

# Pioneer Troubadour

Official Publication of the Pioneer District November/December 2006 Volume 57, Number 5

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

## Macomb reaches a higher level: 932

By Joe Serwach

For the past decade, **Macomb** scores reached a predictable range: they'd win the right to represent Pioneer usually with a score in the 800s.

Then along came the young new **Mount Pleasant** chapter, whose spring 2006 score of 917 was 24 points higher than Macomb's fall 2005 score of 893. Would Macomb be toppled?

Not this time. Mount Pleasant scored an impressive 899, six points higher than Macomb's score a year earlier. But Macomb hit a new level with a fun and entertaining

Please see 932, page 7



## Fermata Nowhere '06 District Champs

By Joe Serwach

**Fermata Nowhere** finally won the Pioneer District championship the same night the Detroit Tigers made it into the World Series.

For most of the past decade they'd set a record for second places including a one point loss and a two point loss. This time it wasn't even close.

The Grosse Pointe Chapter quartet won the elusive trophy that had been designed by another Grosse Pointe member with a score of 1,778 or 74.1 percent, a full 132 points more than the next closest quartet.

Please see CHAMPS, page 5

## Kevin Dunkel: Son does father proud

By Brian Dunkel

Last year, the Society introduced a new membership recruitment program for use in 2006, "**The 100% Club.**" In short, the basis of the program was: recruit five new members in 2006 and your Society dues would be free in 2007.

All 16 districts and most chapters soon bought into the program and agreed to match the free dues offer, so an individual who gets those five new Man of Note awards, also gets his 2007 dues totally free. Those who do not achieve all five, will still receive a 20 percent reduction in their dues for each new man they bring in during the year.

What is the purpose you might ask? One; to reward those who take new member recruiting seriously, and reward them for their efforts, two; to encourage our members to recruit new

members.

Sadly, statistics show that only about half of our members have **EVER** received a Man of Note award. Is it any wonder that as a Society we continue to drop in numbers? Just imagine what might happen if we could cut that percentage!

In Pioneer, we have regularly shown **positive growth numbers** for many months per year. Yet we have failed to show a positive growth number for an entire year since 1996. Despite the Society numbers falling substantially, the last two years in Pioneer we have been so close- the December Membership Reports showed us with a loss of three men in 04 and a loss of one member last year, but they were still years we did not show growth!

At the fall Pioneer District Convention we honored an individual who set a goal for

himself, to not only get a Man of Note award this year, but to become a member of the 100% Club.

At the end of August, just 8 months into the year, **Kevin Dunkel** achieved that goal! And in doing so, became only the **FOURTH** man in the Society to become a member of the 100% Club.

As a result of that Kevin will receive his 2007 membership **TOTALLY FREE!**

His seven Man of Note Awards place him in the top 10 percent of all recruiters Society-wide for their lifetime, and he's only a three year member!

But there is more than just member recruiting to this young man. He is a member of two chapters; **Lansing**, his home chapter, and **Mt Pleasant**, where he attends Central Michigan University as a technical theater **Please see KEVIN, page 13.**



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# Al Fisk named to Pioneer Hall of Fame

**By Raleigh Bloch**

The following is the Hall Of Fame presentation that Pioneer District President Raleigh Bloch made Saturday night at the Fall Convention.

In 1974 a group of visionaries established the Pioneer District Hall Of Fame, to honor and give recognition to those men who have made exceptional and long standing, unselfish, dedicated contributions to the Pioneer District.

Tonight we have the pleasure of inducting another person to the Pioneer District Hall Of Fame. This person was unanimously endorsed by his chapter and the Hall Of Fame Selection team. He has been a member of the Pioneer District for 29 years.

Some of his accomplishments at the District level are:  
 Assistant Director of Music Education, Young Men In Harmony Chairman, Standing Ovation Evaluator, District Vice President of Contest and Judging Secretary of the Quartet Champions Association.

At the Chapter level: Bulletin Editor

At the Society Level: Certified Director, Certified Music Judge, Member of the Chorus Director Development Team, Guest Music Judge at the International level in 2004 & 2005.

Quartet Activities:  
 He was the Bass of **The Detroit Sound Company**, 1997 District Quartet Champions.

Chorus Activities:  
 Chorus Director at **Macomb, Oakland, Rochester** and Assistant Director at **Motor City Metro** and Macomb.

Other activities:  
 Judge & Coach at Bush League for 10 years, faculty member for Harmony College North, Coach for Quartets and Choruses in and out of the Pioneer District, he is also a member of the MSU Alumni Marching Band and plays trombone, he

was on the Harmony Round Up faculty for 15 years as a quartet coach, Fundamentals class, Tag Singing Class, So you want to be a Judge Class, etc.

He is a teacher by profession and married to a wonderful gal by the name of **Bonnie**, who helps host the Judges for our District Contests. Buy now most of you know that our new member of the Hall Of Fame is one great guy, **AL FISK!**

If you were not there you missed the fun of watching Al, who was working with the Contest Administrators, right in front of the podium, as this presentation was being made.

He was busy talking with the CA's about getting the scores out and half-listening. Then when it was mentioned that the person being inducted was the bass of Detroit Sound Company, it—finally hit him. Isn't it wonderful to **Please see AL, page 4.**



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# So you want a dues increase? Heck No

By **Raleigh Bloch**

*Pioneer District President*

**What is all this talk about a district dues increase?**

Well, first of all, there isn't going to be one.

**Whew!**

However, we came close to raising the dues in the 2007 budget. You know what saved us?

The district grant from the state came through. We were very concerned, because we

didn't get enough information from the district chapters.

Just think about it, because we didn't have information to make a good case for a grant, we were very close to having to raise our district dues. So this lack of free information could of cost each us some hard earned cash from our pocket.

**So what is this free information that is so important?**

Glad you asked. It is how many people did your chorus and chapter quartets perform for during the year.

**Why is that so important?**

Well, the state wants to make sure that when it spends money for a grant, it benefits as many citizens as possible.

**That certainly makes sense, after all it's our money.**

Right you are, and many organizations, like the various symphonies around the state, do a great job of letting the state know how many people are at their performances. That's one of the reasons they are able to get considerably more money than we do.

**How much more money?**

Actually, if you total it all up it would be in excess of \$100,000.00 more than us.

**You've got to be kidding!**

Let me tell you an even more surprising story. The Barbershoppers in Pioneer District perform for more people than the symphony orchestras.

**Really!**

You bet, but we can't prove it because the Chapters and quartets don't give our grant writer the information. In addition the state wants organizations getting grants to perform for the under-served people in the state.

**Like who?**

Like the elderly, people who can't get to the concert hall because they don't have the funds or they are disabled.

**Hey, we do that all the time. We sing at nursing homes, community festivals, hospitals, assisted living places, etc. Even some of our Singing Valentines are for people that can't get out.**

You're right again. If we could only get that information, we wouldn't have to raise our dues for years, but we've asked the chapters and quartets and get very little

response.

**What do they have to do?**

It's really quite easy. Have the chapter secretary or some one else take a count or reasonable estimate of the audiences at each of your performances.

Record the date and reason for the performance with the number of people attending and report that to **Roger Lewis**, who is our new Director of Financial Development.

Also, get the quartets to report to the secretary the same thing for their performances. A simple form would capture it all. One additional thing would be very helpful.

Encourage and collect letters of appreciation and forward copies of them as well. They are very helpful in applying for the grant. Makes us credible.

**That's it?**

That's it.

**What if they're paid performances?**

Paid or unpaid doesn't make any difference. Actually, the state grantors expect artists to be paid.

**Well I'm going to my chapter and I'm going to kick some butt and get it done. I don't want a dues increase just because we aren't communicating.**

Thanks, now if we can just get the other chapters to do the same.

## New name for Kalamazoo

By **Alexander Boltenko**

With our new CD coming out this November - "The Roads We've Traveled", and the new Chorus Director the time has come to move on and change the name of our chorus from Mall City Barbershop Chorus to the Kalamazoo Barbershop Chorus.

We took the vote yesterday night and that's the result.

Way back in the 50's Kalamazoo was known

- among other things  
- for having built the first pedestrian open-air shopping mall and hence the name came in originally.

The original name - Mall City Chorus did not have the word "barbershop" in it and was easily confused with either Kalamazoo Male Chorus or Kalamazoo Men's Chorus.

## AL: Spartan Fisk joins the Hall of Fame

Continued from page 3.

have guys like Al Fisk in our district that give so much, just so the rest of us can get more enjoyment out of this hobby called barbershop.

All of the Hall Of Fame members present were on stage to congratulate Al, as he was presented his Hall Of Fame Pin and framed award proclamation.

Thank you Al for being such a great guy and give Bonnie a hug for us, for not only being supportive but helping as well. As you would say, "you da man."



# Start Your New Year at COTS Jan. 6

By Jim Kunz

*Pioneer Executive Vice President*

Now that 2006 is nearing an end, many of us are developing plans for 2007.

There's no better way to kick off the New Year than by joining your fellow Pioneer barber-shoppers at our annual COTS session, to be held on January 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.



This year's COTS will have something for everybody.

For those of you who've just been elected

to a new position within your chapter, congratulations! We've got position specific classes aimed at helping you do your job most effectively, including:

**President.**

**Treasurer.**

**Secretary.**

**Music & Performance**

**Marketing & Public Relations**

**Chapter Development (Membership)**

**Chorus Director**

**Youth in Harmony.**

Our Society leaders bring a wealth of experience to these sessions, and provide handouts and other materials that you can use right away.

These sessions also provide a way to collaborate with other leaders in Pioneer, to share ideas and learn from each other. We even get to sing in these sessions once in while too!

I know that many of you chapter leaders will be serving your chapter in the same position you've held in previous year(s). Many of you have also attended COTS in the past and might feel you don't need to attend your position-specific class outlined above.

Even though the COTS faculty is continually revamping and refreshing each of the classes, some of us have enough

experience to be considered as candidates for serving on the COTS faculty!

If you're at all reluctant to attend your position-specific class once again, I'd like to encourage you to come join us and participate in the new Leadership Track.

This new course is designed to help you develop leadership skills – both your own skills as well as those of others within your organization. This session was first introduced last year and received rave reviews.

It can help you identify potential leaders within your group, then allow you and them to function effectively, inspiring others to work together towards common goals. These leadership skills can help you in your personal and professional lives as well!

For those of you who aren't involved in leadership functions, but just want an opportunity for lots of fun singing, we're

happy to say that we're bringing **Bruce Odell** back once again.

Bruce will teach his unique and much acclaimed class for Joe Barbershopper. Bruce improves his class every year and works hard to get everybody involved. You'll sing; you'll laugh; you'll learn. We're lucky to have Bruce back with us once again.

Sign-up forms for chapter registrations and Saturday night rooming requests have been delivered to all Pioneer chapter contacts. Additional information is available on the Pioneer web site as well.

What a way to start the year! Outstanding classes, taught by a great group of guys, in a fun and friendly setting. Pioneer COTS will be held in Okemos, just east of Lansing, starting at 11:00 am on Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup> 2007 and wrapping up late morning on Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>.

I hope to see you there!

## CHAMPS: Fermata Nowhere 2006 winners

**Continued from page 1.**

Second place went to this year's Bush League winner, **Something Big!!**, which scored 1,646 or 68.6 percent.

Third place went to senior quartet winner **Antiques Roadshow**, which scored 1,593 or 66.4 percent.

**Border Crossing** came in fourth with 1,556 or 64.8 percent while **Moxy** followed with 1,530 or 63.8 percent.

Sixth place went to **Singing with Dad**, which scored 1,496 or 62.3 percent. Rounding out the top seven was **Grand River Serenade**, which won 1,338 points or 55.8 percent.

"Just wanted to say THANKS," Fermata Nowhere said in a statement to Troubadour readers. "The members and friends of the Pioneer District are the best. You people have supported us through all our competitions from the very start. We could not have finally attained this goal without your support.

Between 2001 and 2004, Fermata Nowhere finished in second place six times. Three of

the four were members the quartet Resolution, which finished second in 1997 and 1998. The total: eight second place finishes to seven different quartets.

Then things got close: in fall 2004, they lost the district championship by just one point. In fall 2005, they lost by two points.

But just as 2006 proved to be a magic year for the Tigers, it was magic for Fermata Nowhere, which won its first contest in spring 2006, winning 1,770 points or 73.8 percent as they beat three recent district champs who had previously beaten them.

Their spring win against past champs gave them the right to represent Pioneer District at the 2006 International Convention where they finished 39th, winning 2,298 points or 76.6 percent.

This fall's score of 74.1 percent was 2.4 percentage points lower than the summer score but three tenths of a percentage point higher than their spring 2006 score.

And finally, the District trophy, designed by a fellow member of the Grosse Pointe

Chapter decades ago, is there's for a year.

**Party of Four**, which has its own connection to Grosse Pointe and narrowly beat them last fall, proudly handed presented them with the trophy then welcomed them into the District Quartet Champions Association. **Russ Seely**, also a Grosse Pointe member and president of the association, proudly welcomed them into the exclusive club.

His wife, Shirley, who has been coming to these conventions for four decades, called it one of the most emotional contests she could remember.

Fermata Nowhere bass **Pete Burns** pulled out a lengthy list of people to thank and repeated the line that they would win a championship when the Tigers went to the World Series.

At their chapter after glow, fellow Grosse Pointer **Al Cole** quipped that they will win the International championship when the Detroit Lions win the Super Bowl.

Never say never...

# Uncle Sam Night is January 20

## Windsor Report

By Bill Strong

Wow! The chords rang for a long time after our Pioneer Family Reunion at the fall convention in Kalamazoo.

I don't think there were many dry eyes after the QCA sang their number at the end of the evening on Saturday night and our new District Champions were crowned.

How proud we were of all of the Champs and especially **Fermata Nowhere** as they won the District Championship. Windsor has always claimed them as one of their favorite quartets.

They have so many of the qualities of a great champion. Talent, poise and above all the ability to be humble in winning. Windsor gives you so much credit for your perseverance in getting the job done.

Kudos also goes to Windsor's fine quartet **Border Crossing** for their fine showing. Once again you've shown that hard work pays off. And how could we forget our own **Doran McTaggart** for doing his usual stellar job as



MC of the Quartet Finals.

Windsor had, as usual, a well attended Hospitality room and our thanks go out to all the fine Quartets who found time to grace us with a couple of songs.

Some groups had to deal with the "Music Police" but were able to continue in spite of the hassle. We look forward to your continued

visits next year in Traverse City.

We also thank **Bob & Betty Arsenault** and **Gerard & Angela Beneteau** for the fine work they did in setting up our room.

The high light for so many members, especially new members is the camaraderie that takes place after the competitions are over and being able to sing with different people

from different chapters.

This is where the true spirit of Barbershopping comes out. Mark your calendars for Uncle Sam Night on January 20<sup>th</sup>, always a great night. See you all in Traverse City in the spring.

# Gratiot County celebrates 60 years

By Woody Ely

The **Gratiot County Midstatesmen Chorus** celebrated its 60th Anniversary, at Ithaca's Woodland Park.

As part of the festivities, the Ithaca Masonic Lodge hosted a hog roast for the public and participants.

The extended afternoon program included the "Heart of Michigan" Sweet Adeline Chorus directed by **Sue Heimberger**. This chorus is celebrating its 51st anniversary this year.

Also participating in the program was a recently formed, and this year's Pioneer District Champion Chorus, the **Mountain Town Chorus** under the direction

of **Dr. Dave Gillingham**.

The Midstatesmen Chorus directed by **Jan Northup** rounded out the individual chorus presentations.

Interspersed throughout the afternoon event were several quartets, including **Choral Appeal** and **High Maintenance** (both women quartets), **Suitable Union** (versions I, II, and III), **Gray Matters** (versions I and II), and Ithaca's own **Blue Ribbon Coalition**.

Also included in the program was an impressive presentation of the 60 year old Midstatesmen chapter's history by **Lowell Boyer**, 59-year-member and leading bass singer.

One of the bits of history provided by

Lowell, was the fact that the very first Pioneer District Contest was held at Alma's Wright Park.

The impressive program's finale consisted of nearly 100 barbershoppers singing the Society's arrangement of Lee Greenwood's "God Bless the USA" as well as "God Bless America" directed by Dr. Gillingham.

The large audience of barbershop devotees obviously enjoyed the afternoon program in the beautiful setting of Ithaca's Woodland Park amphitheater.

Frank Fortier (Lead) Tom Smeltzer (Bass)  
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# Where does all the money go?

By Al Bonney

We all ask this question a lot these days, I guess. At home, there is rarely enough money to do all the things the family wants to do. At work, somebody always wants to cut costs or increase sales because there isn't enough profit.



One would hope that in our barbershop lives we could be free of these questions and just enjoy singing.

Here's the deal – you know this but indulge me for a minute . . . Running the district costs money and the dues cover only about 57 percent of the total cost. We make up the rest from conventions, and grants. Indeed – for 2007, with a \$10,500 grant – we have a balanced budget. Nothing to worry about, right?

Sorry, it is not that easy. What if we don't get the grant next year? Well, there are several answers to what we might do. Consider these:

**We could just charge participants more to go to the various schools** we run and we could break even. That would be OK, wouldn't it?

**We could raise the dues by \$10** and that would make up for the shortfall and we could do all the programs we had planned to benefit the chapters. (Note that our district dues are among the lowest in the Society today and that we have not had a dues increase for several years.)

**We could raise the convention registration fees by about \$12** and that would make up for the shortfall too. (Our convention registrations are also among the lowest in the society today and we have not taken an increase for several years here either.)

**To many of us (me included) none**

**of these is a good choice.** I have better suggestions:

What if we could significantly increase the likelihood that we could get a grant every year? That would be good, wouldn't it?

What if, instead of a dues or convention registration increase, we could make a tax-deductible contribution instead? I would like that better, wouldn't you?

**Both these solutions are available to us** – if we decide that we want them to happen.

**We have the most grantable arts story in the State!**

Our 27 chapters sing for a larger total audience than any musical organization in Michigan – without exception.

Further, we sing for more underserved, disadvantaged and other deserving citizens that the State of Michigan wants to target also.

We add more value to the artistic and cultural fabric of the communities in Michigan than any other organization in the state through our work in the schools, nursing homes, community events and collaboration with other community organizations. You know what the problem is, we can't prove it!

If we had information from every chapter about all the wonderful things they do and how many people they do it for and evidence of how much our communities loved what we do getting a grant would be a piece of cake. Nobody in the state could touch our story. We just can't seem to get every chapter to simply tell us what they are doing.

**Contributions to Harmony Foundation are tax deductible** AND support the Society's work to provide quite a number of extra services to our chapters and youth such as:

Harmony Explosion Camps

College Quartet Tour and Competition Director's College and Quartet College Scholarships Arrangers' Scholarships American Treasurers Documentary Film

Harmony Foundation provided over \$250,000 to these and other programs in 2005 and that number will go up to \$350,000 in 2006. These are programs that would never happen without Harmony Foundation because the Society can't do this stuff out of the dues and convention income they have to work with either. See, we are all in the same boat: raise the dues to do what we want or find other ways to pay for it.

**Your tax-deductible contribution to the Ambassadors of Song for as little as \$5 per month** can solve the problem. Here's how: (Now here is the magic part.)

If 75 percent of the district made this contribution to Harmony Foundation that would be \$56,000 towards these great programs.

If everyone participating chose the DONOR'S CHOICE option with Harmony Foundation they could designate up to 30 percent of their \$60 to come back to the district (or their chapter) which would mean almost \$17,000 would be available to the district through tax deductible contributions. Neat huh?

Like everything else in the world we have choices to make, but just don't let anyone tell you that the only choice is to raise the dues, because I am here to tell you that, this year, that ain't true!! YOU get to choose - I hope you join me in choosing to do it the easy way – raising dues and or registrations just ain't no fun.

## 932: Macomb reaches a new level

Continued from page 1

set and Christmas-related attire. They hit a new high with a score of 932 points or 77.7 percent with 54 men on stage.

**Mount Pleasant** was close behind with 899 points or 74.9 percent and 41 men on stage.

Third place went to **Detroit-Oakland**, which scored 828 points or 69 percent with 48 men on stage.

Fourth place went to **Lansing**, which scored 815 points or 67.9 percent with 44 men on stage.

**Grand Rapids** rounded out the top five with 792 points or 66 percent with 25 men on stage.

**Hillsdale** scored 776 or 64.7 percent followed by **Traverse City** with 748 points or 62.3 percent while Holland finished in eighth with 692 points or 57.7 percent.

The remaining competitors were **Michigan Metro, Grosse Pointe, Battle Creek, Windsor and Kalamazoo.**

While Macomb will go to International, Hillsdale was voted most improved chorus. Grand Rapids was Plateau 2 champ and Holland was the Plateau 3 winner.

## Bush League 2006– a story of success!

By **Erv Erickson**

*Gaylord Harmonie Meisters*

As many of you know, **Bush League 2005** was nearly a disaster, right to the point of being cancelled for lack of response by District Quartets.

Thanks to an innovative idea by Pioneer Past President **Al Bonney**, the program was salvaged. The potential loss of Bush League bothered District President **Raleigh Bloch**.

This concern led him to convene the **Bush League Task Force** to determine why interest in this event had waned. Members of this Task Force were Raleigh Bloch, **Roger Lewis**, **Matt Tipton**, **Jim Kunz**, **Ralph LeRoy** and **Erv Erickson**, Chaired by **Al Bonney**.

The Task Force had several telephone conferences out of which came a Questionnaire that was introduced at COTS in January and later on to each chapter for input.

Data from this survey was sorted and massaged by the Task Force's computer gurus **Matt Tipton**, **Jim Kunz** and **Ralph LeRoy**.

Results of the survey assisted the Gaylord Chapter in planning and promoting Bush League 2006. Additional support and promotion by the Pioneer District Officers also had a direct impact on this year's success.

Bush League 2006 kicked off on Friday evening with the Master's Class conducted by **After Intermission**, a quartet from southern Michigan and the Chicago area. This quartet also served as coaches on Saturday afternoon



following the morning contest.

Also serving as coaches was the Judging Panel of **Al Fisk** – Music, **Mine O'Donnell** – Presentation and **Ken Fisher** – Singing. **Ron Eubank** served as Contest Administrator.



Eight quartets participated at Bush League 2006. **Something Big** from the Lansing area won the contest and traveling trophy.

Last year's winner, **Border Crossing**,

presented the trophy to them. **Something Big**, along with second place quartet **Sharp Attack** and third place quartet **Four Wheel Drive** were invited to sing on the evening "Magic of Music" show.

The remaining Quartets, all claiming 4<sup>th</sup> place, were **Bath City Boyz**, **Generation Gap**, **Havin' A Blast**, **Lighthouse Harbormasters** and **WQIT**.

Our feedback from participating quartets, judges and coaches has been very positive.

Most are looking forward to Bush League 2007. It is not too early to attach a sticky note to the back of your brain to nag you about becoming a participant next year. There is no question that the more quartets involved, the more fun for everyone.

Think Bush League 2007!

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# Here's to the winners



Most photos courtesy of  
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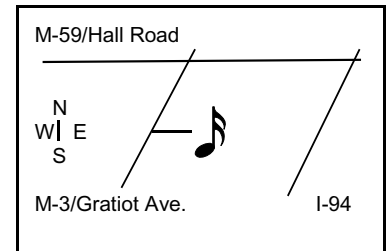
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# QCA Profile: Patch Chords entertain with comedy

Michigan's well-known singing sensations, the **Patch Chords**, have been sweeping the Midwest during the past 32 years with a crowd-pleasing combination of melodic harmony and mirthful comedy.

A fun-loving, fast-moving quartet, the Patch Chords entertain audiences of all ages with a performance package that includes rib-tickling antics mixed with show tunes, upbeat contemporary numbers and old-time nostalgic favorites.

Throughout their years, the Patch Chords have logged more than 900 performances, taking them throughout Michigan and into Canada, Illinois, Massachusetts, Wisconsin and Indiana. Their credentials include:

- \* Headline entertainment for local and state conferences and conventions
- \* Television and radio guest spots
- \* Shows for technical, professional and social organizations
- \* Entertainment during special promotions
- \* Shows for civic festivals



\* Headliners on numerous Barbershop shows

The Patch Chords were winners of the 2006 District Senior Quartet Contest and the statewide Boyne City Quartet Contest.

**Contact: Doug Pearson**  
 (R - (517) 351-9587;  
 B - (517) 203-4204)  
**Rich Harlow (R - (517)622-5042; B - (517) 335-3466)**



Pioneer  
**Troubadour**



**2007 PIONEER DISTRICT  
SPRING CONVENTION  
April 13-15th  
Grand Traverse Resort  
Traverse City, MI  
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)\*\*\*

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\*\*SPOUSE/GUEST NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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\*\*COMPETING CHORUS?  YES  NO CHORUS NAME \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*CHAPTER NAME \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*VOICE PART:  TENOR  LEAD  BARITONE  BASS

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All event passes may be purchased at the convention registration desk located in the Grand Traverse Resort. 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. \_\_\_\_\_

**KEVIN:**

Dunkel earns seven Man of Note awards: fourth in society to enter new 100% Club

**Continued from Page 1**

major.  
He regularly and faithfully drives home to Lansing from school, to prepare for contests and their annual show with the **Capitol City Chordsmen**.

In Mt Pleasant's **Mountain Town Singers**, Kevin was recently elected to serve the chapter as Music and Performance vice president.

Dr. **David Gillingham** says, "Kevin is a terrific ambassador for barbershop. We are thrilled to have him in the MTS." Kevin also sang baritone in the quartet, **Harmonious Shenanigans** (with two members he brought into the Society) at last spring's College Quartet Contest.

This past summer Kevin spent the summer in Big Rapids working with Stage M, a community theater group that has entertained Mecosta County for 25 years, as the Assistant

Director and playing a couple of small roles in their production of the **Wizard of Oz**.

Just a week and a half before the show was to open, the actor playing the Cowardly Lion was forced to drop out for medical reasons. Kevin stepped into the role and in only a matter of days learned the complete role and was terrific!

Kevin doesn't have to be our only member in this club. Most of us wouldn't be barbershoppers if it weren't for someone, and in most cases a someone who had recruited less than five members, that asked us to come sing with them.

There is still time left for you to recruit new members, and at the same time earn a reduction in your dues in 2007.

Think how much you enjoy this hobby- can't you think of someone you'd like to share it with? What have you got to lose? Better yet, think what we all have to gain? It's a simple choice, that really leaves no other alternative.




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**REQUEST FOR HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS**  
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 April 13-15, 2007

Please fill out this form and mail to the Traverse City Convention and Visitors Bureau at 101 W. Grandview Parkway, Traverse City, MI 49684-2252, or fax 231-947-2621, attention John Jessup.

One form for EACH room must be submitted.

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<u>Grand Traverse Resort(Headquarters Hotel)</u>			
Regular Guestroom	\$79	\$79	_____
Tower Guestroom	\$99	\$99	_____
Holiday Inn Express ( 2 queens)	\$69.95	\$69.95	_____
Sleep Inn and Suites ( 2 queens or 1 king)	\$62.99	\$62.99	_____

\*\*Room Rates do not reflect 8% state and local taxes.

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Date of Departure: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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# Sing while you work?

Just do your best and take a rest and sing yourself a song." You might recognize that line from the Disney song, "Whistle While You Work" from Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs."

Now some London businessmen are actually heeding the advice from the popular Disney movie and are using singing as a way to relax at the end of a stressful day.

Stressed-out London stockbrokers have been singing their cares away with professionally trained singer Karin Hochapfel, who teaches

singing classes for workers in the city's Canary Wharf financial district. Those who find it difficult to switch gears and chill out at the end of the day learn to de-stress by mixing yoga, breathing exercises, and a relaxation method known as the Alexander Technique with song.

Hochapfel says the singing lessons, along with the accompanying physical and mental exercises, alleviate stress and reinvigorate the whole body, teaching the uptight to loosen up. Various exercises used by singers

to warm up before performances can also be useful to those whose jobs or life experiences leave them tense and unable to unwind.

(My addition;) Ms. Hochapfel should expand their horizons and teach them some good old barbershop songs. What better way to de-stress!

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*An official publication of the Pioneer District Association of Chapters of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America, Inc.*

# "Journey"

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Baritone - Mike Ridenour

Lead - David Dolph  
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## CALENDAR:

### Upcoming events

**December 7**

Grosse Pointe Christmas Show

**January 6-7, 2007**

COTS

**February 23-24, 2007**

Detroit-Oakland Chapter Show

**MARCH 7**

NORTH MONROE

**March 10, 2007**

Lansing Chapter Show

**April 13-15, 2007**

District Convention, Traverse City

**May 12**

Kalamazoo Chapter show

**May 19-20**

Hillsdale Chapter show

**June 30**

Combined show with Alpena Chapter, Gaylord Chapter and Cheboygan Arts Council

**July 1-8**

International Convention, Denver

## Chapter Locations

