



Pioneer Troubadour

Official Publication of the Pioneer District May/June 2005 Volume 56, Number 3

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

Rancilio wins for third year

By Art Lane

For the third year in a row, **Robert J. Rancilio**, editor of the **Grosse Pointe Chapter** bulletin, **The Pitch-Pipe**, has been named **Bulletin Editor of the Year** in the **Pioneer District**.

The award was announced April 29 at the **House of Delegates** meeting during the district convention. The honor is for bulletins published in 2004. Rancilio and the Pitch-Pipe also won for 2003 and 2002. He shares the honor with his wife, **Dot**, who is associate editor of the Pitch-Pipe.

The judges commended Rancilio for the bulletin's attention to current events of the chapter and the district and the use of historical items. The Pitch-Pipe does a good job of recognizing the work of members, discussing Society problems, and has a story each issue about an old song. The judges also liked the Pitch-Pipe's color pictures and use of color in the nameplate.

The second place bulletin was Holland's **Windmill Blade**, edited by **Art Lane**. The Blade was tops in the category of Grammar and Style. The judges liked the Blade's coverage of the International convention in Louisville.

Third place went to **John Cowlishaw**, editor of the **Pontiac/Waterford Smoke Signals**. He was commended on the readability of his 5 1/2 by 8 1/2 inch bulletin. The judges liked the bulletin's reports of chapter meetings, history items, craft items and a humorous piece about a fictional contest of the Society for the Promotion and Encouragement of Italian Cooking.

Please see **RANCILLIO** page 3

Pioneer families win

By Joe Serwach

Family is the keyword in Pioneer District. Pioneer's quartet and college quartets are related as were two of the top directors in the Spring chorus contest.

Infinity will represent Pioneer International competition for the second year in a row but they'll have family along for the trip.

Half the members of **Insignia**, the winning college quartet, are sons of members of **Infinity**. **Infinity** includes lead **Craig Pollard** and **Scott Kitzmiller** while their sons **Wayne Pollard** and **Kyle Kitzmiller** are in **Insignia**, which was coached by **Mike Slamka**, lead of Pioneer's most famous family quartet, 2003 international champs **Power Play**.

Meanwhile, Mike's dad **Jack Slamka** is again coaching **Macomb**, Pioneer's representative in the chorus contest as well as winner of the spring chorus contest, which had 49 men on stage, more than any other chapter. Meanwhile, Jack's nephew **Don Slamka**, directed the rapidly growing **Hillsdale Chapter**, which had the second largest group on stage and tied with **Grosse Pointe** for sixth place.

Please see **FAMILY**, page 12.



Pioneer's Roger Lewis named Society's new interim CEO

The Board of Directors of the Barbershop Harmony Society (SPEBSQSA, Inc.) has accepted the resignation of CEO **Don Harris**, effective April 20.

"We are grateful for the new perspectives that Don brought to us, and for his many efforts to move the Society forward during a period of significant

transition," said President Rob Hopkins. "We wish him well in future endeavors," he said.

President Hopkins named Past President **Roger Lewis** as the interim CEO, pending the completion of a search for a new CEO and the appointment of same by the Society Board of Directors.

For more details, see page 5

Wild Card proves dedication

How WILD can this be?

By Ralph Brown

OK, here is the scenario: you are on your way home from an activity and you decide you would like to visit another Chapter in the District.

You check the Pioneer Web Site and find the only Chapter meeting that particular night is about 40 miles out of your way. It is around 8:00 p.m. and you have about a 2 1/2 hour drive to get home. You discuss it with your buddies and, of course, feel that it would be best to do it at another time; all things considered.

Well that was not the case this past Wednesday night when you are talking about our current District Champions-2004 winners **Wild Card**. They were on their way home from St Claire to Grand Rapids and took the detour north to Bay City and treated our Chapter with a surprise visit.

They intended to sing a couple of songs and then head out for home. A half hour later they were bowing to a standing ovation and trying to work their way out the door.

We were absolutely thrilled and I understand that they are open to invitations and enjoy visiting when ever and where ever they can. This was the first time that I can recall having District Champions stop by and grace us with wonderful song.

We of **Saginaw Bay** have our doors wide open for any and all visitors from any where in the District and wish to express our appreciation to **Pete Westers**, **Dave Miller**, **Curt Struyk**, and **James Massalskis**, in other words **Wild Card**, for a wonderful fun visit and we know that you sang from the heart.

**May/June 2005 Pioneer Troubadour**

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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.

Quick quiz:: How is Magnum PI connected to one of Pioneer's best choruses?

Carol Cook new director of Huron Valley

Huron Valley has picked **Carol Cook** as its new director.

The chapter also wanted to thank **Lynne Peirce** for all the work that she has done for the Chapter and the Huron Valley Harmonizers. Lynne's guidance in making all of us better singers and better people, and her guidance to the 2003 Pioneer District Championship will always make her very dear to us.

Carol brings with her a wealth of experience with the **Sweet Adelines**, having joined the former **Downriver Chapter (Allen Park)** in 1973. She went on to direct Downriver and several more chapters -- **River Raisin (Monroe)**, **Prospective BorderShores (Windsor)**, **Heritage (Southgate)**, and for the past six-plus years, **River's Edge (Trenton)**. There was also a successful year



as co-director of a **Harmony, Inc.** chorus in Saginaw in the late-80's.

She has coached both SAI and Society quartets and choruses

and remains active with the Region 2 musical leadership -- director of the Mother-Daughter Chorus, YWIH judge, New Beginnings (novice quartet) Contest judge, chorus mentor, and class instructor. Of course, let's throw quartetting into the mix!

Among other groups, Carol sang bass with **Changing Theme**, **Bridge Partners**, **Bassically Four**, and **A Touch of Magic** which took regional first place honors in 1981, 1984 and 1985.

After several years of increasingly pesky voice loss, a discovery of laryngeal cancer in 1999 she was successfully e "rad"

icated. Carol has completely regained speaking and singing ability -- not her old voice, but a nice one nonetheless.

Psst -- yes, the former **Carol Selleck** is former **Magum PI** star **Tom Selleck's** first cousin! She's looking forward to attending her first District Convention in over 15 years with her beautiful daughter Jackie (a seasoned Tenor and tag singer), and is pleased, proud and very honored to be the new musical director of the great, rockin' Huron Valley Harmonizers!

In her spare time, Carol lives in Southgate (south of Detroit) and is the Office Manager for a management company in Inkster which handles buildings/offices/clinics, leased vehicles, interior design services, and pharmaceuticals.

Holland Chapter receives \$128,133

By Art Lane

The Holland Chapter was honored recently by a generous gift from the estate of **Burton and Bea Eleder**, longtime fans of the chapter and of barbershop singing.

The gift, of \$128,133.79, was given to be used at the chapter's discretion. The Eleders attended chapter shows for a number of years. They had expressed an interest in supporting the chapter and the Park Theater, where the chapter meets.

President **Darrell Vande Hoef** has appointed a committee of **John Ellis**, **Chuck Kreun** and **Dale Bekker** to study possible uses of the funds and to make recommendations to the board of directors.

RANCILLIO : Grosse Pointe No. 1 again

Continued from Page 1.

The other three Pioneer editors who entered bulletins also received praise from the judges. **Bob Snow**, editor of the **Town & Country Chorus** bulletin from **Hillsdale** was commended for using color throughout, which "really makes your bulletin pop and sizzle,"

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Ups and downs

By Bruce Smith

Pioneer District President

What a thrill to attend Mount Pleasants' **Mountain Town Singers** first show. On stage were Barbershoppers, new and old, relaying the energy of performing, and having a great time in front of an appreciative audience.



Driving home, still wrapped in the excitement of the show and the birth of a new chapter in Pioneer, my thoughts turned to my first chapter. Thirty years ago I joined the society as a charter member of the Mansfield, Ohio chapter, the **Fun Center Chordsmen**.

I thought of Mansfield and the five other chapters I've been a part of, and particularly of the **Lansing** chapter which is celebrating its 65th birthday. Of those six chapters, one no longer exists and another, with several gold medals to its credit, is currently much smaller and less vital than in its gold medal years.

Several others, including Lansing, are strong and growing, but all have experienced ups and downs. I began to wonder: Do all chapters cycle through the same ups and downs? What causes ups and downs? What keeps some chapters alive while others disappear?

Has my Barbershop experience given me any useful insight which can help others? I think I do have some insights, and hope they help chapters either put off or survive the down periods.

Do all chapters have ups and downs? I think all chapters go through a cycle of vibrant years, starting with their formation and chartering, and face down periods when membership and enthusiasm diminishes. For some, the time between cycles is long. The longer the down period the harder it is to overcome.

What causes down periods? The primary causes seem to be:

1. The director steps down and there is no qualified replacement.
2. The musical program becomes stagnant and repetitive.
3. There is no attempt to improve and grow musically.
4. Members haven't agreed upon the purpose and goals of the chapter and the plans to reach them.

How can the downs be survived?

Have as strong a musical team as you can create. Try to have assistant directors in place that can fill the director's role. Have a plan in place to keep the fun and singing going using every means possible.

That might include utilizing section leaders or quartets or an everyday Joe Barbershopper who has enough skill to lead singing.

Carry on with a varied program which might include quarteting, singing Pole Cats, a night of tags. Visit another chapter and have them visit you. We all joined to sing so keep singing alive. Commit to keeping the chapter alive.

Survival depends on commitment of every member. Skipping meetings or coming late and leaving early is contagious.

Throughout the life of the chapter, constantly check to make sure that the purpose of the chapter and desires of the members aligned. That means that they must be discussed, agreed upon, and understood. Chapters lose fewer directors and members when all agree on direction and activities, and when everyone knows that their input will be heard and respected.

I hope my comments are helpful and will help your chapter survive to sing another show

Bush League oldest

Dear Friends, especially those in Pontiac. The last Troubadour contained some mis-information that I cannot let go unchallenged !!!

Have you never heard of BUSH LEAGUE ???

Have you never competed for the "Loton Willson Memorial Gaboon?"

In 1947, **Loton Willson**, then a young man, stole the Gaboon from the Dilworth Hotel and fashioned it into a classic trophy. That year it was presented to the winning quartet and since then it has been awarded to the Bush League winner every year except 1995 . . . (The year the old Boyne City Snowbelt Chapter fell apart and before Gaylord Chapter came to the traditions rescue.)

Now if the "Woodshed Trophy" was first presented in 1957, it cannot be the oldest, since at that time, the "Gaboon" had already been presented 10 times !!!

Therefore in the names of Loton Willson, Bob Tracy and all the faithful barbershoppers that live North of M-55, I claim for them, the title of "Oldest Revolving Trophy in the Society."

By the way, keep an eye out for the press releases soon to be released for BUSH LEAGUE 2005 . . . The Talent we have lined up makes this an event you can't afford to miss !!!

Dale L. Hanson

Old Sage of Bush League

Treasurer, Macomb County Chapter

Treasurer, Gaylord Chapter

Pontiac younger

OH, dear, mea culpa.

My only defense is that this history long pre-dates my involvement with Barbershop, so that I was forced to rely upon the memories of Mr Bob McDermott. I believe it will be difficult for him to mount a defense.

John Cowlshaw

Frank Fortier(Lead) Tom Smeltzer (Bass)
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Membership is everyone's responsibility

By **Doran McTaggart**
Director of CSLT

Every Chapter President has received a copy of the 20-page **2005 Marketing and Membership Recruitment Plan.**

This could very well be the instrument for the survival of our Barbershop Harmony Society. The target groups are: (1) men 35 – 54 with some background in singing or performing and (2) college aged men who sing.



Each chapter can participate in the plan by supporting it financially to the tune of \$2 per man. What a bargain! Many monetary and non-monetary incentives have been offered for individuals and chapters.

Individual cash awards from \$100 to \$5,000 and chapter cash awards from \$500 to \$10,000 will be awarded.

Individual non-monetary awards include a variety of things including VIP front row seats, hotel accommodations and round-trip airfare to the 2006 International Convention.

Other chapter incentives are music arrangements by an arranger of note and a weekend coaching retreat. The eligibility period will be from August 1 through October 31. The week of September 12-16 will feature our Society-wide **"U Can Sing 2"** Night at every chapter meeting.

Your Chapter Counselor is able and ready to assist your chapter in this campaign. You can expect a visit or telephone survey from your CC to evaluate what you need to be adequately prepared..

The Society, District and Chapters each have their area of responsibilities to make this undertaking a success. A month by month check list will outline the details that will assess our preparedness.

The **Troubadour** and the **Harmonizer** will continue to publish articles about "U Can Sing 2". As new media releases and Society downloads become available, your Chapter Counselor and I will continue to make you aware of these materials.

I am confident that Pioneer will jump into this Membership Recruitment Plan with both feet and we will be instrumental in doing our part to increase the membership of our Society to 31,500 by December 31, 2005.

From Society President Rob Hopkins

While all organizations with professional staffs periodically go through times of change in key personnel, I know that many members are concerned about the recent resignations of CEO **Don Harris** and Director of Music Education and Services **Greg Lyne**.

Don made some significant and important contributions to the Society as our CEO, and of course Greg has been a particularly revered musical expert in the Society for many years. I expect that Greg will continue to be very active throughout the Society in helping us learn more about our unique style and how to perform it to the best of our musical ability. Indeed, his skills will now be more available to our membership, not less.

Through this time of transition, we have the benefit of the leadership of two outstanding and long-time Barbershoppers who I am sure will be very effective in their interim positions.

Roger Lewis is our interim CEO and is particularly well-suited to serve in that position. A retired businessman and our current past international Society President, Roger is an accomplished manager and a great team leader, who also has extremely broad knowledge of the Society based on experience as a performer, leader, and judge. We are grateful that Roger has agreed to

assume this position until we select a new Executive Director and CEO. (Details on the search, now underway, are available at www.spebsqsa.org/ceosearch)

At Roger's request, **Joe Liles** has agreed temporarily to act in the role of Director of Music Education and Services, a position he held for many years prior to his being named Society Executive Director.

Joe is a great musician, an inspiring leader, and a Barbershopper who knows and appreciates the needs of our members. He will ensure that our talented music staff continues serving the needs of our membership with outstanding dedication and skill.

With Roger and Joe in these interim positions, we are in good hands. You will not find two Society members more dedicated to our style, our members, and the prosperous future of our organization. Many of you know them, and know how deeply they love our Society.

Our staff will continue striving to meet the needs of our membership every day. Roger and Joe are helping to provide continuity; and our dedicated staff is, as usual, committed to handling the myriad details that keep our Society running well.

Naturally, in addition to other ongoing projects, they are currently hard at work on arrangements for a fabulous celebration of Barbershop at our international convention in Salt Lake City. Hope to see you there!

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Please see Bush, page 12.

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The bonds of Barbershop

By Don Horton

On April 4, 2005 the Barbershop Harmony Society, Pioneer District and the Grand Rapids Chapter said goodbye to another great supporter and strong pillar of our hobby.

James C. Horton passed away to the GREAT CHORUS above after a long battle of neuropathy and MS. Jim was 74 years old (a Valentine Baby), seven years older than myself. Due to the age difference we did not have the opportunity to be close as brothers until Barbershop came into our family.

Jim became a member of the Society around 1948 in the former Owosso, Mich. chapter while he was in high school. He sang in a high school quartet and also sang solo for many weddings. I had the good fortune to sing in a college quartet. After graduation, Jim encouraged me to become a member of the Society. My other brother, Larry and I were able to charter

another chapter in Owosso in 1967. After two years of struggling, the chapter closed and Larry and I joined the Lansing, Mich. chapter.



Through our membership in the Society, Jim, Larry and myself became much closer as brothers due to the bonding through

Barbershopping.

Each of us have sung in quartets and attended many campouts. The most fun camping times we had were at Horsehead Lake where Jim and Larry camped every weekend.

Jim organized a mini Harrisville campout that ran for about 10 to 12 years with Grand Rapids, Lansing, Holland and Muskegon chapters all having members attend. We had potluck suppers for 50 to 100 family members; mini shows on Saturday night around the campfire and invited the whole campground.

The mass chorus would sing and quartets would visit other campground sites and entertain. We shared "great times" as brothers, family and have lasting memories through barbershopping.

Jim became very famous for his "camping shirt" (which was really topless), which he always wore while camping.

Jim, Jackie, Sandy and myself have shared many great times together at District and International conventions singing, dining and just hanging out.

Jim was such a hard worker in the Grand Rapids chapter having been President on more than one occasion, served on the Board for many years, sang in the **Rafter Ringers** quartet, which is a past BUSH LEAGUE champion and the **Model A Flats**.

Jim sang bass and played the GUT BUCKET. The concept of the Grand Rapids "Corn Roast" hosted by the Herm Baker family was imitated by Jim.

Jim was the District's No. 1 Bass. If you didn't believe

that, all you had to do was ask Jim, he would inform you of that fact. If you sang Bass, you were automatically the No. 2 Bass. He was a "wanna be" bari, and if you needed a Lead to sing a tag or song, Jim was always there to fill the spot.

Jim was a promoter and idea man. He was instrumental in the Chapter purchasing an old movie theatre for use as a rehearsal hall. He and several other hard working chapter members remodeled the building to use for their barbershop needs but also rented out for wedding receptions, bingo, etc. The chapter later sold the building and broke about even but had free rent for their use.

Jim carried his love for Barbershop into the family as well. He loved his wife Jackie who devoted full time to his tender care for the past several years. His daughters Janis and Jane, his son Jeff and their two son-in-laws Rick & Bill along with their grandchildren all live within a half mile of each other. He was always there for his family and his family was always there for Jim.

On behalf of James C. Horton, his wife Jackie, his children and their families, sister Martha Gifford, brothers Larry and Don Horton and their families, we say "thank you" for your acts of kindness, sympathy and prayers during the time of our loss. We are all part of the Big Barbershop Family and we appreciate each and every one of you.

Sing-Cheerily Yours

Don Horton (little brother)

Jackie Horton

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QCA Profile:

1998 District Champ Kerry Foley

By Al Fisk

Greetings from the QCA: Let's continue featuring our members. Say "hi" to:

Kerry Foley

Bass, **Upstage Sound**, 1998 District quartet champs.

Born Dec. 12, 1972 in Louisville, Kentucky. Raised in Southeastern and Northwestern Indiana.

Barbershopper for 17 years: Chapters

2001-present, asst. director

Michiana Metro chapter.

1989-1992, 1997-2001 **South Bend-Mishawaka**, IN chapter Cardinal District

1989-1992 **Lake County**, IN chapter, Porter-LaPorte, IN chapter

1992-1997 **Valparaiso**, IN chapter

1994-1996 **Terre Haute**, IN chapter

Chapter offices held: anything from Board at Large to VP Music/Performance.

Taking a hiatus from board work right now.

Quartets:

1990-94 **Mutual Accord**, Valparaiso and Lake County chapters, Cardinal District.

1998-2001 **Upstage Sound**,

1998 Pioneer District Quartet Champs.

2001-2004 **Metro Chord**

Authority, PIO

2004-present Moment's Notice, PIO

I enjoy coaching quartets and choruses. I am open to anyone in the western part of the state who is willing



to be coached, no matter what your level.

I have coached rank beginners on up through international participants.

Career:

I am the band director at McCord Renaissance Middle School, a magnet fine arts/sciences school in the Benton Harbor Area Schools, Benton Harbor, Mich.

It is a very inner-city school that never lost its dedication to the band program. I have 177 students, grades 6-8.

There are 300 in the entire school. We do combined grade level marching band, 7th and 8th grade jazz band, 7th and 8th grade pit orchestra and individual grade level concert bands.

We participate every year in the Blossomtime Grand Floral Parade (Benton Harbor/St. Joseph, MI), the Holland Tulip Time Muziekparade (Holland, MI) and have been invited to the South Bend, IN College Football Hall of Fame parade and the Indianapolis 500 parade for the 2005-06 school year.

Family:

Married to Cindy for four years. Presently trying to have children. Cindy's mother moved in with us about two years ago. We have three wondercats-Charlie, Sassy, and Miko. We live in Galien, Mich., a VERY small farming town of about 550.

Ironically, about four of our chapter's 30 members live in Galien. It is very quiet and pretty around here, and this city boy would need about

\$5,000,000.00 to be even tempted to move back to an urban area.

The only downside is that it's a 9-15 mile drive for anything after 6:00, and a 35 mile commute to work. We live in an old craftsman house that we have restored to its original form.

It's been lots of work, but WAY worth it. There's something to be said for original woodwork, wainscoting, leaded glass, hardwood floors, etc. We love it here in Michigan and don't plan on going anywhere anytime soon.

General:

My other hobbies include architecture and building things. I also like to hunt, fish, draw, read western novels, travel, hike and chill in my recliner. Can't imagine life without music. Sing in church choir, play trumpet, tuba, trombone with jazz bands on a fill in basis. Gardening has become a huge hobby of ours since we bought our house three years ago.

Antiques Roadshow

INTERNATIONAL SENIOR
BARBERSHOP QUARTET MEDALISTS

Pioneer District Senior Barbershop Quartet Champions

CONTACT - DENNIS GORE
7028 E. Charleston Washington Twp, Mi. 48095 586 / 336-7840
dgore132@comcast.net

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
 Barbershop Quartet



Contact: Gary Nitz
 7498 Dunross Dr.
 Portage, MI 49002
 Tel: 616-324-0521
 E-mail: gaconitz@netzero.net

"Spreading Harmony
 and Brotherhood"

Improve your show by
 booking a great quartet!



BILL

DAN

A BARBERSHOP QUARTET

Contact: Dan Casamatta
 6705 Adaridge Dr. SE
 Ada, Michigan 49301
 (616) 676-8814
 E-Mail: porgyt@aol.com

JOEL

MARK



THE HARMONY HOUNDS

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

(517) 521-3218
 Roger

(517) 321-3941
 Larry

Ed

Gene



PO Box 322
 Bridgman MI 49106
 616-465-4428
 upstagesound@iname.com
 1998 Pioneer District Quartet Champions

Raleigh

A Registered Barbershop Quartet

Kerry



Night Shift

A BARBERSHOP QUARTET

Jim Jay Steve Herb

J.KUNZ@kunzleigh.com

(248) 626-1679

BUSH LEAGUE 2005

QUARTET REGISTRATION FORM

Gaylord Chapter – Pioneer District SPEBSQSA – Combined Bush League Contest
& Quartet Coaching Weekend – September 30 – October 2, 2005 – Gaylord, MI

Quartet Name _____ Today's Date _____
 Contact _____
 Address _____
 _____ Street _____ City _____ ZIP _____
 Phone _____ e-mail _____
 Tenor _____ Lead _____
 Bari _____ Bass _____

WE PLAN TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES:

Fri Master Class ____ Contest ____ Coaching ____ Sat Afterglow ____

Cost and Instructions:

1. Cost Per Quartet - \$50.00 - Checks & Credit Cards Payable to Pioneer Dist.
2. Master's Class and Coaching limited to 16 Quartets.
3. Coaching will be at E-Free Church following lunch break
4. Hotel Reservations – Use separate Hotel Registration Form.
(Quartets are responsible for Hotel charges)
5. Meals – Quartet members responsible for all meal costs.
6. Evening "Show of Champions" – Quartet members **performing** on the Show do not pay. All others pay the Adult fee of \$12.00 Advance or \$15.00 at the door.
7. Afterglow – There will be no charge to Quartet members **performing** at the Afterglow. The fee for all others is \$7.00 per person.

Visa __ Master Card __ Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Name on Card _____ Signature _____

Cardholder ZIP Code _____ Note: Card covers Quartet
Registration ONLY.

TO REGISTER: Complete this form, attach your check and
send to: Bob Dittman – 571 E Mitchell Gaylord, MI 49735



"This program was made possible in part with the support of the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts."



	<p align="center">2005 PIONEER DISTRICT FALL CONVENTION October 21-23 Battle Creek, McCamly Hotel</p> <p align="center"><u>CONVENTION REGISTRATION</u></p>		 <p><small>NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS</small></p> <p><small>This program was made possible in part with the support of the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural arts.</small></p>
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PLEASE FILL IN NAMES AS YOU WOULD LIKE THEM TO APPEAR ON YOUR BADGE(S)

**REGISTRANT NAME _____

**SPOUSE/GUEST NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

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

**COMPETING QUARTET? ☐ YES ☐ NO QUARTET NAME _____

**COMPETING CHORUS? ☐ YES ☐ NO CHORUS NAME _____

**CHAPTER NAME _____

**VOICE PART: ☐ TENOR ☐ LEAD ☐ BARITONE ☐ BASS

EARLY REGISTRATION: \$25.00 PER PERSON LATE REGISTRATION: \$30.00 PER PERSON

EARLY REGISTRATION MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 7, 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 _____ EXPIRATION DATE _____

<p>MAIL CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM AND FEE TO:</p>	<p align="center">Robert Smith Jr. 46210 Copper Lock Lane Macomb, MI 48044-6202</p>
--	--

All event passes may be purchased at the convention registration desk located in the McCamly Hotel Battle Creek (Headquarters). Also, single event registrations can be purchased at the convention registration desk located in the Headquarters Hotel. Single events tickets are \$15 each. Children 12 and under are admitted 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 11:00am OPENING ON FRIDAY.**

District convention facilities are handicap accessible. Please indicate any special requirements you need to fully participate. _____

FAMILY: Quartet, chorus wins related

Infinity won the right to represent Pioneer by winning 1,813 points or 75.5 percent, just ahead of **Fermata Nowhere**, which scored 1,766 points or 73.6 percent. Rounding out the top five were **Party of Four** (with 1,743 or 72.6 percent), **Wildcard** (with 1,697 or 70.7 percent) and **Brigadeers** (with 1,527 or 63.6 percent).

In the senior's contest, interim Society CEO **Roger Lewis**, brought his long-time quartet **Harmony Hounds**, to victory for the first time since the quartet originally began in 1958, making the quartet name one of the longest registered quartet names in the society.

In the chorus contest, Macomb was trailed by the society's newest chapter, Mount

Pleasant, which scored 842 points 770 points or 64.2 percent) and

Lansing with 764 points or 63.7 percent..



Photos by Anthony Dugal. Convention photos available at: www.anthonydugal.com/pioneer
Left: Fermata Nowhere.
Below: Macomb
Bottom: Harmony Hounds win their fist trophy...

or 70.2 percent, followed by **Motor City Metro** (with 828 or 69 percent). **Kalamazoo** (with



A

Pete • Dave • Curt • James

A Barbershop Quartet

Wildcard

616.262.7288
V

www.wildcardquartet.com

BUSH: Continued from Page 6.

Your quartet just can't have it any better. The wonders of **Power Play** personally coaching you to reach the Gold Mine of your abilities. This is reason enough to safari to the hills of Gaylord this fall.

Then, during Friday evening's Master Class, an unheard of privilege. **Power Play** will show you how to trek the Champion Trail from the Chapter, to the District, to the International Stage. So you want to sing a tag with them? Be prepared to learn that you have just begun to tap your undiscovered talent!

Now, Saturday morning, add the best Contest Camp performance venue in our region, and you have the perfect place to show your championship style.

After hitting the stage in your hunt for "Gold", you will continue your expedition while being coached by **Power Play**.

Saturday night tops it all off with **Power Play** and the newly crowned 2005 winners, plus runners up, putting it all together it a Super Show.

All this plus an afterglo at a favorite watering hole! There you can sing, swap stories with other prospectors (quartets) that made the trek to the Bush (League) and eat specially prepared rations.

There is no better place to spend a harmonious weekend on this continent! We hope to see you in the wilds of Gaylord for the most exciting weekend of the season; September 30 thru October 2.

For further info contact Hank Hedges at hhedges@i2k.com

McCamly Plaza Hotel

WELCOMES

Pioneer District Barbershoppers

October 20 –October 22, 2005

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW

Group reservations are being held in the above name. If you call in your reservations, you must mention group name to get group rate. Please note a credit card is required to make a reservation. Check-in is 3:00 P.M. and Check-out is Noon. Diners Club, American Express, Discover, Master Card and Visa are accepted. The sleeping room rate is \$95.00 for single and double occupancy, plus 11% tax. Please note that cash paying guests will be required to deposit \$25.00 per night at check-in to cover phone calls and additional charges such as in-room movies and room service.

GROUP NAME: Barbershop Harmony Society DATES: October 20 through October 22, 2005

CREDIT CARD INFORMATION

Please circle one:

Mastercard / Visa / American Express / Discover / Diners

Last Name			First	Middle			
Street Address					Cardholder Name		
City			State	Zip	Card Number		Exp. Date
Work Phone			Home Phone		Cardholder Signature		

ARRIVAL DATE: _____ DEPARTURE DATE: _____

SHARING ROOM WITH: _____

Please indicate the number of rooms needed for each room type: _____ Two Queen Beds _____ One King Bed
_____ Handicap Accessible (one king bed only)

Please indicate preferences for these rooms: _____ Non-smoking _____ Smoking

Indicate the number of rollaway beds needed: _____ Rollaways (available @ \$10.00 additional cost per night)

NOTE: ROOM TYPE AND PREFERENCE BASED UPON AVAILABILITY. THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS A REQUEST ONLY AND NOT A GUARANTEE.

Reservations can be made by calling our toll free reservation number (888-622-2659) or mail this form to:

Attention: Reservations Dept.
McCAMLY PLAZA HOTEL
50 Capital Ave., S.W.
Battle Creek, MI 49017

Reservations must be received no later than September 22, 2005.

Windsor plans for busy summer

Windsor Report

By Bill Strong

Greetings from Canada's Sun Parlour, home of the **Windsor Chapter**. Here we are into summer and looking forward to the Fall convention.

Kalamazoo is a memory as we start rehearsals for the Fall chorus competition. Our spring show was a success as always under the chairmanship of **Andy McCann**. He's been doing it so long he makes it look easy but we know

how much work he puts into it.

Speaking of shows, Windsor's annual send-off show was a gala affair as we had a great time raising money to assist our International bound competitors. What a great night. Mark your calendars for next year. Always the 2nd Friday in June. One of the districts best nights of Barbershopping.

Summertime is always a fun filled time with lots of sing outs. I remember a time when we didn't meet during July and August.

I'm glad we saw the error of our ways and go the full 12 months. What else would we do during those hot and sticky months?

Our Chapter Historian **Mike Drouillard** is putting the finishing touches on the History of the Windsor Chapter and having had a look at a first draft it looks like it's going to be something that all members will want to read.

Especially some of us old dogs. Windsor has played an integral part in the history of the

Pioneer District and Mike's work brings it all into focus.

On a sad note, Windsor member **Vic Long** suffered the loss of his dear wife, **June**, recently. June was a very active member of the Sweet Adelines and sang in a quartet for many years. Also, **Ivor Johnston** lost his wife, **Nancy**, after a lengthy illness. Our sympathies go out to both of these families. Looking forward to seeing everyone at convention.

A new chorus is born

Mount Pleasant Chapter has its first show, scores second at Spring contest...

In September, 2004 a core group of Barbershoppers gathered on the campus of **Central Michigan University** to take "babies' first steps". Having moved rapidly through the terrible two's, the first day of school, puberty, (all of us except the tenor section) and graduation, you have today Michigan's newest chartered chapter in the Barbershop Harmony Society.

Our **MountainTown Singers** mission is to foster and advance the art of Barbershop Harmony as a premier performing chorus. We will do this by pursuing consummate singing, musicianship and stage presence in public performance and in Barbershop Harmony Society competition.

We believe "Singing together enriches lives and our communities."

The director, Dr. **David Gillingham** is a professor of music composition at **Central Michigan University**.

His works for band and percussion have earned him an international reputation. "Doc" also loves Barbershop music. He believes its natural close harmonies, chord patterns and fun performance style attracts young men into singing.

It also provides lots of training with room to grow in music theory, vocal production, and audience-pleasing performances. Early in his career, he directed a chorus in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

Here in Mount Pleasant, he founded and directed **Central Harmony**, a College Barbershop Chorus from 1986 to 1994, sang baritone in the 1993 Pioneer District champion quartet, **Full Chord Press**, and coaches collegiate Barbershop quartets including the 2002 and 2003 Pioneer District college quartet champion. In addition to directing the MountainTown Singers, he arranges Barbershop music and is currently working with another promising CMU quartet, **Minor Details**.

The MountainTown Singers consists of 20- some singers, from 17 to "experienced," from Bay City, Big Rapids, Canadian Lakes, Ithaca, Midland, Mount Pleasant, Saginaw and parts unknown. They gather weekly to learn, sing, and enjoy the pure pleasure of "ringing chords".

The group consists of an accountant, professors, a purchasing director, a kitchen designer, a project estimator, a recreational therapist, computer technicians, CMU students, a MPHS student, plus a spritz of retired (now semi-pro Barbershopper) guys. Each of the members bring vocal skill and a lifetime of experiences to our exciting new chorus. We learn something new about each other all the time.

The chorus had its world premiere on April 10 in CMU's Plachta Auditorium. Five Hundred appreciative fans gathered for an afternoon of All-American entertainment. The chorus's guests included **Fish-n-Chips**, an 11-man CMU student group dedicated to advancing acapella singing and supporting high school music programs.

Two quartets completed the show.

Sidekicks, an award winning mixed quartet from the Lansing area wowed the crowd with smooth harmonies featuring two men and two women. The final quartet was the Pioneer District reigning champions, **Wild Card**. What a great way to end a perfect Barbershop day. The MountainTown Singers send a heartfelt thank you to these three wonderful groups for making their inaugural event very memorable.



DON MICHAEL
MARK JACK

**POWER
PLAY**

A Sound Advantage

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

Bush League 2005

Arrival: Friday, September 30, 2005

Departure: Sunday, October 2, 2005

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



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

(Group # 779428)

NAME(S) 1. _____ 2. _____

ADDRESS _____ Home Phone () _____

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 ACCOMMODATIONS: (per room per night)

Standard Inn Rooms \$69 single or double occupancy _____**Deluxe Lodge Rooms \$129 single or double occupancy _____***Hotel lodging is quoted per room per night and is subject to 6% state tax and 2% local assessment.*

Rooms are assigned on a first come first serve basis and will be reserved in priority order according to the date the reservation form is received based on Standard room type.

DEPOSIT POLICY: You may guarantee your room reservation with a major credit card or a deposit of one nights lodging, no later than August 30, 2005. 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 with 3 to 5 working days.

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

PHONE RESERVATIONS ARE ACCEPTED! (989)732-6711 (Be sure to advise operator that you are with the "Bush League" event)
FAX NUMBER 989-732-8459

☐ VISA ☐ MASTER CARD ☐ DINERS CLUB ☐ AMEX

Number: _____ Exp. Date _____

e-mail address: _____

Date: _____ Signature: _____

(Not valid without signature)



Silver and Gold! Silver and Gold...

Pioneer's own 2003 Gold medalists Don and Mike Slamka (left) from Power Play combined with two 2002 Silver Medalists from Johnny Appleseed, Uptown Sound, to form a new quartet that served as mike testers for the spring Pioneer convention. Michigan and Ohio CAN work well together!

Where did all those young guys come from?

Motor City Metro!



Photos by Anthony Dugal.
Convention photos available at:
www.anthonydugal.com/pioneer

2005 CALENDAR: Upcoming events

May 7

Macomb Cabaret Show

May 14

Wayne Chapter Show

May 20

Harmony Round-Up

May 21

Hillsdale Chapter Show

June 4-5

Traverse City Chapter Show, June Night of Harmony

July 2-9

International Convention, Salt Lake City, Utah

July 30

Detroit-Oakland Moonlight Cruise

September 30-October 2

Bush League

September 10

Grosse Pointe's 60th Anniversary Show

Gratiot County Show

October 21-23

District Convention, Battle Creek

October 29

Rochester Chapter Show

November 5

Pontiac-Waterford Chapter Show

November 12

Macomb Chapter Show

