

Pioneer Troubadour

Official Publication of the Pioneer District May/June 2006 Volume 57, Number 3

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

Silver streak is broken! Fermata Nowhere wins!

Woodshed Contest turns 50

By Dick Johnson

The Woodshed Contest, one of Pioneer District's oldest traditional events, celebrated its 50th April 7. One of its original organizers, 92-year-old **William P. Pascher** was present and started the evening by directing "The Old Songs."

Members from eight chapters were present plus singers from **Frank Thorne**.

Each of the 13 quartets that were formed according to the contest rules chose a song from the list provided and sang it in front of the judges – the **Silverdomes** (**Russ Seely**, **John Wearing**, **Gene Bulka**, and **John Wade**).

The winning quartet, singing "I'm Forever Blowing Bubbles," was **Fried Fish** with **Hank DeMars** (Tenor, **Grosse Pointe**), **Mike Frye** (Lead, **Pontiac/Waterford**), **Dale Petrosky** (Bari, **Grosse Pointe**), and **Dave Anderson** (Bass, **Macomb**). Each was awarded a 50th Anniversary Woodshed badge.

Of the 23 past badge-winners who responded to the chapter's call to celebrate this anniversary, **Gene Bulka** (**Grosse Pointe**) received the award for the having the oldest Woodshed badge (1965), and **Bill Pascher** (**Pontiac/Waterford**) received the award for having the most badges

(10). **Flint** will be the 50th chapter name added to the Carroll P. Adams Bennington trophy for having the highest percentage of member participation (22 percent).

Please see **Woodshed**, page 16



Above: Second place no more. **Fermata Nowhere** scored far ahead of all competitors, including three quartets that defeated them for championships. Below: In their first contest, **Mount Pleasant** finished in second. In their second: No. 1. Photos by **Tony Dugal**. Order these and others at: www.anthonydugal.com/pioneer



New chapter new champ!

By Joe Serwach

Pioneer's newest chapter, the **Mount Pleasant Mountaintown Singers**, won the District Chorus Championship this spring only a year after finishing second during its first contest.

With just 34 men on stage, **Mount Pleasant** scored 917 points or 76.4 percent, besting **Lansing** by 88 points and scoring 24 more points than **Macomb** scored last fall when

it won the right to represent Pioneer in the International chorus contest this July.

Mount Pleasant didn't compete last fall, making the spring contest only their second contest and their first victory. In their first contest a year ago, they finished second to perennial winner **Macomb** and won 842 points or 70.2 percent.

Third place this year went to the smallest chorus

just one point.

Three quartets that became champions by narrowly beating **Fermata**, this time finished behind the new international representatives.

Fermata won with 1,770 points or 73.8 percent over **Infinity**, which represented the district at International in 2004 and 2005 and won the district championship in 2003, beating **Fermata** for each of those wins. **Infinity** this spring, however, with a new bass, trailed by 20 points, scoring 1,750 or 72.9 percent.

Party of Four, which won the 2005 championship over **Fermata** by two points last fall, this spring finished third with 1,745 points.

Please see **Quartet** page 3

on stage, **Motor City Metro**, which scored 807 points or 67.2 percent followed by **Grand Rapids**, which won 780 points or 65 percent, and **Traverse City**, which scored 770 points or 64.2 percent.

Rounding out the top 10 were **Kalamazoo**, **Hillsdale**, **Windsor**, **Battle Creek** and **Grosse Pointe**.

The remaining chorus competitors were **Michiana**. Please see **Chorus**, page 9



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

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Next copy deadline: July 15

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

Ad sizes available:

Full page \$100

2/3 page \$75

1/2 page \$65

1/3 page \$50

Quartet-size card \$13

Quartet-size card (annual)
\$55

Troubadour PUBLISHING INFORMATION

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

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

PioNet subscriptions

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**[www.harmonize.com/
Pioneer/pio.htm](http://www.harmonize.com/Pioneer/pio.htm)**

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Mailing data are furnished by the Barbershop Harmony Society, 7930 Sheridan Road, Kenosha, WI. Please furnish change of address to your Chapter secretary and the Society 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,

QUARTETS: Fermata comes outta nowhere

points or 72.7 percent. **Wildcard**, which beat Fermata by one point to win the District championship in 2004, scored 1,739 points or 72.5 percent.

The race for second among the 2003, 2004 and 2005 champions was so close that only 11 points separated the second, third and fourth place finishers.

"We were trying to figure out whose fault it was that we broke our record," quipped lead **Tom Conner**, a 30-year-member of the Society.

Fermata Nowhere includes two directors. Baritone **Steve Pauling** has directed Grosse Pointe for nearly a decade while Tenor **Jeff Gougeon** has directed Lansing and was recently asked to direct **Huron Valley**. Bass **Pete Burns** is a favorite in the district and his wife and childhood sweetheart, **Sally Burns**, is a Sweet Adelines champion who is a member of popular comedy quartet **Novelty Shop**.

Fermata's spring score was 12 points higher than its fall 2005 score. This spring, Fermata came with new, sharper clothes and a new arrangement of "Five Minutes More," a Frank Sinatra song from the 1940s. That new song, their last, achieved the highest score of their set.

But the biggest change was the level of confidence and comfort among the singers, which soared after their last narrow loss.

Rather than getting a chip on their shoulder over never quite making it to No. 1, the group embraced their second place status, singing a parody about their history and winning fan raves with an afterglow and show favorite, "Here in right field," a song featuring Pauling describing a kid who was the last one picked for teams and left alone playing in right field.

Since more people are familiar with that Charlie Brown-like feeling of never feeling quite good enough no matter how hard you try, the fan base for Fermata simply swelled bigger with each second place.

Worry was replaced by the comfort and ease of winners and now Fermata Nowhere is finally, a winning quartet. The crowd went wild.

Fermata Nowhere is, indeed a winning quartet with the chance to compete for the International trophy. Despite now being competitors on the national stage, they will have to compete again at the district level next fall and win again next fall to win the District Quartet championship.

Their many runs for District wins, however, have given them more total points over the past decade than nearly any other Pioneer quartet.

The remainder of the spring quartet contestants included **Journey**, **Something Big**, **Border Crossing**, **After Intermission**, **Moxxy**, **Singing With Dad**, **Harmony Transfer**, **Today's Special**, **Port Authority** and **Grand River Serenade**.

The senior quartet contest, meanwhile, was won by the **Patch Cords** while the college contest was once again won by **Insignia**.

How to form your own Doctors of Good Cheer quartetting groups

By Jack Oonk

One of **Holland Chapter's Doctors of Good Cheer** quartets made a house call to the Pioneer District's Delegates meeting and the Past Quartet Champions meeting April 28.

Their singing brought applause and their jokes moans and groans as they sent their message to those in attendance that the Doctors of Good Cheer promotion could change the foundation of the entire Society.

The Doctors of Good Cheer quartets are made up from Chapter members who are willing to go into the community to "cheer up" those who are hurting and need encouragement using peppy barbershop tunes and appropriate comedy.

Every chapter in the Pioneer District should take a long look at what this promotion has to offer. Here are some reasons.

1. The Doctors promotion could add SERVICE to the public's perception of our Society.
 2. The Doctors promotion spawns NEW Chapter quartets. In the Holland Chapter, we have, at this point, 20 guys signed up, giving us five new performing quartets. The men are members who were not singing in a quartet at this time and others who never had the opportunity to perform in a quartet.
 3. The Doctors of Good Cheer promotion caters to the older and retired members of our Society retaining their membership by giving them the
- Please see DOCTORS. Page 11.**

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

Al Bonney inducted into the Pioneer Hall of Fame in record time...

By **Raleigh Bloch**

Pioneer District President

At the Pioneer District Convention in Kalamazoo, with Hall of Fame members



on stage, **Al Bonney** was inducted into Pioneer District Hall of Fame.

The following is the presentation given by District President **Raleigh Bloch**:

"Tonight I have the distinct honor and the privilege of inducting a new member into the Pioneer District Hall of Fame. Once you know who this man is I'm sure you will agree that he is very deserving of this award.

This man is a devoted father of two children, a loving husband and has been married for 39 years.

Music has always been a part of his life. He was the Director of his Fraternity Choir. In fact, he had some unusual ways of loosening his guys up on stage. You may want to ask him about that.

As his children grew, he introduced them to music. When they moved overseas to places like the Middle East, Greece and Germany, he took musical instruments for his children and held talent shows where they lived. This resulted in his son becoming a composer of symphony music, which he does today. His daughter is a marathon runner and recently completed an Ironman (woman?) Triathlon in Florida.

His wife is an accomplished artist in her own right and paints murals and is currently working on illustrations for two children books.

While living in the USA he moved around with his

job, Boston, New Jersey,



Minneapolis, Washington, DC, Lake of the Ozarks and finally, to our benefit, Traverse City.

It was there that he became interested in Barbershop. By now I'm sure many of you have already guessed who he is, but let me tell you about some of his Barbershop accomplishments. He is or has been a: Chapter President Chapter Chorus Director Chapter Treasurer District President Chapter Grantwriter that attracted funds for the "Get



Northern Michigan Singing" program that benefited thousands of Michigan School children and gave barbershoppers a very positive image. The Harmony Foundation showcased this program at our International Convention.

District Grantwriter that has brought thousands of dollars to you, as Pioneer District members, for coaching of

choruses and quartets and funds for our schools, like **Harmony Roundup, Top Gun, Bush League**, etc.

District YMIH VP Harmony Foundation Grantwriter Trainer. Quartet Singer.

Consultant to our International Board in developing our new organizational structure. Harmony Foundation Board Member Pioneer District Director of Financial Development Leader for the Bush League Contest Taskforce Leader for the Bush League and Harmony Roundup study and survey, which was presented at the House of Delegates.

Just so you don't get the idea that all he does is barbershop stuff, he recently went to Biloxi Miss. with his wife Joan to help out the victims of Hurricane Katrina and is currently show chairman of his local Rotary Club's annual show.

All this in just 11 years

of membership in the Society, WOW! He must be Superman. No he's none other than Pioneer's own **AL BONNEY!**"

Al was greeted and welcomed by all the Hall of Fame members on stage and the audience of close to 1000 barbershoppers and friends gave him a standing ovation.

Hall of Fame Information

The Hall Of Fame has been the Pioneer District's most coveted and honored award for 30 years. The list of recipients reads like a "Who's Who" in Barbershopping, not just in the District but in the Society as well. Still, there are many Barbershoppers who are deserving of the award, but have simply not been nominated.

Generally, the requirements are: he must be (or was, if deceased) a member in good standing of a chapter in the Pioneer District, have a minimum of 10 years membership in the Pioneer District and foremost as this is a District award, he must have had service to the District. Service to his chapter and to the international Society is also considered as a part of the criteria of the award. This service is not limited to, "administrative positions," as you will note with the honorees such as Power Play.

Method of Nomination to the Hall of Fame:

The committee chairman will send the rules of eligibility and a nomination form to each chapter president by 1/31 of each year.

Chapters must return the completed forms and all other items pertinent to the candidate's nomination to the chairman by 4/1.

The Chapter's board of directors must endorse the nomination.

Members of the Hall of Fame Committee may also submit name(s) in nomination to the Hall of Fame. (4/92)

Criteria for Hall of Fame Eligibility:

Prerequisites

The candidate has to be (or was if deceased) a member in good standing of a chapter(s) within the Pioneer District.

The candidate must have a minimum membership in the Pioneer District of 10 years, unless the candidate is "truly outstanding."

General criteria (see nomination form)

Administrative activities – contributions to:

Chapter

District

Society

Music Activities – Contributions to:

Quartet activities

Chorus activities

Coaching, judging, and arranging

Service Activities – Contributions to:

Chapter assignments

District assignments

Society assignments

If you have any questions regarding the Hall of Fame process please contact Raleigh Bloch at raleighbloch@cs.com

Meet the REAL Pioneers

By Russ Seely

When the **Michigan District** was renamed "**Pioneer**", some 30 years ago, one of the reasons for the name change that should have been included was the pioneering efforts of our tireless quartets who were truly ambassadors of barbershop singing since their talents were the basis of what we are today.

One such quartet associated with the **Grosse Pointe Chapter** actually performed prior to the formation of our Society. In the late '30s, **The Shrine Quartet** (so named from the controversial Father Coughlin's Shrine of the Little Flower Church) eventually became the **Banner Four**, (the Bari worked for Banner Linen).

When they joined **Detroit #1 Chapter** of SPEBSQSA, They finally became the Progressives - following a few variations of the name.

The original Lead, **Carl Restivo**, Bari **Lyle McKerrell** and Bass **Mike Arnone** sang with at least two earlier tenors until the end of World War I when, just discharged from the Navy, **Art Seely** was recruited at the tender age of 24 to be the "Progressive Tenor."

It was also at this time that the association with the newly formed "Grosse Pointe" Chapter began. Art and **Ray McCalpin** became not only charter members but were awarded free memberships as recommended by all-time GP mentor, **Mark Roberts**, a Society giant.

During the war years, the Progressives represented the Detroit Chapter on many USO Shows at Army Bases and hospitals. **Carroll Adams**, one of our Society founders and Past Society President, sent them out to entertain social and musical clubs to demonstrate "barbershop."

And demonstrate they did! Their efforts spawned many new Chapters and increased the size and strength of our Society

Starting in 1946 the quartet did a NIGHTLY radio show on WJR for six years.

That stint gave them the name of; **The**



In a single two year period, this quartet made over 500 appearances. Top that! Because of such demanding activity, they used several substitutes associated with the GP Chapter; **Mark Roberts**, **Leroy McKinney** and **Glen Bennet** to name a few.

As early as 1945, the Progressives had a weekly radio show on WJLB where they were named **The Farris Brothers Furniture Four** (of course, their sponsor).

Frankenmuth Four, for a brewery that became their sponsor. They had gained such popularity that Frankenmuth then sponsored them, a first, for an 18-month term, to do a 15 minute weekly show on WXYZ-TV.

As a result, by the late forties, barbershop clubs and Chapters were springing up everywhere in Michigan. It didn't stop just in Michigan.

Please see Pioneers Page 6.

Frank Fortier(Lead) Tom Smeltzer (Bass)
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A Barbershop Quartet

Jeff Gougeon Pete Burns
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PIONEERS: The Progressives

Continued from Page 5.

The Progressive Four shared billings with: **Harry S. Truman, Walter Reuther, Bing Crosby, Bob Hope, Senator Phil Hart,, The Chordettes, the Buffalo Bills, Gov. G. Mennen Williams** and the list of political, entertainers and quartets goes on and on.

Their ventures into Canada were rewarded by charters awarded to; **Windsor, Chatham, Sarnia, Wallaceburg and Hamilton** Chapters. They also performed on all the mentioned charter shows

This truly pioneer quartet performed in eight decades.

Of course there were several personnel changes due to relocation or deaths. The final version consisted of four Seely brothers; Art, who then teamed with, Ray, Hal and Ron who had all sung in various quartets or musical groups or choirs.

To date, three of the Seely brothers have passed away but the eldest, Art, is quite vital in spite of his 85 years. Sadly though, the Progressives no longer exist.

My introduction to barbershop was through this revered quartet who epitomized "Pioneer."

If you ever had the pleasure

sounds created by two Italian rascals named **Carl Restivo** and **Mike Arnone**, with a red-faced full voiced tenor named Art

Seely along with the gentle **Lyle McKerrell** who seemed to glue their sound together, Then you, my friend, have been in the company of real pioneers.



of hearing those robust, resonant

Roundup set for May 19

By **Matthew Tipton**

Don't forget to sign-up for **Harmony Round-up!** This year's HRU is May 19 – 21 on the MSU campus and the line up really is dynamite.

Bruce Odell will be returning to Pioneer after running the Joe Barbershopper class at COTS. If you haven't heard about this guy, talk to anyone that was in that class.

I'm sure they will all agree that Bruce's energy and approach make for one of the most stimulating classes you have ever had. anywhere. on any topic! Bruce will be the anchor instructor for the Regular track, but no matter which track you sign-up for, you will get at least one of his sessions.

Bill Rashleigh will also be on hand anchoring the Frontline Directors' track. If you know Bill, you know there won't be any dull moments there. More importantly, Bill has a wealth of information and a lively presentation to get his point across.

So what are you waiting for? You can find out more about this event and *sign-up right now* on our district website. Just go to http://www.harmonize.com/Pioneer/District_Events/HarmonyRoundup/hru.htm to reserve your spot at this fantastic event!

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The first Van Tassell winners:

John Wearing and the late Bill Wickstrom

By Russ Seely

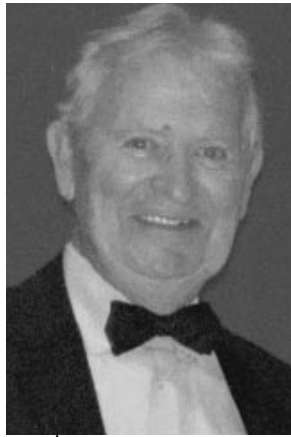
Although the **Pioneer Quartet Champions Association** is still a young group, we're very proud of some of the things we've achieved in serving our mission statement, which is "to provide quality barbershop entertainment, to encourage formation and coaching to quartets and to educate audiences in the art form of barbershop harmony."

In addition to that challenge, we felt that certain individuals should be recognized as outstanding in helping us serve that mission. Because of the need to do this, we instituted an award which at its onset was to be named the Legacy Award. This would honor those exceptional barbershoppers who had given so much to encourage quartet singing.

Sadly, during the construction of the award, a Pioneer giant – **Glenn Van Tassell**, who won gold medals in 1966 and 1971 –lost his battle with ALS. It seemed logical then, that the QCA would add Glenn's name to the award. It now stands as **The Glenn Van Tassell Legacy Award**.

The next BIG challenge was to find our first candidate for the award. We intended to seek living candidates for the award, but as we reviewed names from the past, we soon realized that somehow our first President, **Bill Wickstrom**, just couldn't be overlooked.

And so, Bill became a unanimous choice. However the vote was not complete. The committee then voted to also place **John Wearing's** name on the award for his multiple achievements in encouraging



quarteting.

Prior to 1994, several past quartet champs said they'd organize a champs association but it always failed.

When I became district president, I was told by Wick that he wasn't going to continue on the District Board as executive vice president but would take whatever assignment I needed.

I asked about a Champs Association, he agreed to do something about it and within a year, we not only had an association but presented our first Quartet Champions Show. Bill, himself, was a multiple quartet champ and made it "happen"

John Wearing is a 50 year-plus barbershopper who has always been in at least one quartet from the beginning of his membership until now. Stats will show that he has made more contest appearances than anybody in our District's history.

At last count, it exceeded 150 trips to the contest stage. He has won five District (including Seniors) Quartet Championships. He has represented the District as both a quartet rep as well as a Chorus rep over 15 times at the International Convention.

His membership in the

Pioneer Hall of Fame is based primarily on his quartet(s)

contribution to the District.

We petitioned **Ray Starrette**, trophy maker par excellence, to design and build the award.

Among Ray's many qualifications was the construction of the **Hugh Ingraham International Quartet Trophy**. Ray, again, came through with a design that included a portrait of Glenn which was provided by Glenn's Gold Medal Bass, **Carl Dahlke**.

When the final product was completed, it became obvious that a replica of the main award be given to the recipients as a "keeper", since the award will be a traveling trophy.

When this occurred we then decided that Glenn's widow, Donna would also be presented with a replica. Since we didn't want to "ship" the award to Donna, we apprised her of what had happened and that family friend and QCA **John Seemann**, who resides in Florida during the winter, would personally present it to her. Donna's award as well as Maureen's has their name engraved, somewhat as a tribute, also, to these dedicated widows.

The official presentation took place at the spring convention where many of us had difficulty maintaining dry eyes.



Harmony Month and taxes – a singing connection?

By Al Bonney

I've always used the Society's birth date (April 11, 1938) and Harmony Month to reflect upon my benefits in being a Society member. The fellowship, the music, the performances, the trainings, the conventions (having just returned from Midwinter in Sacramento) – they all bring joy to my life.

My feelings for the Society drives me to invest in **Harmony Foundation**, since they are the funding arm to keep Harmony Camps, Youth Festivals, Directors College and other music programs alive for generations. The Harmony Foundation mission is "to preserve the musical legacy of the Barbershop Harmony Society through support of vocal music education in our schools and communities."

So, if you've ever considered "giving back to the Society," let me review a quartet of ways to invest in Harmony Foundation: **Ambassadors of Song** – a monthly sponsor program where any level gift can be deducted from your bank account or charged to a credit card to provide funds each month. Imagine how easy \$8 a month would be on your credit card and what \$100 at the end of the year would do – You could sponsor one boy to a Harmony Explosion Camp! Our district has eight participants in this program so far. **Presidents Club** – an annual giving program beginning at \$1,000 per year for those who want to take a leadership giving role - can also be paid monthly on a credit card. Benefits include preferred seating and Gala Celebration at International and Mid-Winter conventions, plus a free summer contest recording. Pioneer has 11 donors involved. **Donor Choice** – what a concept! In either of the programs above, you can designate up to 30 percent of your donations BACK to your district or chapter. What a great way to assist in underwriting a program of your choice. We have 3 donors from PIO participating in this program)

Founders Club – the initial program started in the 1980s to create an endowment. Those involved either provided an outright gift (Now a minimum \$10,000) or a planned gift (e.g. bequest, life insurance, charitable trust, estate). Pioneer has 23 members involved.

And since Harmony Month and Tax Time fall within the same month, remember that these are taxable deductions (especially if you itemize). Think about it – sing, deduct . . . and preserve!

QCA Profile: Wild Card, 2004 champs share stories

By Al Fisk

Wildcard formed in July 2003. Our bass, **James Masalkus**, joined us in October 2003. During our first contest (spring Prelims, April 2004 in Gaylord), Wildcard placed fourth overall, after one of their members succumbed to laryngitis during the Saturday night set.

This finish strengthened their resolve and dedication. They worked hard during the summer and fall of 2004 to very narrowly edging out **Fermata Nowhere** (the one point heard 'round the state).

Wildcard continues to strive for musical excellence and entertainment. "This is the greatest district in the society.

"The biggest thrill of our musical lives has been representing this district for the past year and one-half. There are such great audiences around this district. Every chance we have to perform for them is a real thrill" said lead **Dave Miller**. "We are honored to be able to share our music with them. Looking out in

the audience and seeing the smiles or the tears or people mouthing the words along with us energizes us and makes all of the long hours or rehearsal worthwhile. We love you all."

Coaches: **Don Slamka, Mike Slamka, Raymond Schwarzkopf, Ann Jarchow** and **Ken Limmerick**

Pete Westers, Tenor Earliest Barbershop Memory: First singing valentine (1994). Have been singing barbershop since January 1994. Sang for a lady at a hospital who passed three days later. Kids said we were a very bright moment on a bleak day and helped make her last days a little happier.

Person Most Influential in Barbershop Career: **Bud Kraft** (President **Great Lakes Chorus**) "Bud embraced me and took me under his wing when I first entered the hobby. He is a true friend and personifies the

life of a barbershopper and great human being. Bud is a icon in barbershopping in the district and continues to help me to this day".

Previous Competing Quartets: **Fermatta** (1996 Pioneer District Champs), **Happy with Anything**

Becoming lead of that quartet later that year. Person Most Influential in Barbershop Career: **John Sasine (Nightlife)**. "During my six years in Salt Lake, John taught me smooth singing and what it takes to be a lead. To this day, I still try to

Curt Struyk, Bari Earliest Barbershop Memory: Ringing that first chord with my first quartet in high school. I had never experienced that before--it surprised all of us!

Person Most Influential in Barbershop Career: **Les Hale** was a new choral teacher when I was a senior in high school. He got me started in barbershop and worked with our quartet all the way through college. Previous Competing Quartets: **The Majors** (highschool and college, CSD), **Prizm**.

Education: BS degree in science at University of Northern Iowa 1965, MD degree, University of Iowa, College of Medicine, 1969 Residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology, Blodgett Memorial Medical Center, and St. Mary's Hospital, Grand Rapids, MI 1972-1975.

Please see Wild Card Page 9.



Education: B.S. (marketing) St. Louis University (1989)
Spouse: Judy (Sweet Adeline, Quartet: **Joyride**)
Children: Silas, Koby, Abbie
Current Occupation: Real Estate Agent, Five Star Real Estate, Grand Rapids.

David Miller, Lead
Earliest Barbershop Memory: Hearing the **Student Affair** at Ferris State University of 1988.

emulate his sound."
Previous Competing Quartets: None
Education: B.S. (Pharmacy) Ferris State University, 1990, Ph.D. (Pharmaceutics) University of Michigan
Spouse: Adrienne.
Children: 11 cats and two dogs (mastiff's)
Current Occupation: Pharmacist. Owns Keystone Pharmacy in Grand Rapids

Bruce Scott Mike Craig

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Baritone - Mike Ridenour

Lead - David Dolpl
Bass - Phil Haines

"Come Along For The Ride"

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Singing Pirates!!!?

WILD CARD:
Our 2004
champs are
well-round-
ed winners

Continued from Page 8.

Spouse: Nancy Children:
Sam and Cindy.

Grandchildren: Xander
(5), Sophie (2 1/2),
Graham (6 mo).

Occupation: Physician,
Grand Valley
Gynecologists

James Masalkus, Bass
Earliest Barbershop
Memory: Listening to
family records of the
Vagabonds in the early
'60's. Person Most
Influential in Barbershop
Career: **Larry Wolf**,
Music Teacher at Oak
Park High School.

"Larry's passion
and motivation towards
music and teaching was
infectious. When he took
us on a field trip to hear
the **Oakland County**
Chapter in 1978, and
I heard my first live
barbershop chorus,
I was hooked. There
was no turning back"

James also recognizes
Al Fisk for honing his
barbershopping skills
while in the **Rochester**
Hills Chapter (what a
total suck-up!)

Previous Competing
Quartet: **The Great**
Escape

Education: B.S.
Construction Engineering
from Lawrence
Technological University
(1983) Spouse: Kanetta
Children: Joshua

Current Occupation:
Installation Coordinator,
Kodiak Construction in
Grand Rapids and eating!

SINGING PIRATES!!

By Dave Anderson

Harmony Happening 06 was
a sight (and sound) to behold as
64 young men dressed as pirates
invaded the stage and auditorium at
the **Lansing Chapter**
Show at the Wharton
Center for the Arts
at Michigan State
University March 11.

These young
buccaneers then
captured the Capitol City Chordsmen
and "forced" them to sing "Yo, Ho,
Ho, A Pirate's Life for Me."

They followed this with "When
you Wish Upon a Star." The
audience loved them and the kids
loved performing.

Rick Spencer, our Society
Youth In Harmony director from
Kenosha, was the head clinician and
was very ably assisted by **Jessica**
Thompson, director of the Capitol
City Chordsmen.

The event started with
registration Friday afternoon,
followed by a pizza party, and then
the voice placement and learning
began at 6:45 p.m.

A teaching quartet (sometimes
an octet) from Lansing came in and
helped the boys learn the two songs.

By 10:00, they had made good
progress and had also learned a few
tags, which kept them going until
curfew at 11.

Saturday morning brought
breakfast at eight and singing at
nine.

Rick Spencer taught some neat
vocal warming techniques to the
teachers present and showed how it
worked on this young chorus.

At noon, we broke for lunch and
then all moved over to the rehearsal



theater at the Wharton Center.

The HH-06 Chorus had a chance
to rehearse with the Capitol City
Chordsmen and it was a treat to see
the joy that they all shared in singing
together.

The feedback from the music
teachers was very positive and
financial help from a Harmony

Foundation Grant made it very
affordable for the high school
students.

The show and the event were
great successes and plans are now
underway for an even bigger event
next year.

CHORUS: Mount Pleasant wins on its second attempt

Continued from Page 1.

Metro, Pontiac-Waterford, Gratiot County, Rochester and Monroe North.

Lansing won the Plateau 2 championship while Windsor was the Plateau 3 champion and Monroe North won the Plateau 4 championship.

Task force issues report on Bush League

There has been much discussion and excitement regarding the survey conducted by the Bush League Taskforce. They have completed their task as charged and reported their results at the Spring House of Delegates meeting in Kalamazoo.

Approximately one third of the Pioneer District membership responded to the survey. This has made the information and conclusions so relevant and compelling, that it will be shared with each District President in the Society and the Society Board.

It is now up to your Districts Management Team to utilize this information to improve your barbershop experience.

The following is the summary portion of the task force report. If you would like more details, ask your chapter president. The information is also relevant for chapter activities as well.

Bush League Taskforce Report

Attached is the report from the Bush

League Task Force that you commissioned in November of 2005.

We created and distributed a survey which served as our primary information source. We presented this survey to over 900 members of the district in January, both in hard copy form at COTS and as on on-line survey, via the internet.. The survey asked two central questions:

What are your experiences with and why do did you choose NOT to participate in the two key events we were asking about supported by the District (Bush League and Harmony Round-up)?

What would the ideal barbershop event look like to you?

Our report is a summary of the 400 responses received, as well as our observations and recommendation based on those responses to the management team. Four key findings summarize the report:

"Time Constraints" is the biggest single issue cited for not participating in both events. We believe that this issue would appear on a similar survey done by any organization. We see this as a mandate for making an event "competitive" within the priorities each member sets for deciding how he will allocate his available time.

"Fun", "growing my singing skills", "being with my friends" and "good

fellowship" collectively rank highest in the respondents minds as characteristics of the ideal Barbershop event. We believe that each characteristic needs to be present for the event to be successful; that it may not be possible to concentrate on one characteristic at the expense of another.

Promotion and communications of events in a timely and clear manner came through loud and clear as critical ingredients in getting on members' calendars and competing effectively for their precious free time. Absolutely connected to this is the need for chapters to embrace and promote events aggressively and in a positive way if members are to believe the event will be worth committing time and money to.

It was striking to us how completely the respondents embraced quartetting. 91 percent said they sang or sing in a quartet at some level or liked singing with three other guys. We believe that this response is a mandate for chapters and the district to make it possible for and encourage quartet singing to flourish at every opportunity.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve our district in this manner. We hope the Management Team will find success using our work. It would be our pleasure to respond to any questions regarding the survey or our interpretations of it.
Sincerely,

FOR THE BUSH LEAGUE TASK FORCE

Al Bonney, Task Force Chair
Ervin Erickson, President Gaylord Harmonie Meisters
Ralph LeRoy, District Director of Marketing and PR
Roger Lewis, Chairman of Convention

Housing
Matt Tipton, District Director of Music and Performance



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Battle Creek, Mi. 49014 (269) 965-5714
rlewiscmc@aol.com



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/

Gougeon to direct Huron Valley

By Greg Humbel
The Huron Valley Harmonizers have selected **Jeff Gougeon** as Chorus Director. Jeff is a museum curator by profession but Music has always been a huge part of his life.

Jeff is an over-30-year member of the Barbershop Harmony Society. He is a single guy and comes from a family of barbershop singers, including his uncle, who brought in Jeff's dad Jim and Jeff's brothers Ron and Brad. In December 2001, Jeff received his M.A. from Michigan State University in American Studies and



Museum Studies.

Jeff has been assistant director and sound/singing coach for several of Pioneer District's (choruses over the years, including the former **Detroit #1 Chapter's Motor City Chorus**, one of the district's best choruses ever. He is also a founder and former assistant director, music director, and sound/singing coach for another of Pioneer's premier choruses,

Macomb County Chapter's Harmony Heritage Chorus, (now the **Guardians of Harmony**). Several of Jeff's choruses have excelled to their highest contest placement and earned accolades as 'most improved'

chorus.

Jeff sang in his first quartet at the age of 17 and started directing men's choruses at 18. His quartet, **Fermata Nowhere**, will represent Pioneer at the international Barbershop Convention in Indianapolis this coming July. They have also finished in 2nd place four of the last five years—a Pioneer District Record! He was also the original tenor in the 1997 Pioneer District Quartet Champion **The Detroit Sound Company**.

Jeff has always sung tenor and is very proud that his 4 year-old nephew Alexander gravitates to the tenor part when he sings with quartet recordings. Unfortunately this doesn't please Jeff's brother Brad—Alex's father—because Brad sings bass/baritone. Alex calls Jeff 'UNCAS' because he has another Uncle Jeff.

DOCTORS: Holland figures new way to entertain, raise money

Continued from Page 3

opportunity to satisfy their thirst for performance while filling a social need in our communities.

4. A key to the success of this promotion is that all the participating quartets learn the same songs, (in Holland we are using five chorus tunes)... wear the same doctor smocks, share the same doctor bags of items used to 'bring a smile' and use similar performance routines. This allows using a member from one quartet to fill in for a member of another quartet who is not available without missing a chord. This makes performance schedules much easier to maintain.

5. There is no charge for performance, but as our advertising states...tax deductible contributions, made to the Windmill Chapter, are cheerfully accepted.

6. We believe the promotion is financially sound. If the five Holland quartets total 30 performances a month and receive \$10 donations it would average out at \$3,600 a year. \$20 donations would raise \$7,200 a year. The Windmill Chapter's start-up costs including the purchasing of 'lab coats' (a total of 16)... the purchase of plastic flyer holders, the printing of business cards, labels and

flyers, the 'doctors' black bags plus the items

considered if more performances were desired.



Receiving local media attention should be easy as TV, radio and print would enjoy reporting on a project like this.

9. Each chapter could establish a performance schedule that fit the number of performances they could handle. Some quartets could perform once or twice a week or once

needed for the routines and the M&M pills and containers totaled around \$850.

7. We believe this promotion could spread into anniversary and birthday parties if the Chapter decides to go down that road (similar to the Valentines promo only year round)

8. Advertising, we believe, could be as simple as letting the public know this service is available and how to contact us. The "Know Somebody Who Needs Cheering Up?" flyers are self-explanatory and our business cards are easy to take along for future reference. Both provide a phone number where information is available. We will place our flyer and card display units in churches, hospital waiting rooms, doctor offices, hospice, nursing homes etc. High "people traffic" areas could be

every two weeks or once a month. Some quartets could perform more than others. The quartets made up of retired guys could perform daytime jobs as well as evening gigs. Most times when a quartet is out performing they will have multiple jobs to perform in a 'sing and move on' routine. Having a set performance total will allow the Chapter to advertise the fact that performances could be limited and would be handled on a 'first come, first served' basis.

If you have any questions regarding the Doctors of Good Cheer promotion please phone Jack W. Oonk at 616 772 3982 or write to him at 3126 Summer Grove Way, Zeeland MI 49464.

BUSH LEAGUE 2006

REQUEST FOR HOTEL ACCOMODATIONS QUALITY INN – GAYLORD, MI August 18 & 19, 2006

**Please complete this form and send to the Quality Inn – 137 West Street
Gaylord, MI 49735**

OR

**Reserve room by calling (800)732-7540. Inform the reservation clerk that
you are with the “Bush League” barbershop singers group.**

**The cost is \$61.15 per night for a two bed room when reserving two nights,
which includes the local hotel tax.**

The hotel will quote the rate for other required/desired accommodations.

**PLEASE NOTE! The special “Bush League” rate for a two bed room is good
thru July 31, 2006. As of August 1, 2006, regular hotel rates apply.**

**To guarantee your room with a credit card when ordering my mail,
please provide the following information:**

Name on Card _____

Card # _____ Expiration Date _____

Please circle: Visa Master Card Discover

Signature _____

Room to be reserved for: (Please print clearly in pen)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

Room Preference: Smoking _____ Non-Smoking _____



Grosse Pointe hits gold... for fund-raising

Grosse Pointe Chapter raised nearly \$3,000 in a three hour period of Christmas caroling at local pubs in December.

The annual fund-raiser is called the Pub Crawl since nearly every bar and pub in or near Grosse Pointe is visited by one of four chapter teams.

They gave the Holley Ear Institute at St. John's Hospital \$2,000 and the Skillman Foundation matched that with a \$1,500 gift. The chapter gave another \$1,000 to another children's charity helping kids with speech difficulties.

Left: Ardis Gardella, president of the institute, receives the donation from **Grosse Pointe** Presidnet Al Montag (center) and **Grosse Pointe** Charities Chairman Nick Piccione.

Toby Wally

Party of Four

Contact - Toby Shaver
(734) 578-2170
partyof4rocks@yahoo.com

Kevin Mark

Dave and Rick Anderson & Dave and Roger Walker

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Contact Dave (Rick's dad) at (586) 286-4860
or e-mail: PDSing@comcast.net

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Pedigree: Barbershoppers

CONTACT: ROGER LEWIS
(616) 965-5714

Doug (517) 351-9587 Rich (517) 622-5042

The Patch Chords

Music and Mirth

(517) 521-3218 Roger (517) 372-8389 Larry

Just think what might happen if you hired a quartet... and THESE guys showed up!

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All seats reserved... \$17.00

Friday June 2nd & Saturday June 3rd

8:00 PM Sharp!

Come Celebrate # 40



**2006 PIONEER DISTRICT
FALL CONVENTION
OCTOBER 13-15th
Kalamazoo Radisson Hotel
CONVENTION REGISTRATION**



This program was made possible in part with the support of the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural arts.

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 SEPT. 22, 2006

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 _____

MAIL CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM
AND FEE TO:

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

All event passes may be purchased at the convention registration desk located in the Kalamazoo Radisson Hotel. 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

WOODSHED: District's best gather



Continued from page 1.

Entertainment included the Silverdomes, **Singing With Dad, B-Natural**, and the **Big Chief Chorus**, under the direction of **Dick Johnson** and **Fred McFadyen**. After MC McFadyen officially closed the contest, singing continued until the wee hours. Wish you were there? Maybe next year. Mark March 30 on your 2007 calendar.

Gratiot County pig roast celebrating '110 years' is July 29

The Midstatesmen Chorus and Gratiot County Chapter celebrate their 60th Anniversary Saturday, July 29th at Woodland Park in Ithaca, Michigan.

A Pig Roast will be held at 1 p.m. with singing starting at 2 p.m. It will continue through the afternoon.

Chorus activity, guest quartets, audience participation and more will be included.

The local Sweet Adelines (celebrating 50 years) will be joining us.

We call it "Celebrating 110 years of harmony". Everyone is welcome.

--Woody Ely

For more information and details, contact:

derby@cmsinter.net

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REQUEST FOR HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

Pioneer District Association of Chapters

Radisson Plaza Hotel & Suites

KALAMAZOO, MI

October 12-15, 2006

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*	_____
Baymont Inn	\$89.00	\$99.00	N/A	_____
Comfort Inn Downtown	\$89.99	\$89.99	N/A	_____
Super 8	\$54.99	\$54.99	N/A	_____

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

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

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

Name on card: _____

Card #: _____

Please Circle: ϵ ψ ρ ω Expiration Date _____

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.

I would like to receive my acknowledgment via _____ e-mail _____ fax _____ mail

Please list the fax or e-mail you would like your acknowledgment sent to _____

Rates will be guaranteed until September 21, 2006



**C'MON BACK!! WE'RE DOING IT AGAIN
NEW DATE... LONGER CRUISE...
EVEN BETTER THAN LAST YEAR!!**

**The Detroit-Oakland Barbershoppers offer another
BARBERSHOP RIVER CRUISE**

**Join us FRIDAY, JULY 14, 2006,
from 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm
as we Cruise the Detroit River**

Featuring lots of Four-part Harmony

The Detroit Princess leaves her dock across from Cobo Arena garage at 8:00 pm

\$30 Ticket includes hors d'oeuvres and cash bar.

Weather not a problem; boat is both heated and air-conditioned.

**For further details, call Tom Uicker at (248) 559-7082 or
check our web site: <http://www.harmonize.com/doc/doc.htm>**

BUSH LEAGUE 2006

QUARTET REGISTRATION FORM

Gaylord Chapter – Pioneer District Barbershop Harmony Society – Combined Bush League Contest & Quartet Coaching Weekend – 8/18-20/2006 – 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 Friday 8:00PM-10:00PM – Quality Inn - "Mitchell" conf. room
3. Coaching will be at E-Free Church following the Contest and lunch break
4. Hotel Reservations – Use separate Hotel Registration Form.
(Quartets are responsible for Hotel charges)
5. Meals – Quartet members are responsible for all meal costs.
6. Evening "Show of Champions" – Quartet members **performing** on the evening "Show of Champions" do not pay to attend the Show.
7. Afterglow – All Quartets are welcome and encouraged to sing at the Afterglow.

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: Erv Erickson – PO Box 19 – Oden, MI 49764



"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"





WINNERS

Above: Mount Pleasant wins chorus contest



Fermata Nowhere wins and accepts the honor from district officials.

Photos by Joe Serwach

2006 CALENDAR: Upcoming events

May 19-20

Harmony Roundup

May 13

Macomb Chapter Cabaret Show

May 20

Grand Rapids Chapter Show

May 21

Hillsdale Chapter Show

Ladies Night, hosted by Grosse Pointe Chapter

July 2-9

International Convention, Indianapolis

July 14

Detroit-Oakland Riverboat cruise

August 18-19

Bush League Quartet Contest, Gaylord

September 8

Kalamazoo Cabaret Show

September 30

Gratiot County Chapter Show

October 13-15

District Convention, Kalamazoo

October 28

Rochester Chapter Show

November 4

Pontiac-Waterford Chapter Show

November 11

Macomb Annual Show

Chapter Locations

