



# Pioneer Troubadour

Official Publication of the Pioneer District January/February 2005 Volume 56, Number 1

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

## YOU CAN SING TOO!

# Historic push for new members

By Doran McTaggart

2005 could very well be the most successful year in our Society's history. All COTS attendees will come home with a better understanding of the Barbershop Harmony Society's 2005 Marketing Plan.



For the past number of years we have brought in 4,000 new members each year but 4,500 men have dropped.

To reverse this trend, a 90-day

campaign that offers \$94,000 in prizes split between the top recruiting members, chapters and districts has been structured.

Awards will be presented for the highest percentage of increase and for the most new members gained. The member who brings in the most new members will receive \$10,000.

The Top Five Individual recruiters and the Top Three Districts and Chapters will also receive significant recognition.

Advertising in **USA Today** and the **Globe and Mail** in Canada, will be part of the print campaign.

Radio advertising will also take place. Districts will be assessed \$100 per chapter which will generate \$80,000.

At present, the Society has budgeted an additional \$174,000 for advertising and incentives. Every member, every chapter and every district needs to be in lock step with the Society in terms of scheduling a North American "You Can Sing Too" Night the week the advertising hits.

District: The leadership will categorize the various types of chapters operating in each community. Our Chapter

Counselors visits will assist each chapter in getting ready for their participation in this campaign. Society: The primary target is men aged 35-54 with some background in singing or performing.

The secondary target is college-aged men who like to sing. PDF proofs of print ads for placements in local papers, 30 and 60 second pre-produced radio spots, and other materials supporting the campaign will be available for download from the Society website.

**Please see SING TOO, page 3**

## QCA offers coaching

The **Quartet Champions Association** is offering free coaching sessions (three) to any quartet that has not made the cut at a contest.

Each coached quartet will receive a yellow rose to wear in the contest and an invitation to the QCA Hospitality Suite on Saturday night to sing for your appreciative audience.

- Contact Al Fisk at [alfisk@comcast.net](mailto:alfisk@comcast.net) or 248-651-3796

## Quartets fight cancer at Lansing show

By Jim Ryan

From the moment you stepped into the auditorium, you knew this was special.

It was a benefit show for the breast cancer program at the Ingham Medical Center. But it was also a tribute to the survivors of breast cancer and it was a tribute to a barbershop Icon, **Chari Pernert**.

People had come from all over. Dr. **Greg Lyne** was there.... my good friend and international Champ, **Bob Whitledge** was in the front row... and many, many more.

Jodi Knol from WKAR was the emcee for the event sponsored by the Ingham Regional Medical Center. It started with local talents

of the Michigan area including - **Joyride, Inside Out, Sidekicks, Fermata Nowhere** and **Wildcard** and weaved its way through the parade of quartets to the International selections of **Fanatic** and **Power Play**.

And when these two quartets took the stage, it was sheer magic.

From the first song, **Fanatic** dazzled the audience with sound, deft syncopations, with lots of fun and laughter. The bass, **Bonnie Fedyski**, with her resonant sound set the foundation for lead **Darcy Newell** while **Sandy Shelver** delivered those melodic baritone. **Please see Benefit, page 4.**

## Power Play on national TV



Pioneer's own **Power Play**, 2003 International Quartet champs, appeared on the nationally syndicated "Jane Pauley Show" in December. Pauley's daughter sings acapella and she had a show on acapella singing that included the champs from Michigan. The Slamkas also got statewide attention when they were profiled by Detroit News columnist Neal Rubin Dec. 17.

Gov. Jennifer Granholm wrote the quartet congratulating them.

The 2003 champions are venturing into other challenges with Jack Slamka again directing the Macomb Chapter but family members assure fans they will continue to perform as a quartet if not as frequently as during the busy champ year.



### January/February 2005 Pioneer Troubadour

Official publication of the Pioneer District,  
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## Address changes

Pioneer District members: **DO NOT SEND CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO EDITOR.** Mailing data are furnished by SPEBSQSA, Inc., 6315 Harmony Lane, Kenosha, WI 53143-5199. Please furnish change of address to your Chapter secretary and SPEBSQSA with your name, Chapter name, Chapter and member number, and your old and new addresses. Copies not deliverable at the time of mailing will not be forwarded,

# SING TOO!

Continued from Page 1/

**Chapters:** They will organize activities to foster success, by providing a greeter, a buddy, music, materials about the Society and chapters to take home, a follow-up plan and opportunities to **sing, sing, sing**. I will expand on this in future articles.

**Members:** Every member of the Society must take personal responsibility for bringing guests to their local chapter meeting. Each man who recruits a new Society member will be eligible to win \$5,000 in a random drawing at the end of the campaign. Each new member recruited increases your odds of winning the \$5,000.

Just imagine.....800 chapters inviting the men of their community to a Barbershop meeting to prove to them that when we say, **"You Can Sing Too"**, we mean it. All of this will take place the week of September 12, 2005. With everyone doing his part and staying on the same wave length **We Can Achieve Anything!!!**

For more details, see Bruce Smith's

# Pioneer receives \$12,350 state arts grant

## PIONEER DISTRICT HAS BEEN AWARDED AN MCACA GRANT

With major state budget cuts and after failing to receive a grant last year, we feel fortunate to receive a \$12,350 grant from the **Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs** for the state's Oct, 2004 -Sept., 2005 fiscal year.

We will put the awarded money to good use in eight coaching clinics and events for choruses and quartets in our **Pioneer District**.

This grant clearly supports our Barbershop Harmony Society Mission to 'Enhance lives (and communities) through singing'. Also, our Pioneer District goals line up very well with MCACA goals.

Data collected in the past shows choruses and quartets that participate in the coaching clinics improve significantly as measured by competition scores.

And good performances attract larger audiences and more singers !

This fact, coupled with the combined

audiences of over 200,000 people who hear Michigan choruses and quartets annually, the growing collaboration of Pioneer chapters with other arts organizations in their communities, and the fact that we turn a significant amount of our income back into our communities makes us attractive for MCACA support.

To make us even more attractive in the future, it is important for all Pioneer chapters and quartets to take a more disciplined approach in 2005 to:

1. Collecting audience size information.
2. Collecting testimonial letters from discerning musicians outside the Barbershop Harmony Society.
3. Take leadership initiative with other community arts organizations to create collaborative projects.
4. Document how much money is turned back into our communities to enhance quality of life there.

# Singing out of style? For your video list...

By Joe Serwach

Two great movies for and about singers have come out in recent months. Both inspire any singer. Going with a friend or relative will quickly tell your friends and family why we do what we do.



If you missed them at the theater, catch them when they come out on video in a couple months.

And the next time you get into one of those "oh woe is me Bluto, Barbershop is dying/no one wants to sing anymore," melodramatic jags, go and rent one of these. Both tell the stories of two real people who overcame huge adversities, got the girl and had their entire lives transformed by the power of singing.

**Ray** tells the life story of **Ray Charles** and how he used music and hearing and his other senses to overcome the loss of his vision. He would have been an amazing woodshedder. This one was so well done, it's being talked up for all the awards.

**Beyond the Sea** tells the story of **Bobby Darin** whose weak heart meant he was supposed to die before turning 16 but instead music and songs pushed his heart 37 years. This is a good old fashioned musical and it's creative and just plain fun.

Take your wife or girlfriend to see either of these films and she will immediately be reminded why you need to go sing with the boys every week.

They're both inspiring and fun to watch and full of great music. And remind us all about the magic of a song and how it can forever change our world for the better.

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**BENEFIT**

Top quartets gather together at magical show

Continued from Page 1.  
notes.

Tenor **Connie Noble** pointed the sound in the ensemble with a beautiful tenor that seemed to have no limit.

This is a group one audience member did not want to miss.

And upon the last note of their final song, they blew a kiss to Chari and left the stage.

WHAT A PERFORMANCE!!

But wait, next was **Power**

**Play.**

The solid sound and passing of the front stage to **Mike Slamka** to croon or to brother Mark to grab hold of a tag was fun to watch.

These great entertainers were having a fun time on stage and it always shows. **Don** would steal the mike for a family story and **Jack** would remind Mike that he still had HIS hair.

The show was complete with the parody favorite of a **Linda Ronstadt** song.

And when the songs ended, Power Play vowed to be back next year if the schedules allow and challenged the audience to bring two to three friends to an evening of great entertainment for a GREAT cause.

I will be there next year, I am inviting you.

**More on You Can Sing Too****Only 5 percent of prospects 'very familiar' with Barbershop**

By **Bruce Smith**  
*Pioneer District President*

It's time to get excited and to get ready because a membership campaign is on the horizon. The campaign, titled **You Can Sing Too**, will include national (U.S and Canadian) advertising.

**Background:**

The Society recently undertook a national



marketing study to gather information about how our music and our society are viewed. There were many findings, but from a membership/recruitment prospective, two findings

spoke loudly. They were:

1. Only 5 percent of men who could be prospects were "very familiar" with the Barbershop Harmony Society.
2. Men in the age group 35 to 54 with some background in singing were the primary audience for new members.

Based on the marketing study, a membership campaign aimed at the target audience is being created. Titled **You Can Sing Too**, national advertising which directs interested men to a call center and on to chapter contacts is being created. In addition, advertisements and public service announcements for chapter use will be created.

**How should chapters prepare:**

Begin by evaluating your chapter's recruitment, orientation, and retention efforts and programs as well as the activities that occur each week at chapter meetings. In addition to your own members, consider involving your chapter counselor and members of another chapter in helping you evaluate your program.

During the campaign period, have a compelling series of evening activities, including components like a greeter, assigning a riser buddy and having up-to-date guest books available. Have chapter and

society information packets available as handouts. Have name tags and gather individual guest information and have a plan to follow up on each guest. Have chapter and guest quartets and show the Singing Is Life video.

What ever approaches you design, have fun and make sure your guests sing, sing, sing.

Consider running your own advertisements and public service announcements.

Using local media to piggyback on the society's campaign gets you more bang for the buck, and consider having extra singouts and concerts.

The society is updating old and preparing new material relating to recruitment, orientation, and retention. Watch

for these items and incorporate these new and updated concepts into you plan.

Create a special committee lead by your Membership Development and Marketing and PR VPs just to create and coordinate your efforts.

**Prizes:**

There will be numerous prizes for individuals, chapters, districts, and new members. This promises to be unlike anything you have seen before. However, the greatest prize is the opportunity to introduce someone to Barbershop.

**When:**

We all need to begin now in order to be ready to take maximum advantage as the campaign kicks into full gear later this year. As I receive specific information it will be posted on the district, sent to the various Yahoo groups and place in the Troubadour.

Let's Get Ready to Build Pioneer.

**Numerous prizes for individuals, chapters, districts and new members.**

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

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# Quartet Update: My 3 Friends

QCA Update

By **Al Fisk**

**My 3 Friends**, which has been singing together since 1988, inaugurated the gazebo at Macomb Commons on Grosse Ile last September 2003.

The 100-plus attendees were introduced to Barbershop harmony. The guys were asked to sing two numbers at the annual Downriver Prayer Breakfast in December that attracted more than 1000 people.

The newly formed **Grosse Ile Alliance for the Arts** line up a whole summer of Concerts on the Commons in 2004.

Every Sunday afternoon from June 20 to August 29,

performers entertain an audience sitting on lawn chairs and on the stone benches built into a berm surrounding the gazebo.

**My 3 Friends** was featured on July 11.

The quartet is made up of Island resident tenor, **Jack Frucci**, who also sings with **Sound Effect** and the **Macomb County and Huron Valley** choruses.

Singing bass is **Levon King** of Allen Park and baritone is **Wayne Pitchford**, Riverview.

Both these gentlemen are



members of **Frank Thorne**.

Lead **Paul Lammers**, Chelsea, also sings lead with the quartet **Sound Effect** and the **Huron Valley Chorus**.

**My 3 Friends** sang a variety of songs and were invited back as guest quartet with **Vocal**

**Point**, a Sweet Adeline quartet who performed on July 25.

The two quartets made up an octet and sang "Irish Blessing" as a finale.

Past singing engagements of **My 3 Friends** have been birthday parties, Channel 56, the showboat in Chesaning, and appearances at various senior centers and nursing homes.

The gazebo at the Macomb Commons was a gift to the community by Island residents, Richard and Roslind Meyer. The grassy area is lined with trees and makes an ideal spot for performers and picnickers.

# A Sunshine Quartet for a special purpose

By **Chuck Murray**

On December 22, a multi-chapter (**Pontiac, DOC, and Macomb**) pickup quartet called **Sunshine**, including Bruce Brede (Lead), Chuck Murray (Bass), Jeff Spires (Bari), and Tom Blackstone (Tenor), gave of their time and talents to sing at a Holiday Get-Together at Hero's Restaurant on M59, in Pontiac.

They sang to brighten the day of a very special nurse from the North Oakland Medical Center in Pontiac.

**Clem Pryor**, a pediatric RN, worked nights for many years at this hospital to help make ends meet as a single parent of

two teenagers. She recently learned, without any prior symptoms, that she has inoperable cancer, and has since been forced to leave work.

She needs to wear a neck brace to support her head due to cancer-weakened bones.

The restaurant was full of holiday festivities while the Sunshine Quartet sang Christmas carols and barbershop songs to Clem. The happy tears flowed. Clem's sister, Viola, was there for her. Many friends, doctors, nurses, previous co-workers, and even parents of children Clem had previously cared for were present.

Gifts of love had poured in from doctors, pediatricians, fellow nurses, patient's parents, and even some barbershoppers! An SUV load of Christmas gifts were delivered to Clem's home, just before the singout, to help make the Holiday a little brighter!

Bless you, Clem! Our prayers are with you.

Rewards for this kind of quarteting cannot be measured. We need to do more of this. It's great to be a Barbershopper!

Wanna get your audience hooked on harmony? With us, it's all about humor and harmony and the manly arts of huntin' n' fishin



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# Pontiac-Waterford has busy fall, Christmas

By John Cowlshaw  
Pontiac-Waterford's Christmas Season is over.

During three weeks in December, the Pontiac Waterford Big Chief Christmas Chorus sang at 15 locations to 1,000 people, from several hundred at Lake Orion's Candlelight Parade to the handful at Bordine Nursery.

Eight seasonal singers joined the regular chorus. Some highlights –  
-- Learning new songs – “Secret of Christmas” and “Silver Bells.”  
--Singing for **Bill Pascher's** friends at Sunrise Senior Living.

--Bringing some outside stimulation to the lonely folk at the Oakland County Medical Care Facility  
-- Alternating with our ensemble – **Off the Reservation** – and our quartets – **Jackpot** and **Sunnyside**.

-- The acoustics at Canterbury on the Lake and their marvelous buffet meal.  
--The penetrating coldness at Lake Orion and at Holly.  
-- A young father applauding and picking up our tab at the final afterglow (at CJ's).

The 60<sup>th</sup> annual Big Chief Chorus show was November 6<sup>th</sup>



Pontiac-Waterford performing at Holly Festival, Dec 18<sup>th</sup>,  
Photo by Ray Wysocki

at Clarkston High School. Under the direction of **Jim Troeger**, and in tribute to **John Smith**, the chorus presented “Family,” a musical exploration of the theme that Barbershop singing can bring happiness and a sense of Family, even to down-in-the-dumps salesmen, marooned in a small town suspiciously similar to “River City.”

The show included guest quartets, **Infinity** and **Musicality**, and special audience-pleaser, **Insignia**, who were built into the

script as four street urchins on whom the future of music and family might depend.

Over 50 of us singers and partners gathered Friday, Nov 19, at the Cass Lake Roadhouse restaurant for an Officer Installation and Awards Ceremony.

Our old friend **Russ Seely** did the installation.

He spoke movingly of his long association with Pontiac/Waterford, and his admiration for our maintenance of traditions,

including the yearly shows and the annual Woodshed Contest.

Barbershopper of the Year award went to **John Cowlshaw**. The **Rawley Hallman Music Award** was presented to our director, **Jim Troeger**.

The **William Pascher Founders Award** was presented to **Dick Johnson**. And President **Pete Mazzara** spoke movingly of his desire to institute a new President's Award, which was given to **Walt DeNio**.

Our new auxiliary group, the **Big Chief Chicks**, were present of course.

And the **Silverdomes** sang.

Chapter quartet **Impressario** was the featured quartet in the local production of **The Music Man** at the Starlight Theater.

**Wayne Chene** and **Ron Clarke** join ongoing Executive Board members for 2005 under the continuing presidency of **Pete Mazzara**.

Bruce Scott Mike Craig

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# Rent a bus, sing at 10 stops in one day



**Grosse Pointe Chapter's** busy Christmas season includes a Christmas Concert with the **Shoreline Sound Sweet Adelines Chorus**, a 10-stop bus tour to senior citizens homes throughout Macomb and Wayne counties (see pictures) and the annual **Pub Crawl**.

For the Pub Crawl, the chapter splits into four teams and each hits about 20 restaurants and bars within a three hour period, sings a couple Christmas songs and passes a can raising money for the **Holley Ear Institute**. The result: \$4,000 raised for charity.

Here is member Laird Geyer's take on his second Pub Crawl:



Last night I participated in the Grosse Pointe Chapter Pub Crawl for the second time. It was a great opportunity to pause in the rush of Christmas preparations and do something for others. It was a time of fellowship with the guys and singing the style of music we all love. The highlight of the evening, however, was to see the generosity of people toward complete strangers. We sang "Jingle Bells" as we entered each establishment.

Many of the patrons were surprised, but seemed to enjoy our singing.

Before our second song, **Mike Sullivan** announced that our purpose was to raise money for the St. John Hospital Holley Ear Institute.

As we started our second song, people were waving money for us to collect. At a number of our stops, several people donated a second time as we sang a third or fourth Christmas Carol. One party was a Christmas Party for St. John-Providence employees. They were extra generous.

As I listened to the news this morning and heard a couple stories of man's brutality to man, I wanted to call the station and shout, "But you don't have any idea what generous and gracious people are in the Grosse Pointes and St Clair Shores."

There are a lot of good people in our world. I think we are blessed in this area with a higher concentration of them. They were really glad to contribute. Not only is it great to be a Barbershopper, it's great to be a member of the Grosse Pointe Chapter. We have one heck of a group of GREAT guys.

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# More than 100 attend Canada Night, big DOC show Feb. 18-19

## Detroit-Oakland Chapter

By Tom Uicker

The first Friday of November was **Canada Night** at **Detroit-Oakland**. We had 109 people attending from various chapters. Eight mini-choruses competed for the "Old Oakland Bucket," including two from Detroit-Oakland, two from **Macomb**, and one each from **Grosse Pointe**, **Windsor** and **Huron Valley**, plus one more including remnants from **Wayne**, **Windsor** and **Motor City Metro**.

Grosse Pointe won the coveted "Old Oakland Bucket." **Chordiology** quartet served as judges for the contest. Other quartets to make an appearance were: **Fermata Nowhere**, **The**



**Silverdomes**, and a pick-up quartet named **The Indiana Brigade**.

Christmas caroling this year was confined to the two hospitals - **Providence** in Southfield, and

**Beaumont** in Royal Oak. It was interesting to see peoples' faces as they watched us pile off the elevators in our red shirts and Santa hats; 30 to 35 singers ready to lift their spirits with our

voices.

The rest of our time was spent preparing for our annual show February 18-19. This time we feature **The Perfect Gentlemen** and **Musicality**. You can find an ad for our show elsewhere in this bulletin.

Finally, I want to report our officers for 2005. Leading off with President **Herb Hebner**, we also have Membership VP **Paul Millis**, Music VP **Jim Kunz**, Program VP **Earl Berry**, Marketing VP **John Balint**, Secretary **Don Block**, Treasurer **Tom Uicker**, and members-at-large **John Mollon**, **Bob Schwab**, and **Larry Winger**.

They will be installed at a party in mid-January.

## "IF WE SING ANOTHER CAROL, I'LL SCREAM!"

By Hank Hedges

"If we sing another carol, I'll scream," one lead said to his buddy after the 18th Christmas gig sung by the **Gaylord Harmonie Meisters** chapter chorus and quartets.

Covering four county's Retirement Homes, Assisted Living residences, Community Seasonal Programs, resort club dates, private parties and Special Ed. Kids performances, the members paid their Otolaryngologist(Throat Docs) and went back to their Families in response to their kids and wives picket signs reading "Sing at Home Daddy!"

A banner month of sharing the Holiday Spirit with our communities, the Chapter had many highlights during this seemingly non-stop tour.

Not the least of which was a joint carol sing out with many members of the former **Boyer City SnowBird Chorus**.

Another seasonal high spot, was the much appreciated helping voices of two of the local SAI quartets who beautifully filled in a couple of gigs when the Grinch-like bugs wiped out Chapter Quartets or Holiday travel took its toll.

The Harmonie Meisters got a real Holiday boost to be able to spread a bit of harmonious Joy to our communities and special populations.

To all of you Pioneer Barbershoppers, we wish you a great Singing New Year.

Harmonie Meisters Chapter of Gaylord.

The Home of Bush League 2005

## Judge's Corner

By Al Fisk

Director C&J - Pioneer

Well, as of this writing (December 16th, Beethoven's birthday - he's still decomposing, you know...) I have seven guys who have submitted most or all of their paperwork to apply for the judging program or CA.

I, in turn, will forward the apps and info to the Category Specialists by January 1. There are a few more guys who had expressed interest but have not started the paper trail.

In the next Troub, I'll list the gents who are taking the plunge. I encourage all of us to encourage them throughout their three year training ordeal. Hopefully, they'll all make it to the end. (My class started with 10 guys - only I made it all the way...)

I hope everybody had a wonderful and meaningful holiday season. Peace.

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Please join us at our AFTERGLOW immediately following the show at the Holiday Inn West Hotel & Conference Center, 7501 W. Saginaw Hwy. in Lansing. Tickets are \$13.00 per person, which includes a light buffet. Tickets are available through Lansing Chapter members only, not the Wharton Center.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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Lansing Chapter, SPEBSQSA, Inc.  
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ALL TICKETS ARE \$18.00 EACH

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\$ \_\_\_\_\_ GRAND TOTAL

Inquiries may be made by calling (517) 372-SING (7464)

**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



## Holland gears up for four days of Valentines

### Holland Chapter News

#### By Art Lane

The **Holland Chapter** is looking at four days of **Singing Valentines** with at least four quartets sharing the load. **Steve Foster** and **John Ellis** are leading the charge.

Our famous **Tulip Time** show will be 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 13 in Christ Memorial Auditorium, Holland. Director **Jim Johnson** will be leading the chorus in "Back in Dad and Mother's Day," a collection of songs from the golden days of Barbershop.

Our featured singers will be

2003 Pioneer champion quartet **Infinity and Vocal Montage**, a mixed group from Southeastern Michigan.

Tickets, \$14 each, are available at [www.tuliptime.com](http://www.tuliptime.com) or call 800-822-2770. Tulip Time also will send you a brochure with hotel, guest home and cottage information. But start planning now; rooms sell out for 30 miles.

The **Holland Windmill Chorus** opened Christmas season for downtown Holland with caroling for shoppers on a busy Saturday night. We followed up with two

Christmas concerts in the Park Theater, with proceeds going to Comprehensive Therapy Center, which helps local kids with speech problems.

The chorus now and then sings at funerals but hardly ever at weddings. We had a special treat on Dec. 4, when we were invited to sing at the wedding of **Chuck Kreun** and **Kathy Gast**.

Chuck is a lead in the Windmill Chorus and Kathy is the bass of **Krack'd Up**, a quartet from Grand Haven, Holland and Argus, Ind. A chapter quartet, **Generation Gap**, sang at the reception along

with **Krack'd Up**.

The **Holland Chapter** proudly sang with three brand new members in the fall contest and all three stepped right up during our recent Talent Night to sing, play the piano or play the harmonica.

They are **Dennis Willaman**, **Tim Harrison** and **Dave Wendt**.

Chapter elections were no big surprise but we did choose two new officers: President **Darrell Vande Hoef** and Vice President of Marketing and Public Relations **Ken Cook**.

## Windsor busy with Young Men in Harmony, other projects, changes in officers

### Windsor Report:

#### By Bill Strong

Windsor Chapter wishes Barbershoppers everywhere a belated Happy New Year. Last Year was a special year for our Chapter as we celebrated 60 years as a member of this wonderful Society.

Special thanks to our outgoing President **Doran McTaggart** for the great effort he put into our significant anniversary. We are, however expecting great things from our newly elected President **Bud Leonard** and his new executives.

They were officially installed by **Marv Skupski** at our Christmas Party in December. Thank you Marv, for a great job.

2004 was a busy time for our chapter with sing outs and our involvement with **Young Men in Harmony** and many other ventures.

We sang in a show with a local school choir in one of the local high schools and the reception was great.

Nothing like a bunch of old guys on stage with a group of elementary and high school

students. Our "other" chorus, the **Echoes**, has been doing a wonderful job of singing out at senior residences and hospitals.

These guys do this at least three or four times a month and should be congratulated.

Our 2004 Barbershoppers of the year is none other than **Ron Gibb**. This is Ron's third consecutive award and is so well-deserved.

If you think it was a slam dunk, there were 16 other members who received votes for this award. Keep up your great work Ron and see if you can make four in a row.

Special thanks to all the quartets that visited our Hospitality room in Kalamazoo.

Your attendance did wonders for our newer members and older ones too. Just to hear you guys up so close meant a lot. Thanks also to our members who did all the work in setting up our room.

We were all so proud to see **Power Play** on the **Jane Pauley** show. You guys continue to put Pioneer on the map. Thank you so much for being such great Champions.

A Pete • Dave • Curt • James  
A Barbershop Quartet

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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.

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Card # : \_\_\_\_\_

Please Circle:    Visa Card                      Master Card                      Discover Card                      Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Departure: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of people in room: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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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).

## Get higher school singers to Lansing March 11

### HARMONY HAPPENING 05

By Dave Anderson

On March 11-12 the **Pioneer**

**District** will once again host our **Young Men**

**In Harmony**

weekend for high school-aged men. Your help is needed in

promoting this event by talking with your local high school vocal music teachers and encouraging them to send students and for the teachers to also attend.

The HH-05 Team especially needs your help this year as a couple of changes have taken place.



The location for the event is at the Holiday Inn West in Lansing. The change was caused by a hefty price increase at last year's motel. The other change is that we have all new clinicians running the program.

The lead clinician will be **Rick Spencer** from the staff in Kenosha. He is a young and energetic music educator and he also sings in an international competing quartet, **Roadshow**. Rick has been leading these programs for about three or four years, so he is experienced.

Working with him will be **Jessica Thompson**, director of the **Lansing Capitol City Chordsmen** and she also sings tenor in **Sidekicks**, a great mixed

quartet. Further assisting Rick will be **Don Slamka**, director of the Hillsdale Town and Country Chorus and tenor in some obscure quartet.

The program begins with registration from 4 to 6 p.m. on Friday at the Holiday Inn. A pizza party will follow at six and rehearsal at seven. Saturday rehearsal will begin at the Holiday Inn at 9AM. After lunch the group will move to the Wharton Center for more rehearsal followed by dinner with the Lansing Chapter and then the big show. The event officially ends after the show.

Now what I need from you folks is to give me the names and addresses of any music teachers

that might be interested in this or students that want to attend. Either call me or email me the information. The deadline for registrations is March 1, so don't delay.

The cost is only \$35 each for students, teachers and chaperones. This includes four meals and the night's lodging at the Holiday Inn.

You can also support this by attending the Lansing Show on March 12 and cheer this young chorus on to a great singing future. The show has a Mardi Gras theme and **The Gas House Gang**, so you will be well entertained.

Let's show these young men some real support!

## Muskegon sings for veterans chapter

By G. Doyle

The Muskegon Chapter provided entertainment recently for an outing of veterans from the Grand Rapids Veteran's Hospital.

The local chapter of the **Air Force Sergeants Association** (AFSA) hosted the vets at the Coopersville, Michigan, VFW Post.

One of the Muskegon chapter members is a retired Air Force and AFSA member and read about the outing in their monthly newsletter.

After contacting the AFSA chapter, the Muskegon barbershoppers sent **Act Four**, one of their quartets to entertain.

**Mart Bomers, Jim Duff, Dick DeWitt and George Doyle** sang for about 50 disabled vets, their attendants, and the members and wives of the Air Force Sergeants Association.

Following their

performance, they were treated to a tour of the VFW post which contains a vast collection of priceless World War II and Korean War memorabilia.

Veteran's hospitals, homes, military retirement associations, and their auxiliaries are wonderful places to spread the barbershop harmony experience while giving back to those who served this nation.

You won't find a more grateful audience. Salute!  
CAN YOU TOP THIS??

The Muskegon, Michigan, chapter officially has 31 members. If you deduct those on the books that don't regularly participate, Muskegon really operates with about 24 folks (including the director!).

In 2004, the Muskegon chapter conducted 48 practices, had 16 chorus performances, 23 quartet performances, sang over 70 Singing Valentines, did six days of out-of-town training, sang at District contest, and staged 2 community shows.

They also had 13 Board meetings, six miscellaneous meetings, two days of advertising poster handouts, five social activities, and two guest night activities.

Can you top this?

## Variety is the spice of life

By G. Doyle

Remember, "Rub a Dub Dub, Three Men in a Tub, the Butcher, the Baker, the Candlestick Maker"?

That doesn't compare to the variety of life experiences found in the **Muskegon Shoreline Chorus**.

There's a PhD, a police officer, a bagpiper, a farmer, a cleaner, a teacher, a golf instructor, a contractor, an engineer, an 18 year-old, a 90 year-old, and yes, several retired folks of various backgrounds.

Each one a different note combining to make beautiful harmony!





The Detroit-Oakland Chapter, SPEBSQSA, Inc.  
And THE GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS CHORUS  
Present their 66<sup>th</sup> Parade of Harmony

# Road



**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2005, at 7:59 p.m.**  
**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2005, at 7:29 p.m.**  
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# Now hear this!

## Woodshedding starts at birth Young children rely most on sounds

New research provides the strongest evidence to date that infants and young children – unlike adults -- are more drawn to sounds than they are to visuals in their environment.

In fact, when 4-year-olds are presented with sounds and pictures at the same time and told to pay particular attention to the pictures, they can't – the sounds dominate their attention.

"We found that sounds are dominant over visuals from infancy, and only slowly through childhood do visuals become more important," said Vladimir

Sloutsky, professor in the Center for Cognitive Science at Ohio State University.

"The younger the children are, the more dominant their auditory system seems to be."

Earlier work by Sloutsky and his colleagues also showed this preference for sounds over visuals among children. But this new research offers a clearer picture of the nature of this auditory preference and how it changes over time.

For infants, sounds are preferred almost exclusively. Older children tested at 4 years

of age generally preferred sounds over visuals, with the exception of familiar objects – they paid more attention to a familiar visual when it is paired with an unknown sound.

Overall, the new research showed children seem to be able to process only one type of stimuli at a time – usually sounds, but sometimes visuals. Adults, on the other hand, can process both sounds and visuals together, but prefer visual information.

Sloutsky, who is also associate dean of research for the

university's College of Human Ecology, said children probably pay more attention to sounds because of their temporary nature.

"If you don't pay attention to sounds, they disappear," he said. "On the other hand, many visual stimuli are stable and stationary. This preference for sounds makes sense in the case of learning language. If infants and young children didn't favor sounds, it is difficult to explain how they could pick up language."

## 2005 CALENDAR: Upcoming events

**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 14**

Wayne Chapter Show

**July 2-9**

International Convention, Salt Lake City, Utah

**October 21-23**

District Convention, Battle Creek

**October 29**

Rochester Chapter Show

**November 5**

Pontiac-Waterford Chapter Show

**November 12**

Macomb Chapter Show

## Chapter Locations

