

Pioneer Troubadour

Official Publication of the Pioneer District September/October 2004 Volume 55, Number 4

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

Pioneer's Rancillio ranked 5th in the world

By Art Lane

LOUISVILLE, KY -- **Robert Rancilio**, editor of *The Pitch-Pipe* bulletin of the **Grosse Pointe** Chapter, placed fifth in the international bulletin contest.

Results were announced at the PROBE annual meeting during the international convention in Louisville.

Rancilio has attained a level in bulletin competition reached

in recent years only by Pioneer District editors **Elbert Ford** of **Traverse City** and **Gary Simon** of **Wayne**.

Rancilio last spring placed first for the second consecutive year in the District's own bulletin contest. These contests are for bulletins published in the previous year.

The District's other entry, *The Windmill Blade* edited by **Art Lane** of the **Holland** chapter,

placed 24th in the international contest.

Winner of the international bulletin contest was *The ReChorder* of Lincoln Nebraska, edited by **Dick DeLorn**. Placing second, and most-improved, was *The Tag Rag* of Sarasota Fla., edited by **Jerry Lunkes**.

New this year was a contest for electronic bulletins. It was won by **David Haase** of the **Old**

Capital Chorus of Iowa City Iowa.

Hasse also placed second in a competition for single-event public relations. That competition was won by **Fred Teller** of the Chorus of the Plains in Hastings Nebraska.

Winning for full-year PR effort was **Hal Mapes** of the **Ambassadors of Harmony** of St. Charles Mo.

Before Reagan was famous, he sang in a Barbershop Quartet

By Joe Serwach

Three years before **O.C. Cash** formed our Society, a young sports announcer named **Ronald "Dutch" Reagan**, would get off work, to meet his friends at a nearby inn.

Dutch would then find **Ed Morley**, **Will Scott** and **Pee Wee Williams**. The quartet, according to Reagan biographer **Edmund Morris**, would then stand around a big horse tank full of ice and floating strung bottles and sing old Barbershop songs like "Baby won't you please come home."

A little more than four years later, on December 27, 1939, Reagan was a rising movie star in Hollywood marrying for the first time. Reagan's first wife was also a rising star, **Jane Wyman**. But rather than asking another celebrity to stand as



his best man, Reagan instead called his old quartet buddy, **Will Scott**.

Reagan would go on to star in bigger films, served in the Army during World War II, returned to run for president of the Screen Actors Guild, starred in numerous films and TV shows, spent eight years as **Please see Reagan page 3.**



Jack's back

By Mike Jaissle and Matthew Tipton

At **Macomb's** first rehearsal after returning from International Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, **Carl Dahlke** shocked the chorus by resigning as the musical director.

Words have not been invented to convey the chorus's feelings over the last three years. His talent is matched only by his experience.

It is only through his efforts **Please see SLAMKA, Page 9.**

The 2004 International Convention included many Pioneer representatives. **Power Play** (middle) the 2003 International Quartet champs sang before their successors were named. **Macomb** (above and left) came in 20th in the chorus contest scoring 73.1 percent, **Infinity** (top left) came in 42nd scoring 76.4 percent, while the **Extremes** (second from top) finished

20th in the College Contest with 59.9 percent.

Photos by David Wagner and Grady Kerr



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REAGAN:

Continued from Page 1

governor of California and eight years as the President of the United States, renewing the national spirit, began policies that commenced 20 years of economic growth and won the Cold War. Generations of leaders tried to echo his message and style.

He died June 5 and hundreds of thousands came to pay tribute.

He actually spent most of his working life as a performer, the first actor to win the White House. He would once joke that he didn't know how it was possible to be president if you hadn't first been an actor. By the time he became president, he had, in fact, perfected so many of the skills every quartet singer needs:

-- The ability to walk into a room and capture everyone's attention, immediately connecting with his audience.

-- Stage presence and the ability to paint an image with emotions with words.

-- The ability to deliver a powerful message, to tell a story, simply so all could understand.

-- The ability to know, understand and reach his audience, to inspire, move and "sell" what he came to say.

-- Style, grace and an impeccable sense of timing.

-- A soothing, confident, commanding yet entertaining and soothing voice that entertained, reassured and won applause.

-- A plan to intersperse each performance with good jokes, well-timed to help illustrate the story he was trying to tell.

Another Reagan friend, **Frank Sinatra**, began his performing career as part of a quartet, **The Hoboken Four**. One of Sinatra's most prized possessions was a photograph of Reagan standing in the White House with his three predecessors: **Gerald Ford**, **Jimmy Carter** and **Richard Nixon**.

Each of the four presidents wrote a personal message to Sinatra. But Reagan signed the photo of the quartet of presidents with a message that would have made O.C. Cash proud.

Reagan wrote: "Dear Francis Albert: Who said Barber Shop Quartets are passe"? Ronald Reagan."

Convention Pre-Glow September 21

As founder **O.C. Cash** said 66 years ago, in these days of war and economic upheaval, all Pioneer members, competing quartets and choruses are invited for a Pioneer District "Pre-Glow" or Sept. 21.

It's called a Pre-Glow because it will be like an Afterglow but serve as a chance to "take your act on the road" before going to convention, a chance to sing for a good audience of friends with no judges or score sheets in sight. An afterglow but before the fact.

The Pre-Glow is part of **Grosse Pointe's** monthly "Fun Night" program, an old fashioned Barbershop Fun Night to just relax and enjoy yourself with some quarteting, gang singing, perhaps an inter-chapter contest but non-

quartet people can also sing in larger groups or just meet fellow Barbershoppers, have a beer, have some fun, eat some good food, hear some good quartets.

Other Fun Nights, open to all Barbershop fans and singers willing to come, are planned for the last Tuesday in October, November and December...

The venue for these events, sponsored by **Grosse Pointe** but open to all chapters and Barbershoppers, is **Elks Club Number 34** at the corners of Harper and Sunnyside in St. Clair Shores.

Like most chapters, Grosse Pointe's membership is very diverse, including chorus singers who hate quarteting and quartet-singers who hate chorus-singing as

well as men who are tea-totallers and men who wouldn't think of singing without holding a Manhattan or beer in their hand.

Thus trying to offer "something for everyone" the chapter focuses on its chorus at most weeks, holding rehearsals at the **Grosse Pointe Neighborhood Club** most Tuesdays. Fun Night is designed for Barbershoppers who prefer the type of meetings Barbershop was known for in the "old days": quarteting in a social setting.

Take I-94 to the Eight Mile-Vernier Road exit to 21728 Harper at Sunnyside, half way between Eight and Nine Miles on the east side of the road.

Whatever happened to Eddie?

By Joe Serwach

I envy **Jack Slamka**. Like most Barbershoppers, I admire his talent and accomplishments but the thing I envy is watching him *regularly* do something he loves with his 30-



something sons and nephew. And they've done it year after year and year.

How many fathers can say they do *anything* with their sons with any frequency? How many of us shed a tear when we hear **Huron Valley** or anyone else sing "Cats in the Cradle," that song of fathers and sons being too busy "doing their own thing" to do things together? "Son I'm proud of you, can you sit for a while? He shook his head and he said with a smile, "What I'd really love dad is to borrow the car keys. See you later, can I have them please?"

Thought of this in August as the **Grosse Pointe** chapter embarked on its annual **Poker Run** where chapter members hop aboard three big cabin cruisers

then sail off to a nearby yacht club or two to sing, drink and have a good time. They pick up cards and the man with the winning hand wins a prize.



The first time I went on this trip (one of the funnest things I've ever done in Barbershop), was August 3, 1997. My son, **Eddie** was turning 10 that day so I brought him along. He was this adorable little smiling character having the time of his life, singing with all the men as women hugged the cute little boy and grown-men patted him on the back and told him how great he was. Our director and leader, **Russ Seely**, was pointing him out to the crowd, noting it was his 10th birthday and everyone was loving the cute

little boy, the center of attention.

Very soon afterward, he was our youngest member, making all of us very proud as we watched him grow up.

Today, people constantly ask me "Where's Eddie? How's Eddie doing?" He's 17 now, a senior bigger than his dad and most of the time he is off on his own, playing around with cars and friends and girls, doing his own thing. Still a member after seven years in

Barbershopping but we don't see him much any more. College is just around the corner and hanging with "the old man" isn't so cool anymore...

The experts tell me this is normal, that boys go off on their own, conquer their own worlds while only the daughters come back home to their families with any real frequency. Though the apple rarely falls far from the tree.

How does that song go? "I'll never find that little boy, he meant so much to me, the boy I used to be."

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News you can use from International

By Bruce Smith

Pioneer District President

In addition to performances by quartets, choruses and others from across the Barbershop world, boards and committees use the convention week to hold meetings. They make decisions that impact our hobby and the way we run our chapters and districts. I'd like to review a couple of items that impact Pioneer.



Core Values and Fundamental Reason for

Existence: In my first article for the *Troubadour*, I pointed out that great organizations need a great purpose, one that seeks a greater good. I also mentioned that plainly stated values proscribe how we will act as well as providing a roadmap for our actions.

Each Chapter should review its activities using these items as a measure of their actions. Following hundreds of hours of discussion with hundreds of Barbershoppers, these items have been clarified. They are:

Core Values

Singing

We love to sing. Through singing in four-part harmony, we provide opportunities for personal expression, spread joy in performance and enrich our lives and the lives of others.

Fellowship

We foster rich relationships and a sense of belonging. Our common interests bond people of

diverse backgrounds.

Fun

We have fun. We sing Barbershop harmony for the sheer enjoyment of it. Our singing is accompanied by laughter, camaraderie and the thrill of performance.

Enrichment

We realize lifelong personal growth and enrichment through singing. At every level, in every Society chapter, we teach, learn, and perform four-part harmony.

We also develop skills in leadership and enrich others through our performances and community outreach.

Creativity

We embrace and celebrate creativity. We create sound from silence. We inspire hope, joy, and other artistic expression.

As performers, we experience the exhilaration of creativity in soul and voice. In turn, our audiences undergo their own emotional uplifting.

Fundamental Reason for Existence: To enrich lives through singing.

Marketing and Public

Relations Officer required at chapter level: There has been a Marketing and Public Relations officer position at the Society and District Level for some time, but not all chapters have adopted this position, or appointed someone to fill the post.

As I pointed out in the last *Troubadour*, we need to look at reaching out to make sure that those around us know that the Barbershop Harmony Society

exists. Having this position at the chapter level can only help in reaching out.

A New Official Name: The Society Board acted to make the Society's official name the "**Barbershop Harmony Society.**" That is the name we should all immediately begin using. Actually, it's the name that has been in common use by many of us for some time so the change shouldn't be difficult to implement.

While legally we will remain the **Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Sing in America, Inc.** so that legal documents don't have to be changed, we need to switch to the new name in our daily references and communications.

As the Society makes this change, we will be able to take advantage of national marketing efforts that are being planned to introduce this name.

Changes for 2005 International Contest: Two that will be quite visible are:

First: The introduction of a Comedy quartet show and dinner. Second: The addition of a preliminary chorus contest, which will alter the way choruses, other than district contest winners are selected to compete.

The board approved the following process: "The highest-scoring non-qualifying choruses in the 2004 fall contest season in the 16 district preliminary chorus contests will be invited to participate in the contest round,

up to a limit of 12 choruses (the exact number to be determined by the Society C&J Committee).

This contest will be held in a separate venue in Salt Lake City and with a separate panel. The top six choruses in the preliminary round (allowing no ties) are eligible to compete in the 2005 International chorus contest."

Yes, the contests and shows are exciting, but sometimes what goes on outside the contest venue

Thank you Pioneer

From Infinity:

Just a brief note to our dear friends and family, to thank you for the continuous support and encouragement of our quartet.

What a thrill to be on the International Stage. We were able to hear the District and **Power Play** (from their front row seats), all welcoming us to the mic.

It's a tight race at International with a couple points deciding the final placement. We are encouraged by the scoring and are determined to work hard toward our next opportunity to represent Pioneer!

Lastly we would like to express our appreciation to the Chapters and District who at the Send Off Show, truly proved their support of the Chorus, Quartet and College Quartet representatives.

A special thank you to Power Play who made an INCREDIBLY generous contribution to our Louisville Travel Fund.

Bruce, Craig, Scott and Mike

Frank Fortier(Lead) Tom Smeltzer (Bass)
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Up-North's Road Show

Not to be outdone by their southern brothers, Pioneer's four Up North Chapters organized their own Road Show and gathered in Gaylord June 24.

Barbershoppers from **Sault Ste Marie, Alpena, Traverse City and Gaylord** met for two and a half hours of Barbershop fun, complete with a tag contest, some **Dave Stevens** wisdom, and LOTS of singing.

Actually, the idea came from **Jim Stewart** of the Alpena Chapter who, during a Chapter Counselor visit to the Chapter last fall, suggested to **Don Bazely** and **Al Bonney** that the Up-North chapters plan a joint Chapter meeting – just like the old days.

So, long before **Ev Nau** ever thought of the idea for a Road Show, the idea was spawned Up-North, and began to cook. Finding an acceptable date was the challenge for the four busy chapters. Between performances, coaching, contest and rehearsals, scheduling a mutually convenient date had to wait till June.

Four chapter leaders, **Bill Webb** from the Sault, **Bob King** from Traverse City, **Jim Stewart** from Alpena, and **Erv Erickson** from Gaylord joined Chapter Counselors Bazely and Bonney as the event planning team and the idea got legs.

Using free conference calling facilities located on the web, all the coordinating meetings were held by phone, the work all got done and nobody had to pull the whole load.

In the end, for \$10 per man (all picked up by the chapters so the participants did not have to pay anything), the restaurant provided all the pizza and pop the guys would eat after the two hours of singing and celebration.



International quartet sings in two countries

By **Bob Shami**

Northland Music Director and Chapter Treasurer

The **Northland Barbershop Chorus** draws its membership from both sides of the International Bridge which links the sister cities of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. and Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.

One day each year, in a show of bi-national harmony, pedestrians are permitted to cross the bridge.

This year's 18th Annual International Bridge Walk drew over 2,000 walkers on June 26.

I put together a quartet and eventually convinced the respective Chambers of Commerce who organized the event to allow us to sing the national anthems of both countries to the assembled throng of walkers at the opening ceremonies, just before the walk began.

The quartet of men from the Northland Chorus was deliberately comprised of two Americans (dressed in blue and white) and two Canadians (in red and white). We called ourselves "The Yankcanucks".

The quartet symbolized in a very real way the harmony which exists between our two countries.

After the quartet had sung both anthems to the assembled walkers, the organizer MC announced to the crowd that "this has been the classiest opening ceremonies we've ever had!"

The quartet then walked across the bridge with the crowd and stopped at the halfway point, where it felt moved to sing each country's anthem again. With the two Canadians standing in the United States, and the two Americans standing in Canada, the quartet straddled the border and sang away, lamenting that none of us had thought to bring a camera.

The above photo was taken by Mr. S. Arlen Oakes, a U.S. Navy veteran from Portage Indiana whom we met while crossing the bridge. In the photo, Canada is visible to the left and the United States is on the right with the St. Mary's River which forms the border visible in the centre.

From left to right, all members of the Northland Barbershop Chorus of Sault Ste. Marie Ontario, "The Yankcanucks" (sorry about the backlighting, they wouldn't allow us on the opposite side of the bridge): American Tenor Tom Lehman (with the flagpole growing out of his head!)

American Lead Mark San Angelo

Canadian Bass Bill Webb

Canadian Bari Bob Shami

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Above: Infinity
Left: Power Play
The quartets entertained more than 350 people at the Windsor Send-Off Show.
For more details, see page 15.
Photos by Joe Serwach

Northland Chorus setting an example for the rest of us to follow

By Al Booney

I had the opportunity to spend a most remarkable evening with the **Northland Chorus in Sault Ste Marie**.

Because most of their guys cannot attend **Harmony College** or **Harmony Round-Up** (distance issues) and because they realize the need for continuing education on the various subjects of our craft, President **Bill Webb** and his team decided to do their own!

This started last year (2003) and the May 17 event I attended was the second annual. They did four classes.

What is really neat are these things:

-- The Sault chorus is no different than any of our choruses -- just a great bunch of guys who have decided they want to have fun together and sing well for their community.

They don't have any gold medals or judges or music PhDs in their midst, nor do they have access to any within a reasonable distance.

--They sing pretty good too -- 7th overall in Gaylord with an average score of 60.4.

--They put on a great show every year and sell out the auditorium.

--They have a guest night every year (24 guests this year and over 40 last year!)

--They do this Harmony College two weeks after the guest night and invite all the guests to participate -- sort of a follow-up -- several attended.

--The Sault Northland Chapter had the highest net increase of members of any chapter in the District last year -- up five from 2002.

Not bad, huh, for a little chapter of 49 guys stuck way up in the north woods, with no resources except their own determination to have fun and sing well? Wish everyone could do this!!

COULD WE DO IT?

By Dave Anderson
Vice President YMIH

This past convention in Louisville opened my eyes to some new ideas. As our **Macomb Chorus** was warming up on Saturday



morning in the hotel, the next chorus behind us was the

Westminster Chorus from Westminster, Calif., and as they entered, I was amazed at how young they were... ALL of them.

Then when they began to sing, their sound was clean, bright, and full of emotion. This group of 29 young men finished in ninth place in the contest and I found out that the maximum age for the chorus is 29, including the director.

How did such a chapter get started? Five young men of high school and college age wanted to sing with other young people, not with those old guys, and most had been through programs like our **A Capella Blast** and **Harmony Happening**, only in California the schools were larger.

They won their District contest with 19 singers on the second try.

They have an advantage in that the Masters of Harmony, Foothills Chapter, has been like a big brother to them, offering great coaching and mentoring.

The other chapters in the area have had them on their shows as paid performers, and when they won the right to sing in Louisville, all of the chapters in their area ran

special fund-raiser benefits for them. Of course, it also gave them more opportunities to perform in public.

Could we possibly start something like this in Pioneer? Do we have a young director that would take on the task? We might be able to get a young music major coming out of college and train him in the Barbershop style.

Could we get a chapter to be the "big brother" and have a lot of mentoring going on? Maybe two chapters could share the responsibility...and the fun!

Please talk this over within your chapters and see how much interest there is. It would take a committed group for a long term to make this work, but just think of the dividends it would pay. At the conclusion of **Harmony Happening '05**, we would then have a next step available to which we could invite these young singers.

The **Lansing Chapter** has graciously invited the **Harmony Happening '05 Chorus** to sing on their show, so plans are now underway to have our event on March 11 and 12 in Lansing.

I will need all of you fine Pioneer Barbershoppers to step up and help me out again this year, so mark those dates on your calendar.

It is also the perfect time to plan a meeting with your local school's vocal music teacher, so get on the phone and see if there is anything that you can do to offer some help to them. You also just might want to give them a **Power Play CD** to keep.

The end of the year is near, so take some action in your YMIH Program.

Bush League Quartet Qualification –

The **Gaylord Hamonie Meisters Event Committee** has broadened the guidelines for qualification to enable more quartets to participate in this traditional and unofficial competitive event.

With the advent of the **Pioneer District's** partnership, **Bush League** now offers the enhancements of coaching, craft development and audience presentation techniques to participating quartets.

The program perpetuates the fun and informal environment of a non-sanctioned competition while allowing quartets to "fine tune" their performance in preparation for the Fall Convention and Contest.

The following are revised "Rules" which we hope will make this event more enjoyable and valuable for your quartet

1. Competing quartets do not have to be registered with **SPEBSQSA., Inc.** New quartets are especially encouraged to enter.
2. There are two categories of participants. They are "Bush League Trophy" competitors and "For Score Only" competitors.
3. All quartets that have previously competed in Society sanctioned competitions and placed 3rd or higher, may compete for SCORE ONLY. Along with all other competing quartets, they are eligible for coaching, craft development and other singing events. This applies also to quartets that have previously won the Bush League Trophy.
4. The top two competitors in each of the above categories will be asked to sing on the Evening Show.
5. The First Place Bush League qualified Quartet will be awarded the Bush League Trophy. The Quartet will sing on the following year show and will present the Trophy to the new winner.
6. All quartets must sing two (2) Barbershop style and arranged tunes.
7. Comedy Quartets are welcome as long as they adhere to Rule #6.
8. All coaches are welcome to attend coaching sessions with their quartet.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENT PIONEER DISTRICT HOUSE OF DELEGATES MEETING October 15, 2004

In its reorganization activities, the Society has promulgated new Standard District Bylaws which the **Pioneer District Board of Directors** is recommending the **Pioneer District House of Delegates** adopt at the Fall Convention House of Delegates Meeting in Kalamazoo, Michigan on October 15, 2004.

These new bylaws will bring Pioneer District up to date with some management and governance changes that have already been made by the Society and some that are planned for the near future.

The new bylaws accomplish several things:

1. The new bylaws eliminate that troublesome process of being required to have all district officer candidates approved by a Society committee.
2. The Board of Directors is reduced to five positions: president, executive vice president, immediate past president, secretary and treasurer and any number of additional board members-at-large deemed necessary by the individual districts, all positions to be filled by election at the Fall House of Delegates meeting just as in the past (except immediate past president). Pioneer District will not elect any board members-at-large unless or until it is felt they are needed.
3. The title of the current eight vice president positions will be changed to "Director," and those directors will make up the new Management Team or Operations Team. Candidates for the director positions will be nominated by the Nominating Committee and appointed by the District President at the Fall House of Delegates Meeting. This nominating and appointing procedure for these eight director positions is not in the new bylaws but is recommended by the Society and will be written into the Pioneer District Policy Manual.
4. The Society Board Member for Pioneer and LOL Districts will be nominated by the districts but elected by the Society Board.

The proposed new bylaws are posted on the Pioneer Web Site in Acrobat format so they can be accessed and printed out by each chapter. Go to the Pioneer Web site, select "District Business," then select "Proposed Bi-Laws for Pioneer District 2004."

Please print them out and share the details with your chapter board of directors and chapter members. This statement is an official notice that the House of Delegates at the October 15, 2004 House of Delegates Meeting will be asked to vote on acceptance of the new bylaws.

Uptown Sound quartet making final appearance during October 2 Escanaba show

Uptown Sound from the Columbus, Ohio area will be making their very last on-stage performance at the **Delta County(Escanaba, Mich.) Chapter** annual show, October 2.

Uptown Sound took Silver Medalist honors at the International Contest in 2001 and again in 2002, then placing 4th behind International Champs, **Power Play**, in 2003.

They announced earlier this year that they will be retiring immediately after the Escanaba show.

Escanaba is about two hours west of the Mackinac Bridge in the gorgeous U.P. We'll even throw in our beautiful fall color tour for free!

Ticket price is \$15, general seating only, at the newly renovated **Escanaba Jr. High School** auditorium. Contact Bill Ehrhardt

2509 5th Ave. S- 301E

Escanaba, MI 49829

(906)789-9420

e-mail: ehrhards@baycollege.edu

Remembering Arthur "Chip" Cardy

By Paul Howe

I was in Louisville at the International Convention when I received a call from **Reese Olger** of the passing of our GOOD friend in song **Arthur "Chip" Cardy**. I was saddened as each of you were who knew him.

I was also very touched by the emotions of Reese who had to hand the phone to Rosie because he couldn't talk. I was able to reach **Bob Fox, Bruce Smith** and **Larry Parker** who helped me pass the word on to the rest of members attending the convention and to the many Pioneer members at the convention who had known Art over the past 25 or more years of his Barbershopping career.

Yes, I said CAREER as Art made it his responsibility to know every note and every move in any song he learned with either one of his many quartets or songs sung by the chorus. He took his hobby/career very seriously and was eager to get coaching anytime he could.

He sang "solos" for many weddings and sang in his church choir. He seldom missed a rehearsal and he always sang from the heart. I was trying to recall all of the quartets he has sung in over the years and the following may not be totally accurate or complete.

However, I do know his first quartet was called **Subtle Impression: Art Cardy**, tenor; **Jim Miller**, lead; **Jim Schule**, bari and **Al Fisk**, bass. I remember their first District

Contest and how excited they were.

Art sang tenor with the **Used Parts, Tunester's Union, Captial Classics**, (I think), **Crossroad, Pittsburgh Squealers**, (24 years) **Collector's Choice, Gallery** and filled in for the **Patch Chords** numerous times. He also sang in a quartet with **Mark Humenick, Jeff Marks** and **Bob Fox**. The name slips my mind.

He filled in with many other quartets too numerous to mention. He had a quartet of guys from the St. Johns area that he sang with before he joined the chapter. His last official quartet to my knowledge was the formation of **Sufficient Grounds** in September 2002.

The last public appearance of the Pittsburgh Squealers was in August 2002 when we sang in Howell for the hospital employee recognition dinner. On the way home, Art spotted a coffee shop in Howell and the name was **Sufficient Grounds**.

I remember him saying "That would be a good name for a quartet."

One month later, **Tim Oliver** was asked to get a quartet to sing in Owosso for the Arts Council. He called me and asked if we could get a tenor and a bass to sing with us. We ended up asking Art and **T.R. Gerard**. We got together an hour before our performance never having sung together before as a quartet. After the gig was over we ALL felt we sounded pretty

good.

Two days later, I called Art and said "Hey, let's register and enter the fall contest (which was to be in five weeks)."

He said, "Well I don't know, what do the other guys think about it?"

I told him they were ALL for it. (of course I hadn't called them yet).

Art said we'll have to have a name and I said how about **Sufficient Grounds**, (recalling that Art said on previous Thursday that would be a good name for a quartet).

Then I called **Tim Olivier** and **T.R. Gerard** to run it by them and they said "well, what did Art say" and of course, I told them Art was ALL for it. On Monday, I called **Kenosha** and registered us. It was three months later that December when Art had his stroke and had to leave the quartet.

Don Terpe had been singing bass in the chorus and agreed to give tenor a try and the quartet has been together ever since that unique beginning.

You all know what a great sense of humor Art had and most of you know how well he could stash away the food. Some of you may not know that Art was pretty tight with his cash.

A funny thing happened in 1989 when **Collector's Choice** went to **Harmony College**. On Wednesday night, they have the **Steak & Ale Bash**. Well, the Hawaii chapter has a tradition at **Harmony College** to provide

Mathi's for \$1 each.

Art usually didn't drink unless, of course, the drinks were cheap or on the house. etc. well after two or three Mahti's Art came around and asked each of the quartet members what size shirts we wore.

The Hawaii Chapter also sold RED or BLUE shirts with old song titles on them for \$20 each. Next thing we knew.

Art had bought each of the Collectors Choice a RED shirt. It's amazing what those Mahti's will do to a guy.

Art "thanks for the good times" and some day you'll meet ALL of us again in the BIG Chorus in the Sky. Until then, you'll be greatly missed. God made a wonderful person when he created you.

G.P. loses 3 men

Grosse Pointe members had to attend three separate funerals for members this summer including one for the sudden death of **Jim Kinner**, the Chapter's historian and 2003 Barbershopper of the Year.

Kinner tirelessly worked to complete a massive book on the history of Grosse Pointe Chapter, dating back to 1945. **Tony Ales**, a long-time member of **Grosse Pointe** and Macomb chapters and the original tenor in **Fermata Nowhere**, died in July of congestive heart failure. He was 52.

John Mullens, a five-year member, also died after a long illness.

Bruce Scott Mike Craig

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cpollard1@twmi.rr.com

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Baritone - Mike Ridenour

Lead - David Dolpl

Bass - Phil Haines

"Come Along For The Ride"

Email: jjohnson737@comcast.net Phone: 616-364-7183

Slamka back directing Macomb after Gold Medalist retires

Continued from Page 1

that have achieved our recent accomplishments -successful shows, won contests, fun and productive rehearsals each week -all directly attributable to Carl.

A finer man there isn't and Pioneer District should know what a treasure Carl Dahlke is.

Carl's presence will be missed at the helm, and though he graciously declined a position on the risers, he told the chorus, "I will not be transferring to Frank Thorne. I am a member of the Macomb chapter." Those who know Carl know what a high

compliment that is. Those who know Macomb members know how proud we will be to carry him on our rolls.

Any Barbershopper who has been involved in a chorus director search knows what a daunting task that can be - especially if you are trying to replace the likes of Gold Medallist Carl Dahlke.

It simply underscores how fortunate we are at Macomb that we had to go no further than our own ranks to find someone willing and able to rise to the challenge. Macomb is pleased to announce and welcome its new director

Jack Slamka.

Jack has a long history with Macomb.

He is a charter member and has served as director on two previous occasions; both times leading the chapter to District Championships and international competition qualification.

Jack had to take a leave from the chorus in 1999 to pursue a gold medal of his own. Having achieved that, Jack is returning to his chorus home and new challenges.

No one can know exactly what the future holds for **Macomb's**

Harmony Heritage Chorus, but thanks to these two fine men, we can rest assured it is something bright that the Pioneer District can be proud of.

Please join with the Macomb Board of Directors and the Harmony Heritage Chorus in thanking Carl for his exemplary leadership and welcoming Jack Slamka as our new musical director.

We could not be more proud than we are on this day to be able to claim both Carl and Jack as our own.

4 Voices!

2002 International Gold Medal Quartet, '96 college champs

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

Plus an original musical "Grosse Pointe: Guilty as Charged!"



Grosse Pointe Chapter Show, September 18, 2004

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

(313)886-SING

www.gpsingers.com

Music, mailing labels and my values

By Al Bonney

I don't know if others are experiencing the tremendous increase in personalized mailing labels that I am but, I suspect you are.

Every time I bring my mail home I have at least one set of labels asking for a donation for this, that or the other charity.

I'll be honest.

If I keep the labels, without sending a donation, or throw them



in the can, I feel a little bit guilty unless I send a donation. As I have evaluated what I send every year for these "free" labels, I am amazed.

However, I have solved my guilty feeling problem by prioritizing the charities I send to based upon my value system. What is one of the things I value most in my life?

Honestly, I have found that preserving Barbershop harmony in the world is among the top three things I value most in my life. It is right up there with my Family and my Church. Therefore, rather than collecting all of those mailing labels,

I am sending what I would ordinarily send to other charities, to the **Harmony Foundation** whose mission it is to preserve Barbershop harmony for future generations.

Did you know that 90 percent of SPEBSQSA members are non-donors to Harmony Foundation? The new direction is to encourage Barbershoppers to become regular donors to Harmony Foundation.

Our new Harmony Foundation staff is attempting to increase the percentage of those giving to our own charity by structuring giving programs tailored to the needs and values of our membership.

This effort is still being

developed but we can expect more requests for our giving in the future.

I hope our Society doesn't end up sending mailing labels as I don't want anymore. And, I believe you don't want anymore either.

However, you may want to take a look at the charities you are giving to and see if they match what you value in your life.

If you want to know how you can give to Harmony Foundation, I would be happy to answer your questions. Let's build the Society's future together in harmony.

Don't forget:

Pre-Glow Sept. 21 (details on page 3.

District Convention, Oct. 15-17!

HARRISVILLE 2004 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, Sept. 2

Springport Scrambles Golf Outing
1:00 p.m. (Gather at course around 12:30)
Sign up on Lot#87 (Fred McFadyen)
Sunrise Harmony Interchapter Party
Everyone is invited!
7:30 p.m. in Harrisville Day Park

Friday, Sept. 3

Sweets Adelines Mass Chorus rehearsal @ North John in Campground @ 5:00 p.m.
Director: Susan Heimburger
heimburger@alma.edu
Music: "This is My Country" and "Sweet Adeline"

Friday, Sept. 3

Greenbush Golf Club PreGlow: Quartets Invited to sing/Public invited to enjoy!!!

Saturday, Sept. 4

Greenbush Scrambles Golf Outing
8:30 a.m.-noon
Sign up on Lot#102 (Linda Liddicoatt)

Saturday, Sept. 4

Sweet Adelines Mass Chorus rehearsal @ North John @ 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 4

Maria Hall PreGlow Show
8:00
Quartets and chorus invited to sing
Public invited to to enjoy!!!

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Bush League Agenda

Time	Activity	Location
Friday September 24, 2004		
6 – 8 p.m.	Registration for the program and check in to hotel rooms	Tree Tops Resort
8 – 10 p.m.	Master's class with an District Champion level quartet with open discussion on subjects like: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehearsal techniques • Marketing your quartet • Planning a show package • Blending voices • How to choose music • Anything you want to ask! 	Tree Tops Resort
10 - ?	Tag singing contest with mix 'n match quartets and afterglow	Tree Tops Resort
Saturday September 25		
10 am– 12 noon	Bush League quartet contest with four certified judges. Note there will be no A&R session because the judges will spend the rest of the day coaching the quartets and any input might be just repetitive – Judges will, instead, be asked to make their comments on their score sheets and give these to the quartets as input. Top 2 scoring quartets will sing on the show that night.	E-Free Church
12 – 1 pm	Lunch – on own	

Contacts and More Information

Registration for Weekend Events:

To bring your quartet for the weekend: Contact Al Bonney at albonney@pentel.net or go to the Pioneer Web Site at www.harmonize.com/pioneer/pio.htm and find all the information you will ever need. If none of this works, call him at 231.223.4064. Fill out the registration form and send it to Al with your non-refundable deposit of \$40 per quartet.

For Hotel Reservations:

See the Hotel information sheet attached for package options and reservations instructions.

For the Bush League Contest and Barbershop Show:

Contact Hank Hedges at hhedges@i2k.com or Erv Erickson at marshonerv@aol.com, or Bob Dittman bobnrose@chatermi.net.

38-year DOC member dies in traffic fatality

By Tom Uicker

Robert Sage, a 38-year member of the Society—first with the **Northwest (Detroit) Chapter**, and then **Oakland County and Detroit-Oakland Chapters**—was struck by a van as he crossed a side road in downtown Farmington on June 22.

He was still conscious at the scene, but he was pronounced dead two hours later, at Botsford Hospital. At age 82,

Bob Sage had recently gone through hip replacement surgery in both hips, and he was overjoyed to be able to continue singing with the Gentlemen Songsters Chorus.

His sudden death was a blow to us all.

A Tribute to Bob Sage, by Fran

Durham, riser buddy

What is the first thing you think about when you're thinking about Bob Sage? You remember his contagious smile and his great sense of humor.

I will never forget that last Monday night practice where, cane in hand, Bob headed towards the risers—not using the cane to assist with his walking, but twirling it like a "Yankee Doodle Dandy," the consummate showman!

Bob was bound and determined to be on the risers and sing with the chorus even if it meant purchasing a special chair in which he could sit, and then donating that chair to the chapter when he no longer needed it in order that someone else might use it as necessary.

Riser mate **John Nolte**

borrowed that same chair to use in Louisville this summer as he competed with **Macomb's Harmony Heritage Chorus.**

Even while Bob was in rehab, after each hip replacement, he asked to be provided with sheet music so he could keep up with the chorus songs.

There was no way he was going to allow only "infirmity" to stop him from enjoying the camaraderie, fellowship, and enjoyment of singing and being a part of the chorus. What a guy!

I've known Bob Sage for 35 years. We've ridden to practice together for almost 20 years. Somehow, we talked about things last Monday night that dealt with the future.

He mentioned how proud he was that his son Julian was renewing his faith and actively

participating in the deaconal affairs of his church [St Gerald Catholic Church, Farmington].

This was clearly demonstrated with Julian taking an active part in Bob's funeral mass.

Bob also mentioned that their pastor, Father McEnhill, was being transferred to another parish and what a joy it had been to work with him.

We talked about other things too; things that were almost prophetic of times to come.

I will deeply miss our time together, going to and from chorus practice, and the sharing of our lives. Those who knew Bob were "touched" by him. I am proud to say that I am one of those people.

Plan ahead for new officers, COTS

By Doran McTaggart,

Pioneer DVP-CSLT

Our Barbershop Harmony Society is certainly filled with caring people who will come out of the woodwork to express their good wishes when the occasion arises.

During my recent double heart by-pass surgery, I was really overwhelmed at the outpouring of good wishes that came to me via cards, phone calls and e-mails.

Sometimes you can expect close friends to respond with positive words but I received good vibes from people all over our Barbershop world. My sincere "thank you" to all of you. I guess we all know now that I really do have a heart.

\$80,000 distributed to Intl. reps

The 2004 edition of the **Send - Off Show** held at the Hellenic Banquet Halls in Windsor was the 28th time the **Windsor Chapter** has hosted this Pioneer District premiere fundraiser. Many quartets and choruses have reaped the benefits of the net profits through the years.

I estimate that about \$80,000 has been distributed to our International representatives. This year, the profits were shared among **Infinity**, **The Extremes**, the **Macomb County**

Harmony Heritage Chorus and the Senior quartet reps that will be crowned this fall.

Power Play appeared to say thanks for the support we have given them through the years, to show us their gold medals and to sing up a storm. What great champions they are!

Get nominations ready

Summertime usually finds your Chapter's Nominating Committee busy as they prepare a slate of officers that will have the talent and creativity to move the chapter forward as they plan for growth in membership, music and enjoyment.

When the elections are completed in October, these elected men have said that they would serve and now they are prepared

to be trained to be the best that they can be in their respective offices. They are willing to act as a Leadership Team. Like the Three Musketeers they are all for one and one for all. **COTS January 8-9**

It's not too early to put in a plug for our

Pioneer District COTS this January 8-9, 2005. Mark these dates on your calendar and plan to have your Chapter take full advantage of the classes taught by a world-class faculty. We were the envy of the Society last year when Pioneer had 100 percent attendance by all of our Chapters. We had the largest percentage of Chapters with four or more attendees also.

I hope we are prepared to do as well again this year. Our 2004 successes should reinforce the need for each chapter's Leadership Team to once again obtain the tools to do each of our jobs successfully. Don't forget to include your Chapter Counselor in your planning. Let's lead the Barbershop World again in 2005.





CarTune Characters

A Barbershop Quartet

Lead: Steve Ray **Tenor: Ruben Queen**

Bass: Gene Beaty **Baritone: Marv Skupski**

Contact: Gene at 734-522-7040

HTTP://WWW.Harmonize.com/CTC/

Philatoga Township

Award-Winning
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 Ada, Michigan 49301
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 E-Mail: porgyt@aol.com

JOEL

MARK



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Pedigree: Barbershoppers

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

Doug
 (517) 351-9587

Rich
 (517) 482-0365



The Datch Chords

Music and Mirth

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 Roger

(517) 321-3941
 Larry

Ed

Gene



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 616-465-4428
 upstagesound@iname.com
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Raleigh

A Registered Barbershop Quartet

Kerry



Night Shift

A BARBERSHOP QUARTET

Jim Jay Steve Herb

J.KUNZ@kunzleigh.com

(248) 626-1679

Bush League

Arrival: Friday, September 24, 2004

Departure: Sunday, September 26, 2004

Return this form to: **Reservations Department** TREETOPS RESORT

3962 WILKINSON ROAD GAYLORD, MI 49735

Fax # (989) 732-8459

CHECK-IN TIME:

After 4:00 PM

**CHECK- OUT TIME:** 12:00 Noon

NAME(S) 1. _____ 2. _____

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CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ Business Phone () _____

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

ARRIVAL DATE: _____ DEPARTURE DATE: _____

PLEASE RESERVE THE FOLLOWING ACCOMODATIONS: per person

Package 1- Includes: 1 night's lodging, 1 breakfasts, 1 AfterGlo with all taxes and gratuities.**\$64.00pp Double** _____ **\$101.00pp Single** _____**Package 2-** Includes: 2 night's lodging, 2 breakfasts, 1-Pre-Glo, 1 After Glow with all taxes and gratuities.**\$122.00pp Double** _____ **\$198.00pp Single** _____**Room Only Rates: Based on Per Room/ Per Night \$ 75.60 Single or Double** _____*All lodging is subject to 6% state tax and 2% local assessment.*

DEPOSIT POLICY: You may guarantee your room reservation with a major credit card or a deposit of one nights lodging, no later than **September 13, 2004**. Refund of your deposit will be made if cancellation occurs at least 14 days prior to arrival. Treetops will be sending you a confirmation of this reservation request. Upon receipt, please review all information. You should receive your confirmation within 3 to 5 working days.

Do you require any special lodging requirements? _____ Barrier Free _____ Main Floor _____ Non-Smoking

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Number: _____ Exp. Date _____

Date: _____ Signature: _____

(Not valid without signature)

Windsor attracts 350 to Send-Off

By Bill Strong

Summer time and the living is easy. Not so for the Windsor Chapter as we continue meeting and singing throughout the summer months.

June 11 saw us host our Annual **Send Off** show and we had some 550 guests and Barbershoppers who were well entertained by some of the best quartets in the World.

International Champs, **Power Play**, Louisville bound **Infinity**, **Extremes** and the **Macomb** Chorus. Also on stage we had our Pioneer District Champion Chorus, **Detroit-Oakland**.

Not to be outdone by all this talent, we had a mass sing with all the Barbershoppers on Stage directed by some of the finest Chorus Directors in the District leading us in their favorite songs.

It was a great evening and the best part was our ability and other chapter's to give money to our International participants in Louisville.

If you missed this year's Send Off show, mark your calendars for next year, June 10, 2005. It's a great evening.

We are delighted to have our fearless leader, **Doran** back in our midst after a

successful surgery.

Doran, we missed you in your absence

thing as well.

Summertime will have us out doing



and are so pleased to have you back attending our functions. I'm sure

sing outs and getting ready to compete in Kalamazoo.

We had 51 men on stage in Gaylord and it would be great to be able to increase that number in the fall. Barbershopping is alive and well in Windsor.

Left, a mass chorus sang with various directors. Above, center, the **Extremes**. Top left, **Doran** entertains. Top right, the future. Right lower, **Macomb** wows the crowd.

Margaret is glad to have you out doing your

Pontiac-Waterford preparing for November 6 fall show

By John Cowlshaw

The **Big Chief Chorus** was 10th of 19, with 703 pts for a percentage score of 59 at spring convention.

Though we had hoped for a higher score, there were encouraging signs. Our Singing and Presentation scores averaged 61 percent, and we know from the judges how to score higher in Music.

Quartets singing at our hospitality room included: **Sufficient Grounds**, **Infinity**, **Night Shift**, **In the Neighborhood**, **Bootleg**, **Chordiology**, **Four Man Fishing Tackle Choir**, **For Got to Shave**, **Crescendo**, **The Extremes**, **Silverdome**, **Insignia**, **Alchemy**, **Fermata Nowhere**, and the Sweet Adelines' **Musicality**.

B Natural (McFadyen, Howard,

Johnson, Holm) and **Four in Accord** (Ford, Nevaux, Cowlshaw, and Melkonian) joined forces to sing at a Saturday night social event at the Clarkston Free Methodist Church May 1.

Fred Devries, **Jeff Spires**, **Chuck Murray**, and **Zaven Melkonian** from Pontiac-Waterford enjoyed The Roadshow, April 26.

One of our Chapter Goals for 2004 was to send at least eight men to **Harmony Round Up**. We doubled that number (the highest attending chapter). **Accoustix** was brilliant - their 54 TV theme medley package is amazing! **Rick Spencer** knows more than any 26-year-old ought to and taught it well. The **Knickerbockers** were excellent coaches/

teachers.

For over three years, **Yong McDowell** has built and maintained our web site. Now his involvement in ballroom dancing in the Ann Arbor area has led him to move to Pittsfield Twp between Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor and he is leaving our chapter and handing over the reins to **Russ Ensign** and **Jim Troeger**.

Recent barbershoppers of the month have been: **Ron Clarke** (April), **Ted Prueter** (May), and **Art Carinci** (June).

Our Fall Show is November 6 at Clarkston High School. In addition to the BCC, we will have the Clarkston High School Barbershop Singers, and three guest quartets: **Insignia**, **Musicality**, and **Infinity**. It will be a Great Show.

Here comes the judge -- make that judges

By Al Fisk

Vice President C&J

Greetings, Pistons fans!

Many of us have just returned from the International Convention in Louisville. It truly was a wonderful week.

Pioneer should be very proud of **Infinity**, **The Extremes**, and the **Harmony Heritage Chorus**!

Personally, Bonnie and I enjoyed the **Swingle Singers** show and playing "gopher" for the judges during the quarter finals.

I also had the opportunity to practice judge the finals. YES!!! Not only did I have a great seat, but my scores matched up very well. {{{whew}}} LOL

Roger Lewis - PRS, **Mike O'Donnell** - PRS, and I - MUS, have been invited to Category School (late July). Those gents will be recertified while I take the plunge for the first

time. I hear it's pretty intense, yet gratifying. I'm booked to do an **Evergreen District** contest in BC, Canada in

October, so I'd better pass. ;)

As I've been preaching all year, we're looking for



gentlemen to enter the three-year judging program process. As of now, I'm pleased to announce that

five guys will give it a go:

Mike Slamka - Presentation

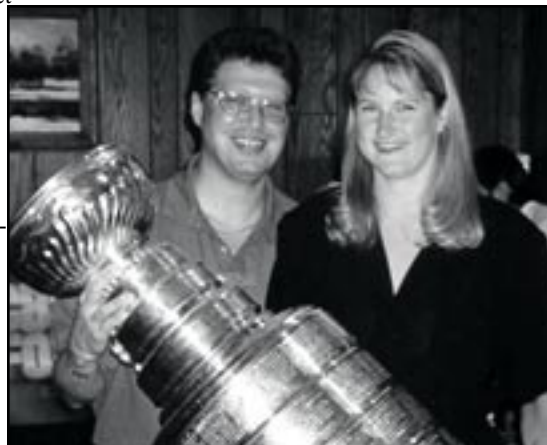
Don Bazely - Presentation

Don Slamka - Singing

Ron Eubank - Contest Administration

Bud Leonard - Contest Administration

Remember, the window to apply closes at the end of the year. To get things rolling, you need to fill out an app from me



that lists five references and get two letters of recommendation from certified judges in your category.

It's hard to believe but our Fall convention in Kazoo is just around the corner (October). I'll get the web site entry forms going this month so you all can enter.

We'll have: International Chorus Prelims (for Utah), Most Improved Chorus (based on last Fall's scores), District Quartet Championship, Novice Quartet Championship (no more than two guys having ever competed in a registered quartet), and International Midwinter Senior Quartet Championship/

The Pontiac-Waterford

BIG CHIEF CHORUS PRESENTS

“FAMILY”

November 6, 2004 7:30 pm

Guest Quartets :

Insignia, Musicality & Infinity

Also Featuring:

Clarkston High School Barbershop Chorus

Big Chief Chorus Quartets & Ensemble

Tickets: General Admission - \$15.00

Reserved Seats - \$20.00

Call: 248 682-4311

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

Who has the best pitch? Why "He sings like a bird" means something

Canadian researchers have shown that humans just aren't cut out to discern certain pitches like their feathered friends.

Testing completed on humans, rats, and three different species of birds shows that the birds--even ones that have been raised in isolation--are better at identifying, classifying, and memorizing absolute pitches than both humans and rats, with humans performing just slightly better than rats.

"It's amazing how dissimilar the results of this test are when you compare humans and birds," said Chris Sturdy, a psychology professor at the University of Alberta. "Humans and rats are weak by any standard, and they're just awful when you compare them to the songbirds."

For the study, humans were given monetary rewards when they memorized or recognized the pitches that were played for them, while the birds (zebra finches, white throated sparrows, and budgerigars) and rats were given food rewards.

Sturdy said humans actually perform fairly well in tests of relative pitch, which refers to the relationship between two pitch sounds played one right after the other, allowing the listener to use one pitch as a reference for the other.

However, when humans try to comprehend absolute pitch, which refers to pitches played alone without any external standard to contrast them with, their ability is "lackluster at best," he said.

Sturdy believes that it is too early in the ongoing research to speculate extensively about the cause of the striking difference between the absolute pitch processing abilities of birds and mammals.

Whatever the cause, Sturdy thinks it cannot be special to humans because other mammals (rats) are no better at judging absolute pitch than humans.

Absolute pitch testing is planned on more mammals

and bird species.

The goal is to

create a map of

absolute pitch

understanding

among as many

animals as possible.

"How animals

understand absolute

pitch may get to

the heart of the

origins of musical

perception," Sturdy

added. "Once we

can determine

the extent of the

differences in

absolute pitch

perception, then

we can begin to

understand why

these differences exist and why our mammalian brains work the way they do."

Quartet profile: The Ritz, -- champs retiring

The Ritz is a unique quartet in that it is comprised of four vocal music teachers, each from a different school district. Since winning the Pioneer District Quartet Championship in 1984, The Ritz has gone on to the International Quartet Competition.

In July 1991, they became the international champions while representing the Johnny Appleseed District. Since the Barbershop Society doesn't allow its international champions to re-enter competition, The Ritz has focused on making performance tours and studio recordings.

The quartet has regularly performed throughout the United States and Canada and has been the featured entertainment aboard Caribbean, Alaskan and Hawaiian cruise ships. They have appeared on the "Grand Ole Opry" and in the fall of 1994 they were featured on the nationally broadcasted PBS special, "Keep America Singing" and again in March 1996 on the "World's Largest Concert."

Their concert tours have taken them to Great Britain, Russia, New Zealand and Australia. They retired in July 2004 at the SPEBSQSA International Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, 20 years to the day after their forming and in the same city they won their gold medal.

Jim Shisler, tenor, was introduced to Barbershop during his college days and has been singing the high notes ever since. Jim is a retired music teacher, member and director of the Northwesterners barbershop chorus in Defiance, Ohio.

He has served as the director of the seven-time regional champion Pride of Toledo Sweet Adelines chorus. While under his leadership, they finished as high as sixth in international competition. He is a three-time district

quartet champion, coaches quartets and choruses, and has been on the staff of several craft schools and clinics. During his free time, he enjoys the outdoors, participates in outdoor sports, and is a private pilot. Jim resides in Oakwood, Ohio.

Doug 'Nic' Nichol, lead, received his bachelor's and master's degrees in music from the University of Iowa. While teaching in Iowa, he sang with the Formalities quartet and directed the Old Capitol Chorus in Iowa City. He is also the former director of the Toledo Seaway Sweet Adelines Chorus.

Having taught all levels, kindergarten through university, he presently teaches in the Toledo Public School System. Nic is the author of five songbooks with recordings, many individual compositions, and a guitar instruction book. He has been a guest speaker, sung or conducted in all 50 states, Canada and Europe. A Barbershopper of 31 years, Nic lives in Maumee, Ohio, with his wife, Suzy.

D. J. Hiner, baritone, is a member of the Maumee Valley Chapter in Toledo, Ohio. He has been very active as a quartet man and in his 17 years of SPEBSQSA membership, he has been a chapter officer, assistant director, and a music team chairman.

D.J. also sings and produces part-learning tapes for the Barbershop Society and choruses world-wide and has sung for national and international radio and television commercials with Nic and Ben. D. J. attended Bowling Green State University where he sang as a member of the Varsity Quartet and received his bachelor's in music education.

He received his master's degree in music education at the University of Toledo. A junior high and high school music teacher for

Rossford City Schools, he resides in Perrysburg, Ohio with his wife, Barb (and two children, Stephanie and Matthew).

Ben Ayling, bass, has been a member of **SPEBSQSA** for 32 years and has been in five quartets including the **Sound Syndicate**. He currently is the director of the **Canton Hall of Fame Chorus** and has directed the **Seaway Commanders** in Maumee, Ohio; the **State Line Chorus** in Monroe; the **Motor City Chorus** in Dearborn; and several choirs at Bowling Green State University where he received his bachelor's and master's degrees in music education.

He earned his Ph.D. in music education from Ohio State University. Having taught high school choral music for 20 years, his choirs have toured across the Eastern U.S., Canada, Belgium, and the Netherlands. He is a professor at Kent State University where he teaches music education courses, conducts the KSU Men's Chorus and KSU Chorale. Ben and his wife, Mary Ann, live in Kent, Ohio.

In addition to appearances and competitions on three continents, The Ritz has made eight recordings with their newest CD release entitled **Puttin' on The Ritz... The Ritz... Swingin' On A Star, Old Songs Are Just Like Old Friends, I'm Beginning To See The Light and The Ritz...On Moonlight Bay** are available on compact disc and cassette tape and are also available as a four-recording "Box Set," **The Ritz Anthology. The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year**, featuring 20 favorites of the Christmas season, and **Rare Times**, which features the solo voice of each singer, are available on CD and cassette formats. All of their recordings are now available through the Barbershop Harmony Society's Harmony



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.

XM airing weekly national Barbershop radio show

Barbershop Harmony Society singers now have their own national weekly radio show on **XM-Satellite Radio**.

XM, basically cable TV for your radio, offers more than 100 channels including channels for just about every genre of music.

The system includes a 1940s music channel (channel 4) that plays all 1940s music, including a Sunday evening show called "Harmony Square," playing Barbershop and Sweet Adeline choruses and quartet recordings.

At the end of each show, the DJ tells listeners how to contact the Society's 800-number to book a quartet. The XM service, which costs less than \$10 per month, includes a

host of music channels as well as news channels (Fox News, CNN, MSNBC, etc.) sports, a station called "Frank's Place" with **Frank Sinatra** and friends singing all the standards, talk radio (with right-wing and left wing channels) etc. The signals are broadcast via satellite so you can listen to the same show from anywhere across the nation.

For more information, contact: XM Radio - Track 4 (B) Christopher Drummond - christopher.drummond@xmradio.com Harmony Square - part of "The 40's" Check out <http://www.xmradio.com> for information about subscribing.

Sun. 8-8:30pm, repeated a little later at 12-12:30 am



Crescendo sings for kids!

Saturday June 19 was a beautiful day for outdoor singing and the Big Family of Michigan Adoption Festival in Southfield was the perfect venue for Pioneer's newest quartet **Crescendo** to share its craft.

More than 25 foster and adoptive care agencies participated in the event that helps to address the needs of children state wide. Crescendo teamed up with other local performers including some Detroit Lions to entertain more than 500 children, perspective parents and agency volunteers.

The group strolled the grounds and watched eyes light up as they sang. In the course of the afternoon Crescendo found itself serenading Southfield Mayor **Brenda Lawrence** and even teaching a 5 year old boy named Brandon to sing a tag.

It was definitely a fun and rewarding experience and a great way to promote harmony. The response by those in attendance was overwhelming.

It was truly the perfect way to put a little harmony into the lives of many less fortunate boys and girls.

2004 CALENDAR: Upcoming events

September 18

Grosse Pointe Chapter Show

Gratiot County Chapter Show

September 21

Pre-Glow Fun Night, Grosse Pointe

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

