doran McTaggart**  
Pioneer DVP-CSLT



What do you do to improve COTS after a record-breaking year?

You continue to train the Chapter's Leadership Team, which has always been the prime purpose for COTS. To this end, a world-class faculty has been assembled for this January 8-9 gathering of the Pioneer elite.

All 27 chapters were represented at COTS last year (a Society record) and 21 chapters had four or more men registered for another Society record. This to me says that you want us to continue with the specific, job-orientated classes to train your Leadership Team.

There will be classes for your President, Secretary, Treasurer, Chorus Director and your VP's for Chapter Development, Marketing and PR, Music and Performance and YMIH. The class for up-dating and training our Chapter Counselors will have two combined classes with the President's

class for leadership training and problem solving. This will be a good opportunity to cement a healthy working relationship between your Chapter and your Chapter Counselor.

We hope that the three new District-sponsored classes will be of interest to many. First, the Grant Writing Class will be taught by a Professional Grant Writer from Wisconsin. **Dale Montgomery** will share his expertise on how your chapter can get grant money that's available just for the asking. The second class is the Director Of The Future program.

**Jim Ryan** is responsible for giving this opportunity to men who are looking for a chance to help the music program of their chapter to move forward. The third class is a Joe Barbershopper class.

**Bruce Odell** from the **Land O Lakes** District will bring us his very interesting class filled with enjoyable activities for Joe Barbershopper. This class has been extremely popular in his district.

**Doug Lynn**, our Pioneer COTS Coordinator, passed out a package of materials to all chapters at our Fall

Convention in Kalamazoo.

A description of the three District classes mentioned above and a thumbnail sketch of each of the COTS Faculty is also included.

Forms for your chapter registration for COTS and rooming requirements for Saturday night must be completed and sent to the proper places by the deadlines on these forms. Our COTS organizers do appreciate receiving these forms in a timely fashion.

A Top Gun School for our Pioneer top quartets will again be held in conjunction with COTS. If they are not hoarse and/or sung out by Saturday night, they will add real quality to the Afterglow.

There you have it! Outstanding classes taught by an excellent faculty in a friendly surrounding. Plan to attend our Pioneer COTS in Okemos on January 8-9, 2005. COTS starts at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday and wraps-up on Sunday at about 11:30 a.m. This 24 hour learning experience will pay dividends as your chapter is strengthened musically, activitywise and in personal relationships. Let's set some more records at our 2005 COTS.

I'll be there! Will you?

## COTS - 2005, IT'S TIME TO ACT NOW !! JOE BARBERSHOP CLASS AT COTS.

No matter what Joe Barbershop class you have attended, this one is the one you will be raving about for years to come. PERFECT FOR NEW MEMBERS, MEMBERS AT LARGE, & PAST OFFICERS.

Bruce Odell, lead of the 2004 International seniors champion Downstate Express is bringing his action packed, hands on, two day program to this year's Pioneer COTS.

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You can sign up at - <http://www.harmonize.com/Pioneer/COTS/cots.htm>

<<http://www.harmonize.com/Pioneer/COTS/cots.htm>>

THIS WILL BE THE HIDDEN GEM OF COTS WEEKEND!!

**Questions? Contact – Jim Ryan, Pioneer District Marketing & Public Relations Director**

**CarTune Characters**  
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## THE HARMONY HOUNDS

Pedigree: Barbershoppers

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Raleigh

A Registered Barbershop Quartet

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A BARBERSHOP QUARTET

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## Milwaukee- Muskegon Mingler

*We're gonna ride upon a Fer--ry Boat,  
surely to return again. . . return again!*

And that's just what they did: the **Muskegon Barbershop Quartet Club**.

**Bill Rood of Muskegon**, and **Ray Scroggins**, of Milwaukee, had arranged the meeting, using the Lake Express Ferry Boat to sail Muskegon's 11 members across Lake Michigan.

Some are members of the Muskegon Chapter, some are not, but most have been. But, they

no longer worry about performances, uniforms, nor other chapter activities.

Some of them have sung in International choruses five or six times. In a modern phrase, they've "been there, done that." Now they meet about every six weeks for an evening dinner and end with two hours of singing the old songs and lot of tags. Life couldn't get better.

Muskegon sent **Bob Berntsen, Mart Bomers, Jim Duff, Bill Duplissis, Clieve Hendrick, Dick Hester, Henry Malmquist, Perry Mellifont** (from **Holland Chapter**), **Bill Rood, Frank Scott** and **Webb Scrivnor**. Unfortunately, the Milwaukee contingent was going and coming at various times, so it was

difficult to list all their names.

After warming up in the boat lobby with a couple of songs, the group got aboard the Lake Express Ferry, which left the dock at 10:30 a.m., and arrived in Milwaukee at noon (Milwaukee time).

During the trip, they sang, "You're as Welcome as the Flowers in May," plus a few more songs, to an appreciative audience of passengers. By pre-arrangement, they were met in Milwaukee by three cabs that rushed them downtown to the Milwaukee Press Club, where they were invited to join in a medley of "The Old Songs," and "Coney Island Baby."

## Saginaw's Gene Gillem has been a member 64 years!

### SAGINAW BAY

By **Ralph Brown**

Wow! What a week. I just returned from Louisville where I experienced my first International Convention. It was awesome.

I don't know how they did it, but so many little details were taken care of and things ran very smoothly. A little glitch here and there went practically unnoticed. The competitors in all categories from quartets to choruses were outstanding.

Our Society certainly produces a lot of great talent. Our own **Power Play** brought such grace and love to the stage and once again demonstrated they truly are Super Champions.

I had a special mission while at the Convention which was to cover the induction of the Fifty

Year Members' Class of 2004 and special recognition of Members with over 60 years as a member of SPEBSQSA as we are now referred to as "The Barbershop Harmony Society".

**Gene Gillem** from our Chapter was honored with recognition on stage for having completed over **64 years** as a member. Gene told me he has been to 27 International Conventions over the years. He first joined the Kalamazoo Chapter in 1941 at the age of 16.

His father was talking to the local fire chief, who was a member at the time, and told him about his sons who sang in a trio called **The Gillem Trio** comprised of his three sons. The trio started when Vern (age 5) sang tenor, Lynn (age 8) sang

lead, and Gene (age 11) sang baritone. His father took him to the Chapter Meeting.

At that time, Gene was 14 and couldn't join until he turned 16. Gene told me that the trio sang on radio in Detroit and Chicago. They sang on the "Kiddies Carnival" for WXYZ.

He later joined the **Battle Creek Chapter** and sang for six years in a quartet called **Chord Arrangers**. He also served as Chapter President. He later left Michigan for Toledo due to job relocation.

When he returned to Michigan, he lived in Saginaw and joined their Chapter. He sang in a quartet with **Bob Glover, Herb Benjamin, Emil Franz**, and they were known as **The Cross Towners**. He also served as President of the Saginaw

Chapter.

At one point, he was **The Bush League King** which was mostly an honorary title in appreciation for involvement and assisting in the annual event operations.

He then became a member of the newly formed Saginaw Bay Chapter, and after joining Frank Thorne for a number of years, he is back to the Saginaw Bay Chapter.

**Gene Gillem** was president of the **Pioneer District** from 1968-69, International Board member 1970-71 and inducted into the Michigan Hall of Fame in 1980.

He recently married, his new **Bride Barb** is the former Barbara Waller from Beaverton. They now reside at Wixom Lake, Michigan and can be reached by email at [lovebugbarby@ejourne](mailto:lovebugbarby@ejourne)

Windsor discusses diversity, other ways to bring in more members, appeal to bigger group

### Windsor Report:

By **Bill Strong**

Summer and Fall have passed, Convention is over and the New Year can't be far behind.

This year has been a good year for Windsor. New members, possibility of new Quartets and lots of singing.

Recently we celebrated the birthday of one of our oldest members in terms of age and membership.

**George Spidy** celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday and was presented with a huge cake served up by his

fellow members. George has been member of our wonderful Society for over 50 years and still sings a fine Baritone.

Many happy returns George.

At a recent meeting our Executive Board the content of previous Harmonizer articles dealing with "Diversity" were discussed at length.

Suffice to say we must all be more sensitive to others when it comes to differences we may have regarding race, color, creed or sexual

orientation.

I personally found the articles to be very informative.

Recently, we were informed that **Lynne Peirce** has resigned her position as Director of the Huron Valley Chorus. Lynne will be missed by the Windsor Chapter.

We enjoyed the many visits she made to visit our Chapter and we hope that we will still be able to see her at convention. Good luck to you Lynne.

**Ron Gibb** is keeping our Young Men In

Harmony program rolling along. Plans are being made to be able to do a joint show with some of our young students in late fall.

Best of luck to Windsor member **Bud Leonard** who will be embarking on the three year Judging program to become a Contest Administration Judge.

Our 2005 Officers and Board of Directors have been elected and are looking forward to another successful Year.

Thanks to **Mike**

**Drouillard** and his committee for putting together a fine slate.

Please be sure to visit Windsor's hospitality room for some good old Canadian cheer, eh. Also, just a reminder, Windsor will be hosting our Annual Send off Show in early January.

Time, Date and location to follow. And remember, whatever we call ourselves, it's GREAT TO BE A BARBERSHOPPER.

# 2005 PIONEER DISTRICT SPRING CONVENTION

APRIL 29- MAY 1, 2005

## 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 APRIL8, 2005**

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

**Smile Russ Seely!!!**

**Grosse Pointe leader picks up 50-year card, celebrates 50th wedding anniversary at Pioneer District Convention... oh yeah, and his quartet can still sell a song like the best!**



**Singing from left to right: John Wearing, Russ Seely, John Wade and Gene Bulka.**

**Left: Russ and the pause that refreshes...**

Want role models for selling a song? Observe Russ Seely's quartet, the Silverdomes, in action. These and other convention photos are available at: [www.AnthonyDugal.com/Pioneer](http://www.AnthonyDugal.com/Pioneer).

**REQUEST FOR HOTEL ACCOMMODATION Pioneer District Association of Chapters  
Radisson Plaza Hotel & Suites  
KALAMAZOO, MI  
April 29-May 1, 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 &amp; second choice</u>
Radisson Plaza Hotel & Suites (HQ)	\$89.00	\$89.00	\$130-145*	_____
Baymont	\$69.00	\$79.00	N/A	_____
Super 8	\$69.99	\$69.99	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: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of people in room: \_\_\_\_\_

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](mailto:hotels@kazoochamber.com).

# A NEW DIRECTION

By **Dave Anderson**  
YMIH Vice President

The Society **Young Men in Harmony** program has been revised in a couple of areas to



try to serve some potential members better in the college age group. A recent trend in colleges in the past couple of years is that more and

more of the college students are joining a cappella singing groups on campus.

They have competitions and compete for cash prizes and most of them don't sing Barbershop. Our Society has seen this trend as a great recruiting opportunity, so a pretty good portion of our YMIH funds will be spent trying to get these young singers interested in our style of singing.

One of the goals would be to

establish local Barbershop Clubs on the campus to be sponsored by a nearby chapter. The chorus from this club would then be eligible to compete in the a cappella contests at the college.

We will continue to work our same programs in the middle and high schools, but, as it was in the past, this is not a direct recruiting effort.

The efforts of exposing the middle and high school groups to Barbershop will need to be done by the local chapters and our district programs, such as the **Harmony Happening '05** coming up this March 11 through 12.

That is why it will be very important for your chapter to have a YMIH VP or chairman in 2005 and why that person should attend COTS in January.

At the convention in Kalamazoo, I was approached

by the director of the **Bachelors of Harmony Chorus, Jeff Woodruff**, and he had read my last article in the Troubadour about the young chorus out in California.

He reminded me that we already had a chapter of young college students that was connected to a university and I must agree with Jeff that the Bachelors of Harmony have a lot in common with the Westminster Chorus. If they keep progressing as they have in the last three contests, they might soon be the best in Pioneer. Keep doing what you are doing, Jeff!

Our Pioneer District YMIH team is again having a booth at the **Michigan Music Educators Convention** in Ann Arbor on January 21 through 22.

**Jim Ryan** is helping to set up quartets to perform at our booth on Friday and Saturday, and we

are hoping to have the younger ones, such as **Insignia, Party of Four, and Moxy**. If you happen to be in the area, stop by and pay us a visit. We'll be there from 9 to 6 on Friday and 9 to 1 on Saturday.

We are also gearing up for **Harmony Happening 05** to be held in Lansing on March 11 and 12. Once again the chorus will perform on the **Lansing Chapter Show** on Saturday Night. We need you to contact your local teachers and get them to send students. You will get more information on this on the PioNet, or give me a phone call at (586) 286-4860.

Let's all get ready for a banner year in 2005 and make it the best one ever. Remember, we are paving the road to the future of our beloved hobby.

## Join your brothers in harmony in Kalamazoo April 29-May 1, 2005

**POWER PLAY**  
A Sound Advantage

Contact: Michael Slamka  
(810) 326-0620  
E-Mail: LIVE4SHOP@AOL.COM

**DOWNTOWN KALAMAZOO**

LEGEND:

1. Convention & Visitors Bureau
2. Chamber of Commerce
3. Expo Center
4. Bachelors Plaza (Booth at Kalamazoo Convention Center)
5. Kalamazoo Valley Museum
6. Kalamazoo Valley College
7. Kalamazoo Institute of Arts
8. Civic Auditorium
9. City Hall
10. Public Library
11. Civic Theatre
12. New York Times
13. County Court Building
14. County Admin. Building
15. Kalamazoo and Co. Building
16. Kalamazoo Convention Center
17. Kalamazoo County Jail
18. Kalamazoo County Courthouse
19. Kalamazoo County Jail
20. Kalamazoo County Courthouse
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26. Kalamazoo County Courthouse
27. Kalamazoo County Jail
28. Kalamazoo County Courthouse
29. Kalamazoo County Jail
30. Kalamazoo County Courthouse



## 2004: another great year at Harmony College for the guys from Pioneer

By Al Bonney

We all expected the weather to be stifling – you know, Missouri humidity at 95 percent and temperature to match. No wonder they dish out over 500 gallons of free ice cream every year at **Harmony College** – it's the only way to keep cool!

But the only heat this year at Harmony College (August 1 – 8, St Joseph, Missouri) was the music, the friendships and the memories. The temperatures were like Traverse City, the skies were blue and it only rained once!

Let me brag just a bit on little Pioneer District – we had the **second highest number of participants from any district: 82** of us made the trek and I bet not one would say it wasn't worth twice the price. Only the **Far Western District** had more (116) and even the locals from the Central States district only had 65. Pioneer ROCKS!

Let's dig deeper into the numbers. We had **four quartets** there; more than any other district. **Shades of Grey, The Extreems** (College Contest winners this year) **Sufficient Grounds** and **In The Neighborhood**. Watch these guys in contest this year – you WILL see the improvement!! We all did.

We had **15 directors**, including two of our ladies, **Jessica Thompson** from **Lansing** and **Jan Northup** from **Gratiot County** and **49 other guys** filling out the Harmony College courses (also second only in numbers to Far Western District who brought a whole chorus).

But the Pioneer attendance numbers only tell you that Harmony College is a great gig – and that a lot of us took advantage. The rest of the story is what we learned, the fun we had and the friends we made and sang with. Pioneer threw its annual party on Friday night after the parade of quartets (on which our guys did a super job) and the place was packed as it is every year.

**Dan Bezaire**, doing his Martha Stewart thing, arranged the party, did the MC job, invited all the quartets and bought all the refreshments. Singing long into the night, everybody made a friend somewhere that night. Even the gals got into it with an impromptu quartet and brought the house down.

So make your reservations early for next year. Eighty-two Pioneer barbershoppers can't be wrong – Harmony College is the best deal under the sun. Hey, if you don't go, there will just be more ice cream for the rest of us. Suit yourself.



*I love to hear that old Barbershop....*



Memories are made of this:

## Why we remember songs (and so little else)

Why is it you can remember popular songs from your teenage years, but you can't remember what you did yesterday? The answer lies in the way memory works.

The October issue of Mayo Clinic Women's HealthSource highlights how memories are made:

**Sensory memory:** This registers the impact of sight, sound, touch, taste or smell for less than a second.

**Short-term (working) memory:** Storage here depends on how alert you are when you receive information. Most short-term memories are erased in a minute.

**Long-term memory:** This is where you store information crucial for functioning (and those old lyrics). Some short-term memory survives here.

Long-term memories are explicit -- those you consciously recall like phone numbers, and implicit -- tasks you perform automatically, such as driving.

Memory loss isn't limited to older people. Studies show that various types of memory failures are common in young and middle-aged people as well.

## 2004-2005 CALENDAR:

### Upcoming events

**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

**April 16**

Monroe North Chapter Show

**April 29-30, May 1**

District Convention, Kalamazoo

**May 21**

Wayne Chapter Show

**July 2-9**

International Convention, Salt Lake City, Utah

**October 21-23**

District Convention, Battle Creek

**October 29**

Rochester Chapter Show

## Chapter Locations

