

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

# American Top

## Rancilio Wins 4th Bulletin Contest

For the 4th year in a row, Robert Rancilio has won first place in the Pioneer **District Bulletin Editor of** the Year contest.

Bob is editor of the **Grosse Pointe Chapter's** Pitch-Pipe. His wife, Dot, is associate editor of the Pitch-Pipe. The honor is for bulletins produced in 2005. Awards were given April 28 at the district convention in Kalamazoo.

Second place went to Art Chapter's Windmill Blade. In third place was John Cowlishaw, editor of the **Pontiac/Waterford Smoke** Signals.

The contest is conducted by PROBE, the Society's association for Public Relations Officers and Bulletin Editors. Judging is by experienced PROBE journalists throughout the Society.

The two top bulletins in each district are eligible to compete in the International Bulletin Contest, whose winners will be announced at the International convention in Indianapolis in July.

Congratulations to Bob





Taking the stage (Above) Fermata Nowhere during their first International scored their best score ever for a 39th place finish. (Left) Jack Slamka leads Macomb to a 27th place finish in the chorus contest, winning their highest score. Photos by Dan Proctor

#### **By Joe Serwach**

For the first time in three years, a Pioneer District quartet is among the 40 highest ranked barbershop quartets in America and the world.

Fermata Nowhere, in its first trip to international, finished 39th scoring 2,298 points or 76.6 percent among 47 competitors. That's the best the district has done since Power Play won the Gold in 2003 after years of competing.

The first time Power Play went to International competition in 1990, Power Play also came in 39<sup>th</sup>, the start of a long climb to the very top in 2003.

Fermata Nowhere's score was their highest ever smashing their spring score of 1,770 points or 73.8 percent. That win followed six second places during Pioneer competitions between 2001 and 2005. Three of the four were previously in Resolution, which finished second in 1997 and 1998 contests

Please see Top 40, page 3.

## Lane, who writes the Holland Macomb gets another gold medalist director

#### **By Matthew Tipton**

To all of our fans, friends and family in the Pioneer District, the Guardians of Harmony would like to offer a heartfelt "thank you" and convey how much we really appreciate your support and encouragement.

We truly could not do what we do year in and year out without you!

This contest was a particularly exciting one for the Guardians. Having changed our name as well as our paradigm earlier this year, we were anxious to show our wares in competition. The result was that our score was the highest we have posted in our 20 year history.

We are thrilled by validation

from the judging community on what we know to be a long and exhilarating journey. This is but one step towards our ultimate goal. Our next step, however, is imminent.

Starting August 3, the Guardians of Harmony welcomed a new, world-class director. That's right.

The Guardians would like to announce the arrival of Michael **Slamka** to the director's circle. Mike has coached the Guardians this year with significant success. It only made sense that he should be a full-time director for the chorus.

Not to fear, the current director, Jack Slamka, is not going anywhere. The Guardians are going to be the first chorus from Pioneer,

perhaps the Society, to have two gold medal directors at once! The commitment this represents - from both the chorus and the musical leadership - is highly significant.

The chorus and the district have a wealth of talent in these two men and the Guardians feel confident that the improvement this additional director will bring will be significant.

Thank you once again for your support. We are proud to represent the Pioneer District and look forward to sharing our international experience and our musical growth with all of you the next time we meet.



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## **OP 40:** Fermata Nowhere shines in Indy

#### Continued from page 1

"Even though I had competed 21 years ago (Saturday Night Feature, St Louis 1984) I felt like a rookie," said Fermata Nowhere bass Pete Burns. "You have a tendency to forget how big the arena is, and how bright the lights are.

The quartet met at 9 a.m. on Wednesday morning to warm up. We had not sung through (by choice) our set since the send-off show

"When we got to the arena the first quartet we saw was Power Play. Then it was time to go into our warm up room. Jack Slamka came with us and got us pumped up. The arena was so loud that we didn't hear our introduction so we walked on stage about 3 seconds later than we should."

As Fermata Nowere took its first bow, Burns recalled "I saw Russ and Shirley Seely, Al Cole, John Seeman and all of our wives sitting in the third row. It felt like I was back at Pioneer singing at an afterglow. I felt we really nailed the set and when we looked at the scores and saw that we had never scored higher just heightened the International



experience. Can't wait to do it all over again in Denver."

Pete's wife, Sally, was thrilled, thanking Seely and Seaman for securing her third row seats

"I never get to sit in the third row at District's let alone International!" she said. "It was such a thrill and to my surprise, I was not even nervous! I knew they had nothing to lose and everything to gain. Very different from the past five years in Pioneer. I knew

they weren't going to win or come in second!

"It was a bit scary however, when they announced their name and they didn't come on stage for a few seconds. Those were the *long* few seconds when I thought, "OH NO! What happened?" Then Jeff, Pete, TC and Steve hit the stage and I relaxed and enjoyed their wonderful performance. It was great to have so many Pioneer friends with us in Indy. The Guardians of Harmony welcomed us with open arms.

We were so proud of their performance and also Insignia's performance. By the end of the week, we were hoarse from cheering."

Macomb finished 27<sup>th</sup> in the chorus contest, besting three other choruses by scoring 2,285 points or 76.2 percent with 48 men on stage. In the college quartet contest, Insignia placed 17th out of 21 quartets, scoring 771 points or 64.2 percent.





# **Barbershop friends**

By Raleigh Bloch

Pioneer District President

I have to tell you of an experience I had while attending the AHSOW Room at our Indianapolis Convention in July.

**Tom Palamone**, lead from the 1948 International Champion **Pittsburgers** who loves to woodshed, came into the room. Also, there was **Buzz Hager** tenor from the 1965 International Champion **Four Renegades**, another avid woodshedder, and **Patrick** 



McAlexander, a 12-year-old five year member and three part qualified AHSOW singer. And me.

It was a joy to see **Tom Palamone,** who is 90-years-old and Patrick enjoying each other

along with Buzz and myself. Age was not an issue and neither was anything else. We just wanted to make harmony and we did.

That got me to thinking about all the friends I have and realized that the majority of them are barbershoppers.

I'm sure, if you stop and think about your friends, you'll find that many are barbershoppers as well.

Another thing that you will find is that

these friends are pretty nice people. They come from all walks of life; some are young, some old.

We don't care what they do or did for a living, whether they are fat, thin, bald, tall, short, what kind of car they drive or what have you. They're just good people and barbershop friends that we enjoy singing with. That's our common bond, barbershop harmony. The above is an example of that bond.

Involvement in the various aspects of barbershop leads us to meet and know even more great guys. Whether it was coaching, getting coached, being on the district board, society board, holding a chapter office, being in a quartet, a section leader, attending a school, attending conventions, events, etc.

All these things allowed me to get to know more barbershoppers and know them even better. When I go

to chapter, District or Society wide events, I know barbershoppers from all over the world

and you know what? Just about every one of them is a pleasure to know and would do anything for you.

As many of you know, I've lived from one end of the country to the other and quite a few places in between. Each time I moved, I immediately went to the local barbershop chapter and it was like being at home. There were great guys to know and instant friends to sing with.



Raleigh (left) with Antiques Roadhow at Harmony University this summer.

So where s this all leading to? Well, I'm here to encourage you to get more involved and you'll find it brings you even more friends and nore fun. When some one taps you to get more involved at the

chapter, district or Society level, say "yes I'm willing to help."

## Dave Woolf picked as new Mall City director

#### By Alexander Boltenko

Our talented young director from 2003, **Chris Fenner**, has left for Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville on June 30 to continue his education and to get the Master of Arts in Worship degree.

The Chorus has selected **Dave Woolf**, a local music teacher and a former barbershopper, as our new Chorus Director officially since July 1.

Dave attended Directors University with other directors from the District.

Dave Woolf hails from Allegan, where he fell in love with barbershop harmony listening to a faculty quartet from Allegan High School, and listening to "Barbershop Showcase" on WKZO.

He started his own quartet in the freshmen dorm at Grand Rapids Baptist College (now Cornerstone University.

**The Boiler Room Four** toured the Midwest, bringing both barbershop and gospel to churches and other groups in the summer of 1982.

He received a BS in Education from Calvin College and a BA from Cornerstone

#### University.

After teaching music in Arkansas for two years, he began graduate studies at WMU while also singing baritone in the Mall City Chorus and with the chapter quartet, **The Keynote Address**.

After teaching music in Ohio for two years, Dave returned to Michigan to complete his MA in Teaching at Western Michigan University and to teach at the Walkerville Rural Communities Schools.

Dave and his family moved to Kalamazoo in 1999. He is currently teaching vocal music for the Gull Lake Community Schools.

While not ringing chords, Dave performs with the Kalamazoo Pipe Band and sings bass in the Richland Bible Church gospel quartet.

Dave and his wife, Melody, have three beautiful children, Sonnet, 12; Jonathan, 11; and Mark, 8.



# **QCA Profile: Denny Gore**

## Dennis Gore's – Barbershop Quartet and personal history

Many of us know and love **Denny Gore** and appreciate his accomplishments. Here's a rundown on his background.

Became interested in the Barbershop sound by listening to his dad's 1949 Champs record album. Sang in a Barbershop quartet in high school – 1958 - 1961 (**The Wellingtons**) mostly around Flint.

Appeared on TV (in Flint and Detroit), radio and in radio commercials in Flint. Quartet was a winner on "Milky's Movie Party" talent competition.

Graduated from Ferris State College (1967) B.Sc. and A.A.S degrees Joined the society in 1968 in Flint. Moved to Detroit to work for Chrysler and to

#### sing with the Vagabonds.

Vagabonds Quartet

1969 Pioneer District Champions. International Semi-finalist 1971 (17<sup>th</sup>). International Finalists 1972 (9<sup>th</sup>), 1973(7<sup>th</sup>), 1974(6<sup>th</sup>), 1978 (6<sup>th</sup>). International Top Five 1975 (5<sup>th</sup>), 1976 (2<sup>nd</sup>), 1977 (3<sup>rd</sup>).

Center Stage Quartet

1980 Pioneer District Champions International Top Five 1981 (4<sup>th</sup>), 1982 (2<sup>nd</sup>), 1983 (2<sup>nd</sup>), 1984 (2<sup>nd</sup>).

Legacy Quartet 1988 Pioneer District Champions Stav Tuned Ouartet

1991 Pioneer District Champions

**Stay Tuned** appeared as the quartet in the Michigan Opera Theater production of the Music Man at the Fisher theater.

#### **Marquis – 1995 International Champions** Filled in for lead **Randy Chisholm** Sang with the quartet for 3 ½ years

<u>Voted in as a Permanent Associate Member</u> of the AIC **Choruses** Oakland County Chorus



International 1970 --- 15<sup>th</sup> International 1971) City Lights Chorus (International 1998) Macomb County Harmony Heritage chorus

Show Writing

and Producing Wrote and produced four chapter shows "A Dickens of a Christmas" "Johnny came marching home" (also Show Chairman) "Hello Mary Lou" "America's Songs" Wrote and produced Harmony College Show of 1994 "Great Day for the Irish" Re- wrote and produced the 2003 Macomb County Show (Remember Radio) 2001: Retired from Chrysler after 32 years. **Antiques Roadshow Quartet** 2002 Pioneer District Senior Champions and International Rep. 2003 11th place – Senior Int'l. 2004 3rd place Senior Medallist 2005 3rd place Senior Medallist 2006 Senior "top 10" Member of Society Member Services Committee – 2002 **Public Relations Chairman for Pioneer District Quartet Champions Association** 2001 - 2003. Member of Sage Lake Roundup - 2002 **Contact man for Power Play quartet 2002** - 2005 Webmaster, Power Play quartet

(www.powerplayquartet.com)

#### Macomb County chorus (<u>www.harmonyher</u> itagechorus.net)

#### Pioneer District Quartet Champions Association (<u>www.pioneerqca.org</u>)

Occupation: Computer Systems Analyst / Team Leader / Manager for Chrysler Corporation (32 years) – Now retired. Married - Wife, Jan - successful manufacturer's rep selling gifts and accessories to retailers. Children - Chris, Amy, Melissa

Son Chris is married with a daughter and son and is recognized as an important independent film reviewer and promoter in Hollywood. His website <u>www.filmthreat.com</u> is a resource for all independent filmmakers and others in the entertainment industry. Chris has had his own TV shows and currently is the host of a series on the STARZ network showcasing film festivals.

He has written three books and was designated as one of the 50 most interesting people in Los Angeles by Los Angeles Magazine.

Daughter Amy is married and has three daughters. She is kept very busy with her children and hopes to return to performing some day. In the past she has performed in musical comedies (including Marion in the Music Man) - singing and dancing - in the Detroit area after a receiving a BA degree from Oakland University where she participated in many plays / musicals and with an excellent performing college choir.

Daughter Melissa is also an accomplished singer at age 23 and wants to be a performer also. She is currently working in a group home with mentally challenged adults.



## Troubadour Antiques Roadshow picks new lead

Antiques Roadshow attended Harmony University July 30 through August 5 with our new lead, Doug Lynn.

All our coaches (Ev Nau -Performance, Hank Hammer - Singing, Gary Plaag -Presentation and Jim Kahlke - Music), were impressed with the sounds that were being generated.

Doug is a quick learner and we were able to perform a show package for the coaches. His background in community theater musicals is serving him and the quartet well.

The coaching was outstanding. Each quartet was assigned four coaches for the week. At the end of each day, the coaches would get together and discuss each quartet's accomplishments and the next day's plan.

Opportunities observed by one coach that were not in his area of expertise were handed off to one of the other coaches that could help. As an example, Hank Hammer was uncomfortable with a chord in one of our arrangements, even though it was being sung correctly. Jim Kahlke jumped in and made the changes to make it better.

The coaches were careful not to just tell us "what to do," but helped us to discover how to analyze what we were doing, and understand how to institute changes to make it better. This will help us improve in the future.

Friday night, the 13 quartets attending Harmony University for coaching were part of the show for the entire 600-plus students and faculty. Antiques Roadshow performed part of their "Music Man" package and it was a hit. Many students and faculty were very complimentary. The costume change, marching, etc. during the song, was met with enthusiastic applause. Between now and the fall contest, we plan to become more proficient with these and other songs by using them on our upcoming shows.

A solid week of coaching and singing for other classes at HU's Quartet College was certainly taxing, but we all agreed that we are definitely a better quartet as a result of the experience.

Doug, who organized COTS for Pioneer for four years, lives in Grand Blanc with his wife Laura and his two children, Becky and John. Doug's background is primarily as a soloist, performing in many civic theater productions, often as the lead in musicals.

He joined the Society in 1999, where he discovered the joy of quartet singing. His home chapter is the **Flint Chapter**, and he became a dual member in the **Macomb County Guardians of Harmony** in the fall of 2003.

## Historian's Corner: Convention

#### By Mike Drouillard

What a pleasure it was to read the blend of district history and the personal memoirs of **Russ Seely** accompanied with photos which enhanced the appreciation of the article!

Hopefully others with a mother lode of pics and descriptions of chapter (s) historical moments will follow the Russ Seely example. I know that Russ has more to come.

At the last convention, I observed the amazing clockwork procedures as the event unfolded. A convention just does not happen in a happy go lucky fashion. Decades of experiences have fine-tuned the operation of a convention.

Over the years, the fixing of the spring and fall convention dates, the method for selecting the location, have developed. Location

depends on facilities capable of handling the number of barbershoppers attending and the willingness of a chapter(s) to handle the physical movements of choruses and quartets.

The convention planning book has all the deadlines for all the many details which have to be met. This if all fine and good but putting into action these details is where the hard work is important. Although flexible, there are 14 areas of activity which are manned.

Some more important than others but all are contributing to a successful convention. Some positions have a district board member and a host chapter member for liaison purposes. The program booklet that we get when we register has all the positions listed as well as the barbershoppers who manned them. Check this out the next time you are at a convention.

I don't know when the BHS began the sending a representative to our district conventions. This is a great way for the Society board to maintain a feel for the grassroots.

The smoothness by which a convention unfolds is a testimony to the abilities of those in charge and to the sponsoring chapter members who carry out the duties assigned.

No matter how well planned the convention is, the implementation and coping with unforeseen events, is where the real work occurs guaranteeing a smooth operating convention.

To all convention planners, sponsoring chapters, past and future, kudos for magnificent achievements.

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





Also presenting our new "altar Ego", we now have a "show" of gospel and inspirational songs to uplift your church's service or other function. It's all in our new CD, "Fishers of Men."

For more information, please visit our web site, www.4mftc.com or call Kurtis at (231)599- 2414. Mark at (989) 833-2466, Tracy at (231) 348-1173 or Neil at (231) 882-4835.

## Pontiac has busy summer of sing-outs

## Pontiac-Waterford

#### By John Cowlishaw

The **Big Chief Chorus** performed for the Orion Township Parks summer concert series Tuesday night, June 20. A relaxed audience of over 300 sat on lawn chairs in perfect weather and enjoyed the performance.

The 90-minute show included 16 songs by the chorus and 13 songs by its "embedded" quartets and ensemble.

Under **Dick Johnson's** direction, the chorus sang with pitch and gusto, aided by a superb turnout of 46 men.

Fred McFadyen directed us in our "Doo Wop repertoire."

**Celebration**, with Dick subbing for ailing **Bill Dabbs**, sounded solid.

The ensemble, renamed **On the Reservation**, was led by **Bill Holmes**.

**Four Wheel Drive** stepped up to sing six songs.

Jeff Doig was everywhere, setting up the sound system (with help from Howard Lynn), emceeing the show, and remembering the lead line for 22 songs! Art Ripley and Roger Holm hauled



risers. Chorus Manager Art Carinci corralled the men as needed. Dick brought fall show flyers that were swept up by the audience after our performance.

The chorus also sang at the GM Assembly Plant

in Orion Township; the plant periodically stops its lines for a little refreshment and entertainment.

Our quartets and ensemble have been

r so

active in other venues. **B Natural** was part of the entertainment hired by IKEA for their grand store opening in Livonia, June 7.

**Four Wheel Drive** sang June 8 for Smith Barney's "Carnival in the Park," at the University of Michigan Matthaei Botanical Gardens.

And the combined efforts of **B-Natural**, **Celebration**, **Off The Reservation**, **Harmonic Progression**, and **Four Wheel Drive** 

have led to performances for hundreds of students in the Waterford area as part of the Youth in Harmony program.

The Big Chief Chorus also sang the National Anthem at the Detroit Tigers game against the Minnesota Twins, Tuesday, August 8. We sang at exactly 6:57 p.m., but you

probably had to be there live to hear it!

## Windsor starts Youth in Harmony program

#### **By Bill Strong**

The contest is over, our annual show is over and now is the time to regroup for the rest of the year.

Lots of sing outs for our chorus and quartets and maybe a little time to relax and have some fun without having to worry about deadlines. With that in mind we know how quickly the fall convention can be upon us.

Don't let up guys.

Regarding our Annual show, we were treated to a group of singers from our Youth in Harmony Program.

They participated on stage and did themselves real proud. Thanks to **Ron Gibb** and his crew for bringing these young folks along.

This time of year for some of us in the **Windsor Chapter** is a time when we remember one of our long lost members who passed away just about nine years ago.

Some of you may remember our good friend **Paul Eberwein**. Just about one of the sweetest basses one could ever hear. Paul had his own Barbershop Radio show "Down Harmony Lane."

He sang in many quartets, directed our chorus and served in many capacities with in our chapter.

He is still much missed by those of us who are a little longer in the tooth.

Congratulations to all the Pioneer "Winners" who participated in Indianapolis.

We are so proud of you guys.



In closing just a reminder that Windsor still meets every Monday night at Roseland Golf and Curling Club at 7:30 PM and "You're as welcome as the flowers in May". Come out and join us for some good old

Windsor Hospitality. See you in the "Zoo"

	Troubad	our		
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## Help insure our future through Harmony Foundation

#### **By Al Bonney**

Harmony Foundation designs its fundraising programs to support the Society at every level. This principle led to creation of the Donor Choice feature in July 2005. The feedback has been very positive, and people view this feature as "the tide that raises all the boats."

#### Here's How It Works

Individuals make a gift to the Foundation general fund through the President's Council or Ambassadors of Song and designate up to 30 percent of their contribution to go back to their chapter or district or both.

In 2005, more than \$12,000 was returned to chapters and districts.

As the program gathers momentum in 2006, that figure is anticipated to exceed \$135,000!!!

Here are a few operating policies regarding Donor Choice:

• The Foundation holds the amount

designated for each district or chapter in an account for that district or chapter and sends a check in January and July for the amount received from the previous six months.

• Checks will be issued only if the account balance is \$50 or greater. If there is less than \$50 in the account balance, the account will be held until the balance builds up to that amount.

· Chapters and Districts are allowed to use this money to further the causes they choose. • Harmony Foundation includes with the check a list of the individuals who contributed to the Foundation and have chosen the Donor Choice option. They do not give out the amounts these donors gave.

Imagine if every man in the Pioneer District gave and average of \$5 per month next year. How much would that be? 1300 x \$5.00 x 12 = \$78,000 x 30 percent = \$23,400 returned to support programs in our chapters and in the district!!

Imagine what your chapter or the District

could do with the 30 percent share.

Why not include Harmony Foundation in your family annual giving plans this year, support the outreach programs that are of interest to you and to the Society like: Youth Harmony Camps (and this year the Harmony Happening in March specifically). Youth Music Festivals.

Collegiate Quartet Scholarships awarded as Prizes in the MBNA College Quartet Contest at International each year. **Quartet Scholarships to Harmony** University.

Harmony University Scholarships for Music Teachers & BHS Members. Director's College Scholarships for Arrangers and Members/Ladies who Strive for Director Certification And most importantly, Growing Our Society.

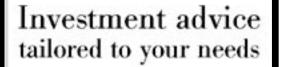
...GIFTS TO HARMONY FOUNDATION WILL MAKE THE DIFFERENCE.

## Canada Night Nov. 3

CHAPTERS! Detroit-Oakland is hosting CANADA NIGHT

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For more information, contact: Earl Berry at (313)277-7130.



A BARBERSHOP QUARTE

2.00

Here J'est

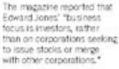
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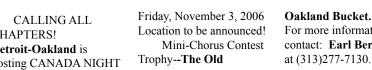


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<b>REQUEST FOR HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS</b>
Pioneer District Association of Chapters
Radisson Plaza Hotel & Suites
KALAMAZOO, MI
October 12-15, 2006

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>	Please indicate your <u>first &amp; 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.

One room will b	e reserv	ved for: (	(print clea	arly in p	pen)	
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Address:						Date of Departure:
Audress.						
City:			State:		_ Zip:	E-mail:
Day Phone:	(	)				Name of other guest(s) in room:
Evening Phone:	(	)				
-Bed	2-Beds	s				
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Please indicate i	f vou ai	re physic	cally chall	enged o	or need special requi	irements:
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## Pioneer Family Reunion

#### By Bruce Smith

Each convention has a theme though often we don't get the message out or have it understood. This fall, let's make the theme matter because being part of the barbershop family is a wonderful experience that needs to be celebrated.

Reunions are about remembering and to bring those memories to life all chapters are being offered the

April 13-15, 2007

District Convention, Traverse City

opportunity to set up a table display of photos, plaques and other items that reflect the family history. In addition, anyone with an old quartet or chorus uniform, (and we all have them in our closets) is requested to wear it and prove that time has broadened only your mind.

Reunions are about visiting with friends, and to enhance that activity the hospitality area will be open to all. Reunions are about food and beverage. We hope that all chapters will add to the reunion atmosphere by having or cosponsoring a hospitality suite, so family members can wonder from suite to suite.

As host chapter, Lansing has provided the theme it is up to you to make the reunion theme come alive and share in celebrating the concept that IT'S GREAT TO BE A BARBERSHOPPER.

Bruce Scott Mike Craig

Pioner District Assoc. Chapters - SPEBSQSA 46210 Copper Lock Lu. Macomb. MI 48044

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