

Pioneer Troubadour

Official Publication of the Pioneer District - Summer 2008 - Volume 59, Number 1

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

WILDCARD WINS THE POT

By Just 8 Points Another Close Competition At District



Wildcard on District stage April 26th 2008 Peter Westers, Dave Miller, James Masalskis, and Curt Struyk



Macomb Guardians of Harmony with their new Chorus Champs Trophy on District stage April 26th, 2008

After another long Winter the weather warmed up just in time for the 2008 Pioneer District Spring Convention in Battle Creek Michigan. Hosted by the Battle Creek Barbershop Chapter the convention took place April 25th-27th in the McCamly Plaza Hotel while the quartet and chorus competitions themselves were at the newly renovated W.K. Kellogg Auditorium. It was a beautiful 10 minute walk from the hotel to the auditorium along parks, blossoming trees, charming buildings, and an idyllic view crossing the Battle Creek River bridges.

Temperatures on the 25th reached a record high for this time of year of 81°F / 27°C but it wasn't just the weather that was hot. It's here, in their bright red two piece suits, black turtlenecks, and saddle shoes that 2004 District Quartet Champs Wildcard had their day and won as the *Spring District* page 3

Guardians of Harmony Champs

Page 7

Fall 08 Convention Info Page 19

COTS Big Success Page 25

Farewell Power Play Page 27

INTERNATIONAL'S

Report From Int. Page 4

Resisting-A-Rest
Silver At Seniors Page 12

Doran McTaggart
MC of the Year Page 16

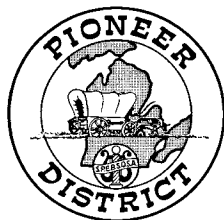
GET THE TROUB

Abridged Troubadour
Biannual Summer & Fall
Members Auto Mailed

Unabridged Troub Online
Monthly Issues
Download & Print
Fast & Free

Visit PioneerDistrict.org
Select The Troubadour

For District Announcements
The PioNet Email Newsgroup



Summer 2008 Pioneer Troubadour

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

Editor: Michael Baribeau, 7652 Hessler Dr, Rockford, MI 49341
cell 616-916-9599 work 616-874-7105 — E-mail: MichaelBaribeau@yahoo.com

www.PioneerDistrict.org



PRESIDENT

Jim Kunz
2300 Red Run Court, Apt. D
Royal Oak, MI 48073
J.Kunz@kunzleigh.com

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Raleigh Bloch
2033 Wild Cherry Lane
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
269-375-6849 (R) 269-375-6849 (B)
rblochjbloch@aol.com

EXECUTIVE VP

Brian Duncel
5872 Green Road
Haslett, MI 48840-9783
517-339-3422 (R) 517-625-3143 (B)
MSUDunk@aol.com

SOCIETY BOARD MEMBER

Judd Orff
115 Linden St E
Stillwater, MN 55082-5017
juddorff3108@msn.com

SECRETARY

Joe Serwach
7511 Hamburg Road
Brighton, MI 48116
w: (734) 647-1844
jserwach@umich.edu

TREASURER

Robb Smith
46210 Copper Lock Lane
Macomb, MI 48044-6202
586-307-8007 (B)
smithr@rjscpapc.com

CHAPTER SUPPORT & LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Brian E. Duncel
Green Rd.
Haslett, MI 48840-9783
MSUDunk@aol.com

CHORUS DIRECTOR DEVELOPMENT

James Ryan
308 Harvard Street
Canton, MI 48188
jameslryan@sbcglobal.net

CONTEST & JUDGING

Al Fisk
1018 River Mist Drive
Rochester, MI 48307
248-651-3796
alfisk@comcast.net

EVENTS

Jerry Ditto
753 72nd Ave.
Lawton, MI 49065-8600
(269) 387-6016 (R)
(269) 624-6735 (B)
jerry.ditto@wmich.edu

FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Roger Lewis
20125 12 Mile Road
Battle Creek, MI 49014
RJLewisCMC@aol.com

MARKETING/PUBLIC RELATIONS

Rick Anderson
20255 Drummon Bay
Clinton Twp., MI 48038

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Doug Lynn
6242 Westview
Grand Blanc, MI 48439
dwlynn@yahoo.com

MUSIC AND PERFORMANCE

Matt Tipton
4769 Chadbourne Drive
Sterling Heights, MI 48310
519-948-0637 (R)
mftipton@yahoo.com

YOUTH IN HARMONY

Brandon Mattson
609 Woodfield Circle
Paw Paw, MI 49079
bmattson@watervliet.k12.mi.us

DISTRICT HISTORIAN

Mike Drouillard
2882 Front Rd.
La Salle, ON, N9J 2N7
Phone 519-734-6873
mjd@mnsi.net

Address changes

Pioneer District members: DO NOT SEND CHANGE OF ADDRESS TO EDITOR. Mailing data are furnished by the Barbershop Harmony Society, 110 Seventh Avenue North Nashville, TN 37203-3704. 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.

Ad Rates

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

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 Summer, and Fall. Copy deadline: immediately following Spring International and Fall District Competitions. 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 and photos not by-lined are by the editor (or are unknown/anonymous) 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.

Pioneer Online

The monthly online Troubadour publication, the digital archives of print issues, and the PioNet newsgroup are all available free at the District website PioneerDistrict.org



Battle Creek's W.K. Kellogg Auditorium



Havin' fun singing tags in the auditorium lobby



Audience stands singing US and Canadian National Anthems

Spring District

(Continued from page 1)

2008 Pioneer District International Quartet Representatives with 1735 points. Grand Rapids Chapter members tenor Peter Westers, lead Dave Miller, bass James Masalskis, and bari Curt Struyk performed a favorite rendition of Time After Time with smooth intensity and the fun upbeat You Make Me Feel So Young with a little dance debut by the 'senior' baritone. For more information on the quartet see print Troubadour 2006 May article, QCA Profile: Wildcard, 2004 Champs Share Stories page 8. Website Wildcard4.com

Pioneer had the honor of hosting three Out-of-District quartets that competed for scores to be applied to their own Districts. There was a real taste of Internationals this weekend as all three out-of-District quartets also qualified to go to Nashville. Another bonus for the PioD was two of the quartets have members with roots in Pioneer.

Metropolis of Santa Fe Springs for Far Western District with tenor James Sabina, lead Robert Hartley, bari Kelly Shepard, and bass Brian Philbin scored 2053 qualifying as a FWD International Quartet Representative. A great comedy quartet, we won't soon forget that hysterical hypnosis routine. Both Robert and Brian are from Pioneer quartet Ivy League fame. They also treated us to an Ivy League classic, The Lion Sleeps Tonight. Website harmonize.com/Metropolis

Crossroads of Frank Thorne, Macomb County, Cleveland, and St. Charles for Central States District with tenor Fred Farrell, lead Michael Slamka, bari Brandon Guyton, and bass Jim Henry scored 2045 qualifying as a CSD International Quartet Representative. Although a brand new quartet each member is an International Gold Medalist and have a powerful blend of voices. Michael is from Pioneer's much beloved and newly retired quartet Power Play. Website crossroadsquartet.com

SEP of Central Texas Corridor, Federal Way, Frank Thorne, and Greater Toronto for Southwestern District with tenor Scott McCarthy, lead Allen Gasper, bari Bobby Gray, and bass Tom Wilkie scored 1952 qualifying as a SWD International Quartet Representative. They ventured from the standard barbershop repertoire afterwards and sang a very moving ballad from Les Miserables. In 2007 due to a member change they changed their name from Saturday Evening Post to SEP. Website SEPquartet.com

There was only one entry this year for the 2008 Pioneer District Seniors Quartet Champion which was won by Resisting-A-Rest of Grosse Pointe, Hillsdale, Lansing, Mt. Pleasant, and Pontiac. But this was no mere rubber stamp performance for this 1 year young quartet as they showed off the talent that also won them Silver in this past International Senior Quartet competition at the Barbershop Harmony Society's Midwinter Convention in San Antonio. Tenor Bruce LaMarte, lead TC Connor,



2007 Chorus Champs Lansing Capitol City Chordsmen



2008 Int Chorus Reps Mount Pleasant MountainTown Singers



2008 Seniors Quartet Champions Resisting-A-Rest



**2008 Collegiate Quartet Reps
Harmony 101**

(Continued from page 3)

bari Steve Warnaar, and bass Phil Haines had scored 862 points which was as high as the prelim scores of the top Pioneer quartets competing for International Rep.

There were two collegiate quartets both with members from Central Michigan University, home of Mount Pleasant Mountain Town Singers directed by CMU professor David Gillingham. It was inspiring to see youth of such great talent carrying on the barbershop tradition. Harmony 101 of Central Michigan University and Saginaw Valley State University with tenor Nathan Master-son, lead Garrett Gillingham, Bari Kevin Dunckel, and bass Mark Spring scored 721 and were named 2008 Pioneer District Collegiate Quartet Champion and qualify for the Bank of America Collegiate Contest in July 2008. 9th Chord Plateau of Central Michigan University put in a strong performance for 616 points.

Performing for Friday April 25th prelimi-



9th Chord Plateau

naries were 11 competing District quartets, plus the mic test quartet Weekend Agenda, and the three out-of-District quartets. Semi-Finalists included Singing With Dad, Full Throttle, and Barber-shop Style.

Society Representative was Judd Orff. Speakers included the Battle Creek Host Chapter Chairman Jeff Woodworth who introduced Battle Creek Mayor Mark Behnke. Also up to the podium was District Housing and Raffle Administrator, and Past District President Roger Lewis, District Judges Services Administrator Al Fisk, and Judge Administrator David Kannberg.

The Friday night Quartet Preliminaries ended with a show by last Fall's awarded 2008 Pioneer District International Chorus Representatives the Mount Pleasant Mountaintown Singers directed by David Gillingham. Donations go to help funding cost of sending the chorus to Nashville for Internationals.

Pioneer District Quartet Finals were Saturday evening April 26th.

Master of Ceremonies and Former District President Doran McTaggart introduced the opening performance by 2007 Pioneer District Chorus Champions, Lansing's Capitol City Chordsmen directed by Jessica Thompson.

Quartet Finals competition was then opened by District President Jim Kunz.

Doran McTaggart then lead the entire audience in singing the international Pioneer District's two national anthems The Star-Spangled Banner and O Canada.

Mic testers were the Semi-Finalist Quartet Singing With Dad.

Wildcard of Grand Rapids won for PIO International Quartet Rep with score totals from Prelim and Finals of 1735.

Four Man Fishin' Tackle Choir of Frank Thorne, Gratiot County, Mt. Pleasant,

and Traverse City scored 1728, a close second by only 7 points.

Moxxy of Battle Creek, Lansing, and Motor City Metro scored 1602.

Something Big!! of Lansing, Motor City Metro, and Mt. Pleasant scored 1582.

Chordiology of Huron Valley scored 1562.

Interstate Chord Company of Frank Thorne, Michiana Metro, South Bend-Mishawaka, and Valparaiso scored 1532.

Go 4 it! of Benton Harbor/St. Joe, Frank Thorne, and Kalamazoo scored 1516.

Harmony Transfer of Battle Creek, Grand Rapids, and Muskegon scored 1483.

A quick raffle drawing was held from stage for prizes including a digital camera and photo printer.

After the evening Quartet Finals the quartet winners were announced with lots of hugs and slaps on the back.

Following was some fantastic encore performances from all the winning quartets. More congratulations and good-bye hugs and handshakes in the lobby as we were humming those songs out the doors and into the city lights.

**A quartet that scores at least 76% of available points wins the right to compete at internationals. For Pioneer that is 1824 points since we use a six judge or 'double' panel. Six judges, four songs (two at Prelims and two at Finals), 100 max points per songs for a total maximum possible of 2400 points. Each District is guaranteed one quartet spot, if a District's quartets all score below 76% then the first place quartet becomes that District's only International Quartet Representative. ♪*

(More photos pages 5 & 6).

**Many more photos online May issue 2008 PioneerDistrict.org Troubadour*



Wildcard 2008 Pioneer District International Quartet Representatives



Fourman Fishin' Tackle Choir



Moxxy



Something Big!!



Chordiology



Interstate Chord Company



Go 4 it!



Harmony Transfer



Singing With Dad



Full Throttle



Barbershop Style



Weekend Agenda

*Metropolis for Far Western District**Crossroads for Central States District**SEP for Southwestern District*

Thank You Pioneer

by Dave Spizarny, Bass
Chordiology

Chordiology had another great weekend – come to think of it, a typical barbershop weekend. Friday's QCA meeting was interesting. You really should get invited to one. In the end, the Kevlar we wore underneath our Chordiology jackets wasn't even necessary, as the chain link vests beneath our shirts would have been protection enough, although some of those barbs were quite sharp.

We probably had more fun at the Audacity class than the people listening, and we even learned some stuff too. We hope to repeat this class in the Fall.

As for the Competition, well, we didn't let Cliff's and my laryngitis stop us from competing. The show must go on, you know.

Some public thanks from Chordiology are in order, although please don't be offended if I don't mention your name. I'm terrible with names. Just ask my wife, Gail...or is it Barbara?

Thanks to everyone in the QCA for treating us so well. Talk about going out of your way to make us feel welcome and at home – what a great bunch of guys, really.

The judges, who give us so much of

their time, deserve way more credit, although don't tell anyone I said that. Sometimes, their criticisms are so gentle that it makes me think that they're almost human.

A special thanks to the presentation judge we met with, Judd Orff. He laid down the law about singing in the Hospitality Suites when sick. Short version – DON'T. He had a scary story about his own vocal cords. Let's just leave it at: be nice to your vocal chords.

How about those behind the scenes guys? Guys like Gregg Humble, who manages the big screen and Don Kill, who pretty much manages everything back stage. And those chapter guys who walk everyone around and say encouraging stuff, like "Is that one of your contest songs"?

Thanks to all the competing quartets, and congratulations to Wildcard. Chordiology will be rooting for you in July, so Go Wildcard!

I was surprised how much fun I had going to the hospitality suites even though I didn't sing. While it's more fun to sing, the barbershop family is fun no matter what is happening.

Actually, I feel a blog coming on, so visit <http://www.chordiology.com/Blog/Blog.html> soon.

Thanks again Pioneer!

*Chordiology*

by Brian Philbin
for Metropolis

On behalf of Metropolis, I just wanted to thank you all for your hospitality and enthusiasm over the course of the weekend. We felt extremely welcomed and Bob's & my quartet mates were very impressed by the amount of fun everyone was having.

You should all be proud of your District leadership for putting on a fine convention. Having the facility to provide big screen monitors and videos for the contestants is something that other districts still struggle to obtain.

Everything was close and simple - the way it should be. We only wish that we'd had the opportunity to see more hospitality rooms on Saturday night. Singing tags with many of those left in the lobby early into the next morning was a real treat for us, though - what a great time!

We look forward to seeing many of you
(See *Thanks Pio* page 7)

Thanks PIO

(Continued from page 6)

in Nashville, as well - thank you for all of your support! We love you, Pioneer!!!

Pax, harmonia

by Bobby, SEP Quartet
(a.k.a. Saturday Evening Post Quartet)

First ... thank you so much for allowing SEP to compete at the Pioneer District. We had a wonderful time and were treated like gold by your district and the folks who attended the contest. We were made to feel very welcome.

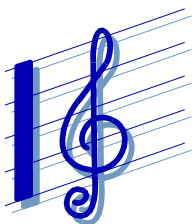
The contest was run extremely well as far as we were concerned and thanks to all the "purple shirts" who were helping make it so.

We've been competing for a long time and [. . .] we have prioritized "having fun" as our top goal. In that regard, the Pioneer District had at least (7) hospitality rooms (I know there were at least that many because we sang in every one of them!). We went straight to the rooms and had a BLAST singing for and meeting many of the people of the Pioneer District. For us ... that was time well spent!

Hopefully, we'll be able to come back and do some shows in your area. Please let everyone know that they can hire "SEP for a Song" and we will do their chapter show in 2008 or 2009 for "EXPENSES ONLY"! We're donating our show fee back to the chapter!

Again ... thanks so much for all your work and for having us up there.

Cheers 🎵



GoH Co-Director Glen Hipple and Chapter President Dave Anderson



Larry Parker retires the 1973 Chorus Champions Trophy

Chorus District Competition GoH Wins New Champs Trophy

Spring conventions don't just determine the quartet contests like International Quartet Representative.

At Battle Creek Michigan's newly renovated W.K. Kellogg Auditorium Saturday morning and noon April 26th 11 choruses competed for District Chorus Champion. In addition Mt. Pleasant and Lansing choruses performed but since they both won Chorus Champion within the last two years they were ineligible so had unpublished scores, singing for evaluation only.

This 2008 Pioneer District Chorus Champion was Macomb County Guardians of Harmony co-directed by Al Fisk and Glen Hipple. This was their first run for Champs after taking the required two years off since winning it in 2005. The chorus' music dazzled along with the gold neckties they wore with black suit jackets, shirts, and pants.

After Lansing's Capitol City Chordsmen had won Chorus Champion in 1973 they had purchased a trophy cup to be passed on to winning choruses. This year Lansing took the opportunity to retire that trophy that had over the years become dented and scratched. As the old cup stood in a place of honor on a pedestal beside the speaker podium, a three foot tall custom wood case was rolled out onto the stage in front of

the Guardians of Harmony chorus and opened to reveal the tall new Chorus Champion Trophy. Lansing Chapter Secretary/Treasurer, Former District President Larry Parker presented it to the smiling GoH President Dave Anderson. Then Dave and co-director Glen Hipple held the trophy up for all to see as it towered above their heads.

Saturday afternoon Pioneer District Chorus Finals April 26th were opened by Pioneer District President Jim Kunz. Then a few words by Chorus Contest Presenter Tom McCoy.

Mic testers were the open volunteer Joe Barbershop Chorus directed by Joe Liles.

Guardians of Harmony of Macomb County co-directed by Al Fisk and Glen Hipple won PIO Chorus Champion and Plateau 1 Champion scoring 887.

Great Lakes Chorus of Grand Rapids directed by Curt Struyk scored 795.

Town & Country Chorus of Hillsdale directed by Don Slamka won Plateau 2 Champion scoring 789.

Gentlemen Songsters of Detroit-Oakland directed by Steve Sutherland scored 744.

(Continued page 8)

Cereal City Chorus of Battle Creek directed by Rob Halsey scored 725.

Cherry Capital Chorus of Traverse City directed by Jeff Cobb won Plateau 3 Champion scoring 724.

Lakeshore Chorus of Grosse Pointe directed by Steve Pauling scored 714.

Kalamazoo Barbershop Chorus of Kalamazoo directed by Dave Woolf scored 697.

Big Chief Chorus of Pontiac-Waterford directed by Thomas Blue scored 644.

Arrowhead Chorus of Flint directed by David Longroy scored 612.

Sun Parlour Chorus of Windsor directed by Dan Bezaire scored 599.

Announcing the winners was Chorus Director Development Jim Ryan.

Each chorus director was called out on stage and all were lined up with Former District President Raleigh Bloch presenting the plaques for the Plateau and District Champions.

After chorus evaluations and a break the evening quartet competition was held. Once the quartet competitions were over awards were presented but they weren't all competition awards.

Quoting Ron Seely the from 2006 May print Troubadour article, The First Van Tassell Winners, "(QCA Mission Statement) 'To provide quality barbershop entertainment, to encourage formation and coaching to quartet 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 the mission." Saturday night after quartet competitions QCA President and last year winner of the

Legacy Award, Russ Seely gave a touching speech and then presented the 2008 Glenn Van Tassell Legacy Award to Macomb County Guardians of Harmony Director Al Fisk. Left to say a few words the overwhelmed honoree gazed at the plaque then out into the audience and mustered up a heartfelt thank you before beating a quick retreat.

The evening competition ended with Master of Ceremonies and Former District President Doran McTaggart directing the audience to Keep The Whole World Singing.

But the night was just getting started as many went to the McCamly Plaza Hotel District and Chapter Hospitality Rooms for drinks, food, fellowship and barbershop singing into the wee small hours.



Choruses not photographed are Grosse Pointe, Pontiac-Waterford, Detroit-Oakland, and Kalamazoo



Chorus Mic Testers Joe Barbershop directed by Joe Liles

(More photos pages 9 & 10).



Guardians of Harmony of Macomb County 2008 Chorus Champion. Below is the Great Lakes Chorus of Grand Rapids waiting back stage.



Town & Country Chorus of Hillsdale



Cereal City Chorus of Battle Creek Host Chapter



*Cherry Capital Chorus
of Traverse City*



Arrowhead Chorus of Flint



*Sun Parlour Chorus of Windsor
posing for pictures*



Stage with judges to left and right



*Above; Judges
Right; Retiring Champs Trophy*



Barbershop Hospitality



McCamly Plaza Hotel

District competitions get all the attention and limelight... literally. But they're only half the fun. Behind the scenes that barbershop brotherhood is open to anyone wanting to share in the camaraderie, to learn a tag and sing!

2008 Pioneer District Spring Convention in Battle Creek Michigan April 25th-27th hosted by the Battle Creek Barbershop Chapter was a big success. While the competition took place at the W.K. Kellogg Auditorium the convention was at the McCamly Plaza Hotel. According to reports, "Because of other events like Bowling, softball and soccer, all rooms within about a 30 mile radius of Battle Creek were sold out for the weekend."

Friday the 25th the Quartet Champion Association officially inducted 2007 Pioneer District Quartet Champions Chordiology into their association. Along with plaques Chordiology received a personal performance by International Medalist Quartet SEP!



SEP sings to the newest QCA inductees, 2007 Quartet Champs Chordiology

Member Jack Sidor had passed away the previous year. QCA President Russ Seely spoke of Jack's love and contributions to barbershopping including his coaching quartets right into his final days. He then presented Jack's wife Alverne (a Sweet Adeline) with a memorial plaque, "In Memory Of Jack Sidor A Champion Of Barbershop Harmony".

Next Joe Liles gave a Master Class- Tune It Or Die. Bio excerpt from BHS website, "Joe Liles is Music Publications Editor for the Barbershop Harmony Society, certified Arrangement category judge, is now serving in the Singing category and has taught chorus directing and chorus rehearsal techniques at district and international schools."

Joe gave a one hour intensive course on barbershop singing technique. He demonstrated by using the quartet Moxxy in front of the class providing a lot of instruction and insight. Then he gave some personal demonstrations and perspective, went over several vocal exercises and taught helpful warm-ups.

Friday night after Preliminaries and the fund raising show it was a nice Spring walk in the evening air back to the McCamly. Everyone was still pretty excited about the quartet Prelims and there was plenty of tag singing in the lobby. Oh, and an ice cream Sunday buffet, yum.

Later I went outside for a walk. Across the street from the hotel I hooked up with a large group singing tags out in front of a tavern. We were all standing in a large circle beneath street lights and flowering trees. A great way to end the evening.

Saturday morning we got up early for a barbershop buffet breakfast in the hotel restaurant.

Then at 8:00am Chordiology gave the Master Class- Singing In The 21st Century. This 2007 Pioneer District Quartet



Joe Liles seminar Tune It Or Die



Joe Liles working with quartet Moxxy for demonstration



Champion quartet has had a lot of success with a free audio editing software called Audacity. Even though it was early in the morning it was a packed room including several Society and District big wigs.

They use it primarily to supplement their group rehearsal time. When schedules prevent them from getting together they will record themselves, email the tracks, mix them together with audacity and have a recorded digital rehearsal. To demonstrate the editor for the class they used a projection TV hooked up to a laptop and then recorded some tracks live.

They also touted the benefits of recording themselves together with a multi track mixer and then with software isolating individual voices for polish. All four members contributed to the class discussion. More information is on their website Chordiology.com, go to their Blog page, the Archive link near the top, and then select, "the tyranny of the truth machine".

After the chorus and quartet Finals at the auditorium people began to gather in the hotel lobby and halls singing barbershop songs and tags. There were six Chapter Hospitality Rooms open to all including a huge one on the 16th floor for the District hosted by Detroit-Oakland Chapter. I hung out mostly in our Chapter's Hospitality Room but many people were working all the rooms. The hotel room bathtubs were filled with ice and drinks and there were lots of veggie trays, sweets, chips, sandwiches, meatballs, etc. Many quartets made the rounds, moving from one Hospitality Room to another, singing songs and toasting the event. It's really amazing to sit in a small hotel room with friends while quartet after quartet sing to you from only 5 feet away, including quartets of International caliber.

Sunday morning there was even a worship service with quartets singing gospel followed by a recap meeting.

What a fantastic weekend and I even learned an important lesson. Apparently sound travels to all the floors from the stairwell so no quartet singing in there or a nice young man in a blazer from hotel security will ask you to stop.



Chordiology's seminar on music software and multitrack mixers



Grand Rapid's Hospitality Room



Coed quartet Sidekicks



Harmony Transfer

Silver At Seniors



New quartet Resisting-A-Rest had a big impact not only here at home but with the Barbershop Harmony Society.

At their very first competition together they won Pioneer District Seniors Quartet Champion at our Fall 2007 convention.

Then they went on to represent Pioneer at Barbershop Harmony Society's Midwinter Convention Jan 25th 2008 in San Antonio, Texas and won Silver out of 24 senior quartets from through out the US and Canada.

Quartet members Pontiac Tenor Bruce LaMarte, Grosse Pointe Lead Thomas Conner, Hillsdale Bass Phil Haines, Lansing & Mt. Pleasant Bari Steven Warnaar are again representing Pioneer at the 2009 Midwinter Convention this time in Pasadena, California, Jan 27th - Feb 1st. Not a bad winter vacation trip from The Great White North. ♪



Internationals At Nashville

Pioneer Reps Say, "Simply A Joy"!

By all accounts, webcast or live in person, the BHS Nashville 2008 Internationals were very exciting. The new BHS headquarters in Nashville proved a wonderful host for Internationals. There were many positive reports of the venue and of the eateries within walking distance. Nashville lived up to its reputation as the Music City with music pouring onto the street from a myriad of taverns and restaurants. The competition was July 2nd-5th at the Sommet Center, Nashville Convention Center, 601 Commerce St. Nashville, TN 37203

Representing the Pioneer District was the Grand Rapids Chapter quartet Wildcard, tenor Peter Westers, lead Dave Miller, bass James Masalskis, and bari Curt Struyk competing for their first time at Internationals. In the quartet quarter-finals they scored 2215 points for a 73.8% average, placing 49th of 51. They had a sensitive and beautiful blend singing their songs It's Only A Paper Moon and Always (I love that tender tenor post).

Wildcard baritone Curt Struyk is also director for the Grand Rapids Chapter Great Lakes Chorus. At the GLC rehearsal following Internationals Curt regaled us with the excitement of the 'big' stage, its blinding footlights, and all the talented barbershoppers he met.

He relayed to us of the well deserved BHS Dave LaBar MC of the Year Award presented to Doran McTaggart of Pioneer's Windsor Chapter and of a fun 'groaner' Doran told while emceeing there.

Curt said he was impressed with the professionalism of all the performers. Especially the chorus who didn't miss a beat while the Independence Day festivities boomed in through their set and even declined a 'do-over'.

He was pleased his top two picks were right, although it was really close. The top five quartet finalists were...

1 OC Times FWD

2 Crossroads CSD
(lead Mike Slamka from Power Play)

3 State Line Grocery DIX

4 Redline DIX

5 Old School MAD



Wildcard's Peter Westers, Dave Miller, James Masalskis, and Curt Struyk, photo by Miller Photography

Also in their first appearance at Internationals Pioneer District Collegiate Quartet Champion Harmony101 with tenor Nathan Masterson, lead Garrett Gillingham, Bari Kevin Dunckel, and bass Mark Spring scored 768 with a 64.0% average placing them 20th of 22.



Harmony 101 (not necessarily in order) Nathan Masterson, Garrett Gillingham, Kevin Dunckel, and Mark Spring, photo by the Harmonizer's Lorin May

GLC Chorus member Leon Reister who attended said he was really impressed with all the collegiate quartet youngsters and their fresh arrangements. Doug Weaver was able to snap a few photos and said he thought all the quartets proved they were of international caliber.

The convention included an honorary induction into the BHS for the Oak Ridge Boys who accepted on stage and sang a moving gospel, a-cappella of course.

Along with the competition there was the American Harmony - The Movie - Viewing, seminars, slide show tribute plus meet and greet with Gaynotes and Side Street Ramblers, AIC show, and Harmony Foundation Presents Show.

Wildcard lead, Dave Miller gave the following report.

It was simply a joy to be able to represent the Pioneer district at the international competition. I really appreciate all of the support that we have received from our friends in the district and the Grand Rapids chapter. They have been very supportive of their international reps in the past and continued to do so for us. We have an AWESOME district

and chapter.

Being on the international stage was not as stressful as we had expected. We couldn't see the crowd because of the bright lights. We knew they were there, but couldn't see them.

The crowds at the international are very supportive of the competitors. Everyone in the audience wants the competitors to do well, without exception. It doesn't matter from which district you come or who your favorite quartet is, when they are announced, you cheer for them as loud as you can and support them. When the quartets do well, the audience always wins because they have received the gift the quartet/chorus was there to give, that of song and beautiful harmony.

My favorite moment was when Doran McTaggart received the Dave LaBar MC award. I was so happy for Doran. He is such a good friend and talent, it was great to see him recognized publicly for his efforts. We spent some time with Doran in Nashville, and it was very clear the amount of time and effort he puts into his seemingly effortless delivery. He was always trying out new material

to get a reaction. He is an awesome talent.

Singing on the Larry Ager fundraiser was a thrill. Being on the same stage as all of those great quartets and being roasted by Kenny Hatton was fun. It was great to be able to give back to a cause which has helped so many barbershoppers in the past.

Next year, I look forward to competing along side more of my friends from Pioneer as we strive for the magic 912 points.

I love barbershop and am thankful for the opportunity to represent the District, my chapter and perform for such a wonderful audience.

Dave Miller
Wildcard Lead
Wildcard4.com

Here's a link to a photo and website of each 'mens' 2008 International Quartet District Representative <http://pioneerdistrict.org/troubadour/online/2008/07/int/2008intmenqt.pdf> courtesy of Sweet Adeline quartet In The Mix www.inthemixquartet.com



MountainTown Singers of Mount Pleasant, Director David Gillingham, photo by the Harmonizer's Lorin May

Established only three years ago the Pioneer District International Chorus Representative MountainTown Singers of Mount Pleasant Chapter had a solid sound with fun choreography with one of their songs arranged by their own director. They scored 2238 averaging 74.6% placing 28th of 28.

This next is a report from their Director David Gillingham.

The international experience is like none other. It is hard to get one's mind around the fact that there can be so many people (10,000) in one place that enjoy barbershop. It is also very hard to comprehend all the mind-boggling talent in one place. The quartet contest was probably the best ever...the college quartet contest is now getting close to looking and sounding like the
(Continued page 15)



MountainTown Singers of Mount Pleasant, Director David Gillingham, photo by the Harmonizer's Lorin May

(Continued from 14)

"big boy's" contest. And, the chorus contest is like watching you "show of shows".

The MountainTown Singers have made tremendous strides in their three short years of existence and plan to continue to improve and grow in barbershop craft and singing excellence. The international contest was a breath taking experience. Most of the guys, including me, thought of our time on stage as a "blur". I wasn't even sure how we did.... most people asked each other, "did we do well"....four to five minutes on stage felt more like 30 seconds. I have watched the replay of our performance on the webcast and it is really good. In my opinion our average score should have been closer to an 80 considering the improvement we have made from the fall qualifying contest. However, the stigma of the seeded points you enter the contest with seem to be a better predictor of how the chorus will rank.

We went into the contest seeded last and came out last. With the exception of only two or three choruses, most all of the choruses fared just the way they were seeded. That being said, we will take a deep breath, swallow our pride and work even harder for the fall contest in Battle Creek. We know what we have to do, and we are up to the task.

The best part of international for me was just watching and hearing the contest. It is like going to a barbershop show where all the quartets and choruses are "headliners"!! The only "downer" for me, was when the buses picked us up at the hotel for contest. They were 30 minutes late as they thought we were in a different hotel. Thus, we were literally rushed through the process getting to the stage. However, a less rushed schedule would not have changed the outcome.

I should especially note that this was an experience of a lifetime for our 16 college students who sang with us. Their

feedback about the contest has reflected "awe" and disbelief at how very refined this art form is. The society will reap the benefits whenever they can get college students to attend international, much less have them participate in the contest. They are tomorrow's barbershoppers and we want them to be "bitten by the bug" and sustain the hobby for life.

It has been a supreme honor to represent the Pioneer District in this year's international contest and a personal dream come true for me.

In harmony,

David R. Gillingham
Professor of Music
989.774.1961
email david.r.gillingham@cmich.edu
www.GillinghamMusic.com
www.mountaintownsingers.org





Doran McTaggart presented with the Dave LaBar International MC award, photo by the Harmonizer's Lorin May

Doran McTaggart 2008 International MC Award

by Bill Strong, Program VP
Desperate Measures, Lead

Once again the Windsor Chapter has attained prominence as one of its own has received a very prestigious honour from International in the awarding to our Doran McTaggart the Dave LaBar Award as the Society's MC of the Year. This award is presented to the individual who has achieved outstanding success at the Chapter, District and International levels as an MC. Also, one who understands how to communicate with the audience as both a presenter and entertainer, where appropriate. One who always uses material that is suitable for Barbershoppers of all ages and is always prepared and very comfortable when addressing the audience by developing an excellent report.

This certainly does describe Doran and I'm sure all of us could add few more accolades to go along with these that committee has come up with to describe our friend. One that I can personally attest to is that he sings a pretty

good Baritone.

Doran has been such a great asset to our Chapter and to the Society in general. Our District and Chapter would be much less without him. In speaking to Doran about this award he says he has only one regret and that is his greatest fan, Margaret, is not beside him to receive this award. She laughed at all his jokes even though she heard them so many times and I do believe that she's still laughing at them now.

Doran, we are so proud of you because of this honour and we look forward to many more years of you MCing shows and contests. Now, if we could only get you to lighten up just a bit.

As of this writing our chapter is preparing for the Annual Send Off show June 13th and hopefully we'll be able to raise sufficient monies to financially assist our competitors in Nashville in July. We would also at this time extend our best wishes to all singers in Nashville as they compete for Barbershopper's highest award. You are all winners. Good luck. ♪

Send-Off Show

**This event has already occurred*

by Doran McTaggart,
Send-Off Show Chair

The Windsor Chapter has been hosting the Pioneer District Send-Off Show for 31 years. This premier show is held the second Friday in June with all of the profit going to our District Representatives. The doors and cash bar opens at 6:30 pm; a pasta dinner is served at 7:30 pm; and the spectacular show starts right after dinner at about 9:00 pm.

Our International quartet and chorus reps sing along with our College quartet reps and our Senior quartet reps.

All choruses with sufficient members present also sing and a massed chorus of 250 men sing many songs directed by different directors.

We welcome all barbershoppers, their spouses and friends to the

Hellenic Banquet Halls
1019 Highway # 3
Windsor, Ontario
email doranmct@aol.com

Friday, June 13, 2008. A million dollars worth of talent for \$20.00.

***Identification required to drive cross the boarder. Presently if no passport available then a government issued photo ID (like a drivers license) AND a birth certificate are required (June 2009 a passport becomes mandatory). ♪





Wildcard, seen here on the webcast reduced screen size with rolling ads on right, all screen shot images by permission of the BHS

Webcast Parties Of Int

For those of us unable to attend the competition in Nashville TN the webcast provided the next best thing. The audio quality was wonderful and with the video using both stationary, panning, and zooming boom cameras with a full screen viewing option it was the best seat in the house (except maybe for the judges). There was the option of paying only for specific days' live and archived performances, the full package being \$150, or for just the archived performances, and there was even the option of audio only for free. Performers were interviewed briefly in a studio between competitor's sets which included interviews with 2008 Pioneer District Quartet Representatives Wildcard, Collegiate Quartet Champions Harmony101, and Chorus Representatives MountainTown Singers.

There was a number of webcast service interruptions July 2nd-4th during the Quartet Quarter and Semi-Finals and during the Chorus Finals due to server/carrier issues. The webcast team worked valiantly to overcome these technical difficulties. BHS Events Committee Chairman and Webcast Executive Producer Murray Phillips reported, "...there are six different companies that have to work together to bring the magic of our music from the stage out to your homes

or offices. The process is significantly more intricate and intertwined than it would seem like needs to be the case. When you create this environment every year in a different location, with a different set of variables, we can test the feed and the technical machinations behind it as much as we like, but when the actual stream provider has a routing issue, there's nothing we can do about it except ride them until it's fixed."

However, any parts that were missed to paying webcast members were also available in the archives for one week.

Fortunately there were no mass interruptions during the Quartet Finals Saturday July 5th. Here's a webcast party report by Pioneer District's Pontiac-Waterford Chapter from their 2007 PROBE editor awarded August newsletter the Smoke Signals www.BigChiefChorus.org.

Eleven of us gathered at Jim Owens' home, Saturday night, July 5, to watch and listen to the Quartet Finals from Nashville. (Owens, Doig, Melkonian, Mann, Cowlshaw, DeNio, Pioch, Butcher, Frye, Shantz, and Jamison). All voice parts were present for one round of My Wild Irish Rose, but after all the pizza (supplied by Doc) and ice cream topped with fruit (supplied by Jim) we were mostly content to sit and listen to the eleven best quartets in the world compete for top honors. And criticize! Why did State Line Grocery and Storm Front use THIS venue to criticize the new judging rules? And fly in the face of them with long periods of non-singing?

We were worried at 7 pm when the webcast didn't start, until we realized I had forgotten it started at 7 pm CDT. Award-winning Doren McTaggart gave away the emcee role to a groaner. Most of us liked OC Times, Crossroads (Mike Slamka's new quartet), Metropolis (with old PIO members Bob Hartley and Brian Philbin), and Glory Days. Bob Butcher nailed the top two – OC Times and



Wildcard's Peter Westers & Dave Miller seen in full screen display mode

Crossroads. The next three were surprises – State Line Grocery, Redline, and Old School.

In addition, did you know about Art Lane being inducted into the PROBE Hall of Honor?

Also here's a report from quartet Chordiology bass and blogger Dave Spizarny.

Every once in a while Rob has a great idea, and Saturday evening was a once in that while, as Rob (and Greg Hummel) put together a webcast party for the International Quartet Finals at the Duderstadt Center where Rob works (at the University of Michigan). Big screens, good sound, pizza, munchies, and other refreshments go together as well as singing barbershop goes with watching barbershop, so I knew that we were in for a fun night. After all, how often can you listen to 11 different high quality quartets in one night? Once a year is the right answer.....hopefully someone will explain it to the baritones.

The group met at 6:30 for some fellowship and singing, as well as some chorus contest watching, while I waited for what we were all waiting for, the quartet finals. We watched three different chorus sets, and just to prove how bad I am at names, I'm going to call them the winners, the second placers, and the penguins. I'm only going to make some general comments, because I don't want to start Barbershop Wars, as I'm not sure that the force is actually with me.

First, the 'Penguins'. Amazing doesn't seem to do it, but it's what comes to mind right now. These were the fish guys from a previous contest, so I guess the fish have evolved into penguins – very entertaining penguins, I might add.

Will they climb another rung in the evolutionary ladder next year, perhaps singing as some lower form of mammal? Hey, how about a chorus of baritones? Or is that taking a step down the ladder? (As Jim Carey pleaded when he was that green guy, "Somebody stop

me!").

The top two choruses were incredible (and I'm sure that the choruses that we didn't watch were incredible too). How do they do it? Don't these guys work for a living? How much time do they commit to learning this stuff? They remind me of a marching band crossed with a chorus line. Some clever guy needs to write a "What do you get when you cross..." joke about this. It was entertainment at its finest, at least in my opinion.

The pre-contest stuff seemed to drag on forever, although even my cynical sarcastic brain was moved to tears by the guy from the Gaynotes. Hopefully this will remain our secret, because I'd like to maintain my charter membership in the Cynic Society. On second thought, do you really think I care if they kick me out?

Finally, the quartet finals began with the guys who just barely missed the cut, the mike testers, Men in Black. Being a get along guy at heart, I think they were robbed, unless you think they were overrated, then I agree. I'm not going to comment on the other quartets because I'm pretty sure that you know better than me which quartet got what they deserved and which quartet was robbed.

However, I did find it interesting that several of top ten quartets used humor in their final sets. After Old School broke into a rap in the middle of a barbershop song, Rob and I both wondered the same thing, "What are the judges going to do with that?" Normally, I'd insert a baritone joke in this spot, but it looks like somebody did stop me.

Every time I watch the cream of our crop, I wonder about how talented and clever human beings can be. The quartet finals always amaze me, and while they make me proud of the music that I love, they also make me humble about the music that I sing.

Pride and humility. A remarkable com-

bination for a remarkable event, don't you think?

Congratulations OC Times, you were great.

Dave Spizarny
Chordiology bass
Chordiology.com



Wildcard in webcast interview



Wildcard in webcast interview



Harmony 101 interview



MountainTown Singers interview

Fall 2008 Convention Preperations



2008 Fall Pioneer District Convention is October 17-19. Fall Competition determines which quartet will be District Quartet Champs and which chorus will be Pioneer District Chorus International Representatives. Only quartets who haven't won Quartet Champ in the past are eligible. All choruses are eligible as International Reps.

SPECIAL HOTEL NOTICE by Roger Lewis

Because of some changes to McCamly Plaza Hotel, and there is another small convention in the hotel (who was booked before we were), there are limited sleeping rooms and hospitality rooms. Here is the situation:

McCamly Plaza Hotel

The 16th floor hospitality rooms will be open Saturday night. The largest room is the McCamly Room (the old restaurant), and the District Hospitality room will be there, hosted by DOC. Food will also be in this room, plus a cash bar.

The former bar is the Hamblin Room, and Macomb County will be in this room.

The former cigar bar is the Jackson Room, and Battle Creek (host chapter) will be in this room.

The Miller room, in the plaza area, may be available. There will be no room charge, and a cash bar is required. Not sure if we can bring in our own food, but it's negotiable.

The rooms on the 6th and 8th floors that we used for hospitality in the spring are remodeled into sleeping room, and are not available for hospitality.

The Presidential suite on the 14th floor is used by the other convention.

We will still have the second floor for the Dis-

trict President and the judges.

Holiday Inn Select:

Good news here. They have four suites on the 5th floor. Two of them are wonderful "family" suites, with a small partially enclosed area with bunk beds for the kids, a king bedroom area, and a large living area with a sofa sleeper. I believe they also have a full size refrigerator.

The other two are "honeymoon" type suites -- a living area plus bedroom. Similar to some of the hospitality rooms at the Radisson in Kalamazoo.

The cost per night for any of the above is \$150. The family suite could sleep four comfortably, using the bunks.

There is also a boardroom on the main floor that would hold about 40 for hospitality.

We may bring our own food and beverages in any of the above.

Finally, there is a large ballroom that separates into two sections. A cash bar and food from the hotel would be required.

More good news. Drinks are very reasonably priced at the Holiday Inn.

UPDATES

by Al Fisk

Music Judge/BOR

Director C & J Pioneer

1) I've set up contest manager. Entries will now be accepted. <https://secure.spebsqsa.org/members/login.asp> This is the old members only link. Once you're in, scroll to the bottom under Contest & Judging Community - click Contest Entry (CJ - 20). Make sure you have all your song info on hand. If you're successful filling out your entry, I'll get it. Then I'll send you a confirmation. We'll be choosing our chorus rep(s) to Anaheim next summer, a most improved chorus (from last Fall's scores), chorus plateaus (no hardware), district quartet champs, novice quartet champs, and our senior quartet rep(s) to mid-winter. Plateau, most improved chorus, and novice info can be found on our district site - CJ link. <http://www.pioneerdistrict.org/C&J/C&J.htm> This year's panel can also be found on this site. Deadline, as always, is two weeks prior to convention. Thus, I'll need all entries in by midnight Thursday October 2nd. So far, we have the Holland Windmill Chorus and Something Big!! signed up.

2) Our own Mr. Ed Fritzen (now living in Connecticut) will be on our panel (Singing) and will direct our Joe Barbershop Chorus. Ed was the Contest & Judging guru prior to me, sang with the 1998 Pioneer District Quartet Champs - Upstage Sound (who will sing on the QCA show!!!), and directed choruses (Kalamazoo?) on the west side. He's active with coaching, directing, and quarteting once again in the Northeastern District. We'll be doing his favorite pole cats (not determined yet) with us. Let's get a big crowd to welcome Ed and his family back to Pioneer!

3) The one and only Cindy Hansen will be in BC to teach a class (4:00 p.m. Friday? like Joe's very successful class last time). We're discussing possible topics - we may go with "I'm not dead - I'm singing (performance opportunities for all)." LOL Sounds fun!!! Don't miss it!

4) I'm going to do the Audience Favorites contest again. It seemed to be a big hit last Fall. I remember all four guys from Resisting-A- Rest winning the favorite voice part. heh-heh We'll also vote for best outfits, best ballad/easy beat/uptunes. I'll pass out ballots Friday night, count them, and give out certificates and monogrammed hats on Saturday night. Make sure you vote!

5) Looks like Chordiology will, once again, be teaching their Audacity software class that was such a hit last time. (God Bless those guys and all they do for Pioneer. Hmmm...reminds me of another quartet from 10 years back...TDSC.)

COMPETITION REGISTRATION

District chorus and quartet contest entry deadline - midnight Thursday Oct 2nd (2 weeks before contest).

To register chorus/quartet online go to the PioneerDistrict.org website

Under, Contest & Convention Information click "Next Convention".

Under, Online Contest Entry Forms for Chorus and Quartet click correct form. Now you can complete the CJ-20 chorus or quartet contest entry form online.

You will need your Members Only password to enter this area. Any current member of the chapter board may complete this form.

Completing this form enters the chorus in the contest. It does not include convention registrations, if required.

After entering Members Only, choose Contest Entry (CJ-20) under the heading Contest and Judging Community.

CONVENTION REGISTRATION

Members need to pay their All-events Convention registrations. \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door. Early registration must be received no later than Sep. 26, 2008 for \$25 price. Pioneer Treasurer Robb Smith, "You can still mail registrations to me, but (after Sep. 26th) the price is \$30.00. Registrations I receive after I have completed the paperwork will be taken to the on-site registration to be printed. Remember to allow for the mailing time. If the form is delivered Friday (Oct 17th), I won't be home to receive it." Each member of a competing quartet or chorus must be registered for an all-events pass. Single events tickets are \$15 each. Children 12 and under are admitted free.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

To compete all society quartet and chorus members must have their membership dues paid in full by contest time.

Renewal Notice Method- payments including checks can be mailed in along with the renewal notice.

Check Only Method- you can also mail just a check only without the Renewal Notice. You should confirm the amount but currently Society dues are \$97, District/Chapter dues are about \$30 so around \$127.00 (plus \$3 late fees up to 6 month, \$30 over 6 months) Mail to the below address...

Barbershop Harmony
Society
110 7th Ave N
Nashville, TN 37203

Online Method- payment can be made online on the Member's Only site of the Barbershop Harmony Society Barbershop.org

Drew Ellis Manager of Membership Services, "There is a brand new feature, which will allow you to click on forgot User ID or Password, enter your 6-digit Member Number, and then click a link to send you your Activation Code. This Activation Code IS NOT YOUR PASSWORD, but is your Password Hint answer. When you put that Activation Code

into this spot on the webpage, then click Submit, you then CREATE a new password."

Last Ditch Method- according Drew Ellis, as long as the chapter Secretary receives the payment before the performance and mails it asap the member is legal.

THE BIG SCREEN

by Gregory P Humbel,

It's Big Screen Time again! I great way to advertize, support your chapter, quartets and the District as they can use the screen throughout the convention.

I have some Great news regarding the Big Screen ... It is the Big, Big Screen in Battle Creek! The Auditorium has undergone a major renovation and now has two screens. Stage left and Right.. You will be seeing double. I would guess that it is now State of the Art on everything.

Your message will be on the 10'x10' screen for 30 seconds Buy a package of one to five slide Five slide package all sessions..\$60 Additional slides after the purchase of the five slides Package \$8 each. You have to make your slides in Microsoft PowerPoint. EMAIL Ghumbel@comcast.net to Greg. Call Greg if you have any questions, 313-815-6212 Tell your treasurer to send Greg a check payable to the Pioneer District.

The deadline is fast approaching, Sep 28th. Need help give me a call. Thanks to those that Have already sent in their slides.

For information www.pioneerdistrict.org/nextconvention/convention_info.htm

RISERS

by Don Kill

It is getting close to convention time again, and once again, I am asking if there are any chapters who are available to provide us with a set of risers for the upcoming convention. Lansing's will be there, and we need 2 more sets for the picture/warmup room. Please let me know ASAP. EMAIL donaldkill@att.net

DRAWING & FLOW CHART

The drawing for order of performance will be announced on the Pionet internet newsgroup and as a flow chart on the PioneerDistrict.org site's "Next Convention" page about two weeks before so maybe Friday Oct 3rd.

DRAWING CONSIDERATION

by Al Fisk Music

Judge/BOR Director C & J Pioneer

1) Since some guys sing in multiple choruses, I have to spread them out. Ideally, we put four choruses between two choruses with guys in both. This allows time for changing clothes, pictures, and warm-up.

2) Host chapter can sing first or last.

3) Some choruses offer to go early (and not do Joe Barbershop) so those who wish to do Joe Barbershop can do so.

*Originally intended as a chorus of audience members as microphone testers singing Pole Cats, Joe Barbershop chorus has since grown to include competing chorus members and special guest directors.

DVD

Please mail your \$35 check for your performance DVD (made out to Pioneer) to...

Pioneer District
c/o Robb Smith
46210 Copper Lock Ln.
Macomb MI 48044

Pick up your DVDs from Allan in his van 15 minutes after each session. No money will be exchanged. If you prepaid, you're all set. If you did not prepay, Robb will bill you.

THE VENUE

The 'competition' is at the W.K. Kellogg Auditorium and the 'convention' is a 5 minute walk away at the McCamly Plaza Hotel. Renovations have been completed at both the auditorium and the hotel.

Jerry Ditto explains, "All the meetings will take place in the hotel. Rooms will be assigned and listed on the program. All the competitions will be at Kellogg Auditorium, just north of the hotel. Across the river but not through the woods. It is an easy walk on a nice Michigan day!!!! April should be much nicer than this 20 inches of snow (we had in March)!!!!!! The hotel has just redone the top floor and we will be using most of that space for our meetings. I don't remember the names but it is a beautiful place for meetings."

(Continued page 21)

McCamly Plaza Hotel

According to the mccamlyplazahotel.com website, "We've just completed more than \$3 million in renovations so far including all new Sealy Posturepedic Pillow top Beds, 300 Thread Count Linens with Duvet Covers, New Bathroom Amenities. Plus, in the adjacent McCamly Place Mall, you'll find Michigan's Largest Starbucks, Elwell; a full service Aveda Salon & Spa, Pastrami Joe's Deli, and Avis Car Rental." McCamly Plaza Hotel 50 Capital Ave SW Battle Creek, MI 49017.

WK Kellogg Auditorium

According to www.jonesphillips.com, Fol-

lowing eight months and \$5.5 million in renovation, the W.K.Kellogg Auditorium in Battle Creek, Michigan, reopened to the public. The project was spurred by the desire of the Battle Creek Symphony Orchestra to improve its home and by the Kellogg Company to make a major gesture in the community in honor of its 100th birthday.

Improvements to audience comfort include new and renovated seating, new heating and air conditioning, renovated restrooms, and new sound and video systems. Other improvements include lighting, stage rigging, and an orchestra shell.

This excerpt from the Kalamazoo Gazette, October 17: The auditorium now has new

seating, an expanded stage, an acoustical shell for orchestras, lighting, sound and a video system. Thanks to new projection screens, "there won't be a bad seat in the house," Harrigan said. "It's everything you could hope for to present the sort of talent we're presenting."

W.K. Kellogg Auditorium 50 W. Van Buren St. Battle Creek MI 49017.

Direction : Corner of Mc Camly St. & W. Van Buren. Auditorium is attached to W.K. Kellogg Jr High School. W.K. Kellogg Auditorium is across from Willard Library Parking Lot & Clara's Restaurant. Take I-94 to business loop M-66 North Bound. Turn west onto W. Van Buren approximately 3 blocks. 🎵



McCamly Plaza Hotel



WK Kellogg Auditorium view of stage and dual big projection screens



Auditorium view from stage

Online Membership Signup

by Drew Ellis
Manager of Membership Services
Barbershop Harmony Society
110 7th Ave N
Nashville, TN 37203
800.876.SING (7464) Ext. 4120

The Barbershop Harmony Society Membership department has had an unbelievable influx of calls and emails which have taken more of our time than anything. We find ourselves fielding as many tech support calls as membership related calls, and our members do need an outlet on the staff to voice their concerns, questions, problems, and solutions for our Ebiz Members site and our new IT Database system Aptify.

In regard to your chapter's recent applications or transfers, please note the following: For the past week, you have not received many returned phone calls.

The demands on the department currently are more than the hours in the day can afford. We will return voice mails and emails, but hope you will understand our limitations of time.

ForgotUID - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by Barbershop Harmony Society

https://ebiz.barbershop.org/ebizbusiness/ForgotUID.aspx?UID=2875

Google

Google, Go, RS, Bookmarks, 362 blocked, Check, Settings

ebiz.BARBERSHOP.ORG BETA

customer portal to the Barbershop Harmony Society

Home View Cart Members/Returning Customers Login Here

If you have forgotten your password, please enter your user ID and click submit. You will then be presented with password hint question corresponding to your user ID. If you are able to answer the question correctly, you will be permitted to change your password online and proceed with logging into the web site. If you have forgotten your user ID, please contact mailto:passwords@barbershop.org for assistance. Include your MemberID, name, email and home zipcode for verification.

Password Hint: Enter your activation code

Answer:

[Click here to have your Answer emailed to you.](#)

Submit Reset

JavaScript: __doPostBack('ntEmailHint','')

Internet 100%

Many new member kits are being shipped on a regular basis.

Current Society dues are \$97. (\$48.50 for Seniors, Students) *note: plus about \$30 for District & Chapter dues.

If you have not received the appropriate member renewal cards, please let us know so we can get the appropriate cards to you. Email us at: membership@barbershop.org

All Autodraft (monthly dues withdrawals) renewals will show a 2009 or 2010 expiration date. This is normal for our new Computer system, and is not a mistake.

In regards to Ebiz, here is where we stand: ebiz.barbershop.org. Login troubles are the biggest deterrent right now. Please read carefully how you can bypass this, WITHOUT having to contact us. (that said, PLEASE DO contact us if you must! We're glad to help.)

There is a brand new feature, which will allow you to click on forgot User ID or Password, enter your 6-digit Member Number, and then click a link to send you your Activation Code.

This Activation Code IS NOT YOUR PASSWORD, but is your Password Hint answer. When you put that Activation Code into this spot on the webpage, then click Submit,

you THEN CREATE a new password. (see the screen-shot below)

We sincerely thank you for your persistence. If you find that you cannot log in, even after this procedure has been followed exactly, please feel free to email us or ask around for other guys in your chapters who have been successful.

Please note: We have a GREAT new computer system. The transition has not been perfect, and yet it is beginning to work very well for all basic chapter functions.

Whatever you do, don't stop singing! 🎵

QCA Helps Bush League



by Marv Burke, 4-Fits

The Steering Committee met in January at President Russ Seely's home. We made the following decisions: we will provide Judges, Coaches and a feature quartet for the Bush League Contest, mentors will be available to any quartet that have not made the cut in any contest.

Membership in the QCA : a quartet must

achieve a score of 85% in the District Contest and a score of 58% in the Senior Contest. A 2008 recipient was chosen for the Glenn VanTassel Award. Look for the new shirts that QCA Members will be wearing at the Spring Convention.

Congratulations to Resisting Arrest for their Silver Medal at the Mid-Winter Senior Contest, yes T.C. second place again.



Generous Bush League Donation

by Erv Erickson, Chairman
Bush League 2008
Aug 22-23, 2008
Harmonie Meisters Chorus
(231)348-3301
email.marshonerv@aol.com

Two generous donors have provided a total of \$700.00 in gas cards to pass on to the first seven Quartets to register for and participate in Bush League 2008!

That is \$100.00 to each of the first seven Quartets eager to come north and experience a remarkable weekend of fellowship, contesting and coaching.

Quartet and housing registration forms are included in the current online version of the Troubadour. Forms may also be obtained by contacting me as listed below.

If your Quartet has been "on the fence" deciding whether or not to participate this year, now is the time to move!

As a reminder, the Judges are Society Certified. They are Al Fisk, Roger Lewis, Ken Fisher and Ron Eubank. The Coaches are the Judges plus our International Seniors Silver Medalist Quartet, "Resisting-A- Rest". Congratulations to the Seven "Early-Bird" quartets to register for Bush League 2008!

The following seven quartets will be receiving

\$100.00 each in gas cards for being a part of Bush League 2008.

Registrations in order received :

1. Northbound Sound
2. Border Boyz
3. Generations of Harmony
4. Havin' A Blast
5. Four Decades
6. Singing With Dad
7. U.P. Express

In the event one or more of the above quartets are unable to come, the gas cards will be passed on to other quartets based on the date the Registration is received. Sooooo, get you Quartet Registration, in as soon as possible to cover that possibility.

Think "Bush League 2008".





C4 Helping Chapters

by Paul of Chordiology
2007 Pioneer District Champs
Chordiology.com

COTS! Wow! What a riot! When we were there last night talking with people all we heard was how informative, interactive, and FUN the classes were and that the class leaders were top notch. Oh! And the hanging out and singing afterward, what a BLAST! I believe I heard that this was one of the most well attended COTS in years and I can see why. Maybe some guys that attended would be willing to post some experiences so others could get the "vicarious" effect so they'd consider attending next year! And in case you're wondering... the answer is "YES you SHOULD consider attending next year".

On a separate, yet related topic the Chordiology quartet (C4 for short if you want the inside scoop) talked about the following at COTS and we were asked to post it as well. We basically said that with 2008 firmly on it's way that it seemed like a good time for us to sit back, take inventory and put into motion some of the things that we have been talking about accomplishing over the next year and more. Of course all of us in the Society want to become better singers and performers so we'll mark that goal up to being a foregone conclusion or at the very least a well anticipated response. So, what comes after that?

As you may have guessed Chordiology loves meeting and singing with all kinds of people within the Society: new people, those more familiar to us, and long time friends alike. With that said, it was an exciting prospect for us when we talked about doing as other quartets in the past had done and visit

Chapters. In fact, The Detroit Sound Co. visited every Chapter in the District which was VERY cool. Then we started thinking that as much fun as that would be for us, what if we "visited" in a way that would or could help a chapter the most or add the most value for THEM? So, we embarked upon a brainstorming session. We came up with idea after idea and meticulously documented each of them and came up with two overwhelming conclusions: 1) Each chapter is different and could, and probably would, have different needs, if any at all; and 2) It is evident that none of us in C4 have the biggest brains on the planet since we are certain that we didn't come close to coming up with all of the potential possibilities. So what did these four fun-loving, energetic, creative, and arguably small-brained Chordilogists come up with? We thought that we would simply provide some of our ideas as a starting point as to how we may be able to help out, let it ruminate and take root with people and then ask "How can we help?". So to that end here is that partial list to help get the ball rolling.

Visit a Chapter

Visit a Chapter on a Guest Night.

Work with a Young Men In Harmony outreach program if a chapter has one.

Singing on a Chapter Show.

It is important to add that, yes, Chordiology does have a standard rate for Chapter shows, however, as we said at COTS we want to make ourselves available to help ANY Chapter that may need it so we will have a price to accommodate every budget. Contact Paul at 734-812-5757 for more details.

Join in on a singout that could lead to great press for a Chapter and aid it in bringing in new members.

Give a Chapter some ideas as to how to get outside singing jobs and how they could bring in more outside work than they'd know what to do with. This could be anything from local performances for little or no pay that could really benefit the community and improve the Chapter's visibility, all the way up to traveling shows that pay would be commensurate with the level of performance. Paul@Chordiology.com would be the person to contact on this.

Provide a Chapter with ideas on how to build a performance resume and to build a larger fan base and roster to pull from to make fu-

ture events more successful.

Show people how to utilize the FREE yet powerful recording software Audacity to rehearse without having to meet with your chorus or quartet and thus not missing a "beat" (hey, I thought it was cute). Or how to simply utilize it to record yourself singing with a learning tracks and learn your part. Chordiology has used this to sing one part, email it to the next Chordilogist have them record their part with it and then send it on to the next member, et cetera, until you have a full quartet singing the song without ever having met to sing it. Visit www.Audacity.com and Rob at Rob@Chordiology.com would be a great person to contact for additional information.

Talk about multi-track recorders and vocal mics for recording or performing such as the SM-58 or the SM-57 depending what you are trying to accomplish. For more information on the multi-track recorders Rob would be the best contact and on the mics, Paul would be the best suited.

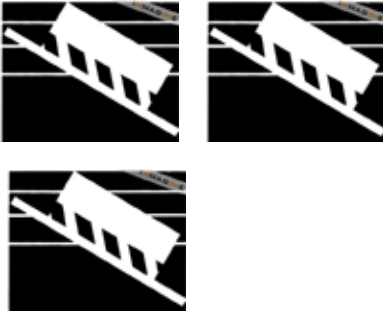
Anyway you get the idea.

As you can see, the potential for ideas is possibly endless. What it again comes down to is "How can we help?". We understand that we will not be able to accommodate every request, but we'll do our level best. So bring on the ideas and let us know. If you want to email us, we can be contacted at Info@Chordiology.com or again my (Paul) cell phone number is 734-812-5757.

Thanks, Happy New Year and here's to a GREAT '08 and beyond!

The guys of Chordiology (Cliff, Paul, Rob and Dave)





Short A Full Quartet? Try Chordilogist

by the guys of Chordiology
Cliff, Paul, Dave and Rob

Did the last quartet competition have you all geared up about the future of the Pioneer District? How would YOU like to be a part of that future? Have you always wanted to get up on the contest stage (or get back on it), but don't have a quartet?

Well, now you DO! Chordiology is offering to sing on the contest stage this October with ANY man that would like to, but doesn't have a quartet.

Think about it! Think about what it would be like to enjoy the rush of being introduced in a quartet and walking out from behind the curtains, to live out all of the fun that goes along with being on the stage with a true barbershop crowd behind you every moment of the way and enjoying all of their supportive applause, to hear the music you are making being amplified throughout the auditorium, to see your face up on the big screen (and don't forget that you can even get the video of it), and to enjoy the camaraderie that takes place between the quartets behind the scenes both beforehand and afterward! --- This could be and should be YOU!

We're not aware of this ever having been done in Pioneer before, and you may have some questions, so we have created a "Q&A Section of Sorts" to help and explain a little bit about becoming a "Contest Chordilogist":

Q&A Section of Sorts

Comment: "This is really different."

Response: "It's supposed to be different."

Our goal is to see more people enjoying singing and quarteting at convention than ever before, and this will be a great way to get that started."

Comment: "But, I'm a chorus man."

Response: "Great! We don't want to take anyone away from chorus singing. Chorus are vital to our District, and to our Society. But, did you know that quartet singers are among the most sought after chorus members in the Society? Ask your director about this phenomenon. So join us in the fun and raise your chorus member 'stock'. Be careful though, you may soon find yourself moved to the front row in your Chorus!"

Question: "But, won't there be additional costs at the convention if sing on the stage?"

Answer: "Nope. If you register for convention and are a member in good standing there are no additional fees for entering the quartet competition.

A registration is the same price whether you chose to sit in the auditorium, or join some friends on stage and sing. So increase your 'fun to finances' factor and join in!"

Comment: "But, I'm worried about our scores."

Response: "Nothing to fear. All scores will be non-published and for evaluation only. No stress. No worries. The only one that will know your score is you, that is, unless you want to share it with others. It's all about the fun and camaraderie of singing and quarteting. Yes, we always want to sing well, but it's more about just enjoying the quarteting experience!"

Question: "By the way, what does the term 'Contest Chordilogist' mean?"

Answer: "Well, strictly interpreted the term Chordilogist means a person that studies 'barbershop chords'. So a Contest Chordilogist is someone that studies those barbershop chords for the purpose of singing them on the contest stage and having a lot of fun while doing it!"

Comment: "But, I might sing a wrong note."

Response: "Hey, nothing we haven't done."

Comment: "But, I'm left handed."

Response: "Now, you're just looking for excuses. You know you want to sign up, but are not sure how it all would work. Trust us. We'll get you the information you will need. And just for the record we will not discriminate based on your dominant hand preference or any other criterion for that matter. I mean, look at the four of us. Clearly we aren't picky."

Comment and a Question: "I'm intrigued and want to learn more. What do I do next?"

Response: "GREAT! Read below!"

What To Do Next?

* First off just let us know that you are interested in becoming a "Contest Chordilogist" by sending us an email at ContestChordilogist@Chordiology.com

* In your email, please include:

- * your name
- * home chapter
- * phone number
- * what part(s) you sing

* After you send us the email you will be teamed up with at least 2 members of Chordiology in your quartet. If you'd like to be in the same quartet as someone from your chapter or a friend just let us know and we'll make sure that happens. And if you have three members and only need one member of Chordiology to fill out your group, we can accommodate that as well. Even if the numbers don't work out right and we have too many of one part, Chordiology will supply the remaining parts needed. Again, it's all about the fun of quarteting!

* We have listed four possible song choices of songs for people to choose from and that we also will be learning. All songs have the highest quality learning tracks available on the market today and are available through BHS Headquarters. Feel free to learn all four songs if you'd like, but you only need to know two to go on stage. :) Call 800-876-SING to order your learning tracks and music today!

The songs are:

* A Little Street Where Old Friends Meet – Society Stock #200108

* It's a Brand New Day – Society Stock #200093

(Continued page 25)

(Continued from page 24)

* There's a New Gang on the Corner- Society Stock #8844

* I Don't Mind Being All Alone – Society Stock #7399

* We will be performing the songs exactly as they are recorded on the tracks so no worries about interp either.

* Rehearsals? Given that you have the music well in advance and that we are singing the same interp as on the learning tracks you will be able to rehearse with the learning tracks as often as you would like in order to be ready to enjoy the weekend the fullest. In addition to the great learning tracks and consistent interp, Chordiology will be check-

ing into the hotel as early as we can on the Friday of convention and will be "rehearsing" (most likely in the lobby of the hotel) with anyone that will be joining us on stage. So we encourage you to check in early and join us in the lobby and have some fun singing! Heck, even if you're not going to be a Contest Chordilogist come and join us in the lobby and have some fun singing!

* Attire will be "stage appropriate", but don't worry about everyone matching. Wear what you would wear with your chorus or quartet on a stage performance. Again, it's about the singing and the camaraderie.

* As a side note, Audacity may be a helpful tool while practicing. Not familiar with Audacity please see tinyurl.com/6e7fou

There you go. Those are the basics. An opportunity for all of us to have a great time singing together and bringing our joy of song to the stage. So, if you have more questions, would like to learn more, or you and a bunch of your friends would like to join in then just send us an email and let us know and we'll get you the information you are looking for. We're looking forward to singing with YOU.

We've never done this before so things may change, so stay "tuned" and remember to send that email to ContestChordilogist@Chordiology.com or call us at 734-812-5757.

As always, let us know how we can help.



COTS BIG Success!

If you missed COTS you missed out! Just read these report from the Lansing weekend!

by Brian Dunckel
Executive Vice President
Pioneer District

At the conclusion of COTS on Sunday, the four certified COTS instructors from this weekends faculty (Pioneers' own Al Bonney, Brian Dunckel and Doran McTaggart along with Johnny Appleseed Districts' Fred Schmidt) met with PIO President Jim Kunz, COTS Coordinator Larry Parker, and PIO Di-

rector of Marketing and PR Rick Anderson (who also taught the Mktg and PR Classes this weekend) to begin work on our COTS for 2009.

We have already started looking at what other districts are doing, and our heads are swimming with ideas from our meeting for making next years COTS even better! BUT WE NEED TO HEARFROM YOU! What would you like to see offered as classes? Are there needs not being met by the existing COTS? Please take the time to let me know by emailing me

Thank you, and be assured, we are going to do all we can to make this experience EXCEED your expectations!

by Marvin

International could take lessons from our Pioneer Guys on how to conduct a meaningful and unforgettable COTS.

I have attended twelve or fifteen COTS (which were all conducted by and staffed by International), and this very first COTS conducted by Pioneer was head and shoulders above anything that has been done by International over the last fifteen years. Congratulations to Larry Parker, Jim Kunz and all our Pioneer guys for making it so fabulous!!!

You asked about suggestions for the future, and what comes to mind is that we need to conduct a "Chapter Bulletin Writing Class," if not every year then at least once every two or three years.

by Bill Strong, VP Program
Windsor Chapter

Hi there fellow Pionetters

I came home just a little tired (exhausted) after our great weekend at Cots and then I thought about all the presenters and realized that I was just being a little "wimpy". One has just to imagine all the work that goes into a weekend such as this.

Hats off to everyone involved in this great experience. Our collective class is indebted to you.
Happy New Year to everyone..

by John.H.Baker IV
Grand Rapids Chapter
Bass - Barbershop Style

Another "GREAT" year! Thanks to all the Quartets who entertained us and stayed to sing songs and tags at the afterglow. To our MC - Doran and Al Fisk for his CJ class. Even bigger thanks to the COTS Staff who did a "Fantastic" job! And the Hotel staff who took care of all our needs. The food was abundant, the fellowship of the other chapters was so overwhelming. So if your chapter ask at the end of 2008 for anyone interested in going to COTS - Jump on it like a Fat kid on a bag of

donuts - you'll have the best time ever.

Thanks again to all!

by Raleigh Bloch
(now) Past President Pioneer District

John Baker is correct. It was a great time and we learned alot. Thanks to Larry Parker and Jim Kunz for doing a fabulous job. A year ago when the Society said it was not going to finance the COTS, because of the expense of the move to Nashville, I was concerned, about the training for our new 2008 chapter officers. I asked Jim Kunz and Larry

Parker to take on the task of getting the instructors and setting up for the COTS. They really came through and the attendance was great. Now you know why Jim was selected as District President and Larry (former District President) is a Hall of Famer. These guys are truly the "cream of the crop." That said, we had some great instructors and many from our own district. This helped keep our costs in control and I heard from a number of guys, that it was the best yet.

Thank You, to all who made it a success.



Photos by Jim Farkas



Program VP & Quartet Activities Doran McTaggart instructing quartet training



Class Singing Bruce Odell of Winona MN in the Land O' Lakes District



Pioneer District President James Kunz directing



Moxxy



Singing With Dad



Patch Chords



Chordology by Jim Farkas



Antiques Roadshow



Awarding Recognition Pins

Farewell Power Play



Power Play 2003 Int. Champs, Don Slamka, Michael Slamka, Jack Slamka, Mark Slamka in farewell performance feb 16 2008

by Rick Anderson, Pioneer M&PR
Power Play Retiring

This event has already occurred

The end of an era is drawing near in the Pioneer District. As with all good things, Power Play will end its run as a quartet on February 16, 2008. Power Play formed in 1988, and won the Pioneer District quartet championship in the fall of 1989. They represented us in international competition 12 times, and attained medalist status in 2000 and 2001 when they were awarded a 5th place bronze medal in each of those competitions. Then in Portland, Oregon they became the 2002 - 3rd place bronze medalists. As their crowning achievement, the quartet won the Quartet Competition held in Montreal Canada and became the 2003 International Barbershop Quartet Champions. This family foursome from Pioneer has been singing together for over 20 years.

They've performed all over North America, and also recently in Germany. Notable Power Play performances include the Grande Old Opry and NBC's The Jane Pauley Show.

They've worn their gold medals with pride and represented the Barbershop Harmony Society with class and musicianship second to none. Their music has always demonstrated artistry and heart, which is built around family. For those of you new to the district

or barbershop harmony, the group consists of a father, his two sons, and a nephew. Jack Slamka, the father, sings bass and is a 35+ year member of the Society. He lives in Riley Twp., MI with his wife, Kitty. Michael, his son, sings lead and is a 25+ year member of the Society. Mike lives in St. Clair, MI with his wife, Traci, and their three daughters Michaela, Mackenzi, and Madison. Jack and Mike direct the Guardians of Harmony Chorus in Macomb County. Don, the nephew, sings tenor and is a 25 year member of the Society. He lives in Reading, MI with his wife, Staci and their daughter Holli. Don also directs the Town and County Chorus in Hillsdale, MI. Mark, the other son, sings baritone and is a 20+ year member of the Society. He lives in St. Clair Shores, MI with his wife, Jennifer, their son, Dylan and daughter Felicity. This quartet proves that the family that Plays (and sings) together stays together! There are just a very few quartets within our district that can claim to have sung together for longer.

Power Play holds a special place in my heart, being a long time member of the Guardians of Harmony. Don, Mike, Jack and Mark have performed on our chapter shows numerous times to standing ovations, and I've experienced the pleasure of singing tags with them after rehearsals until the lights were turned off. I can't imagine any group of guys who've done more for our Society and the

Pioneer District than Power Play. They've brought us such joy and pride.

Joining Power Play for their Farewell Show will be other quartet icons of the Society – and all currently retired quartets: the 1986 champs Rural Route 4, 1991 champs The Ritz, 1993 Champs Gas House Gang, and 2002 silver medalists Uptown Sound. These have been some of the most influential quartets of our time. I hope you can join me and the Pioneer family on February 16 in St. Clair Shores, MI as we bid Power Play farewell.

*Show update from Power Play lead Michael Slamka.

Power Play is pleased to announce that tickets are now available for the afterglow following our Farewell Show. The afterglow will be held at the VFW Bruce Post, 28404 E. Jefferson, St. Clair Shores, MI 48081, immediately following the show. Tickets are just \$10, which includes pizza, salad, beer, pop, wine, and some awesome entertainment. There's a very limited supply of afterglow tickets, so if you're interested, get them soon! There are still some show tickets available, as well.

This event has already occurred

(Continued page 28)

by Jim Kunz
Pioneer President

On February 16th, my wife Kris and I were fortunate to be able to attend one of those "once in a lifetime" events. Friends, family and fans of Power Play all came together to celebrate the artistry and accomplishments of Pioneer's own Power Play!

While we all could have been a little sad, had we focused on Power Play's upcoming retirement, the inspiring and entertaining performances and tributes by the outstanding quartets and other presenters quickly dispelled any such feelings.

Some of the highlights of the evening include:

1. Getting a chance to reconnect with fans and friends in the audience, who came from all over the US, Canada and the UK to join in the fun.
2. Listening to Doran McTaggart, that Emcee Extraordinaire, whose stories never fail to amuse.
3. Seeing and hearing 'Big' Mike Slamka singing with Don, Mike and Jack Slamka, in Family Forum once again.
4. The Rural Route 4, in their blue velvet overalls and red shirts, performing with their homespun humor. They had us all tapping our feet and smiling along with them from start to finish.
5. Seeing the smiles on all faces when Jason Oyler performed with Power Play once again, reprising their 1989 District Champi-

onship lineup.

6. The Ritz, back in Pioneer once again – our District Champs from 1984! And who knew that the Hittites were such a funny bunch of characters (you had to be there)!

7. Seeing and hearing the Gas House Gang once again, with Mike Slamka on tenor. They haven't lost a beat since winning the gold in 1993.

8. The energy and excitement of Uptown Sound. It's clear these guys had a lot of fun competing against Power Play over the years.

9. Special tributes and the stories of watching these guys grow and develop, and provided by Jim DeBusman, Don Bagley, Ev Nau, Darryl Flynn, Tom Gentry and Dwain Chambers

10. And of course, the exceptional artistry and outstanding performances by Power Play! These men have represented Pioneer so well over the years. I'm sure they will continue to do so as they continue to participate in this wonderful hobby of ours, whether serving as coaches, directors, or performers. Judging by the performances we saw from Mark's son Dylan Slamka and Mike's daughters Michaela, Madison and Mackenzi Slamka, we may be hearing a lot more from Team Slamka in the not-too-distant future!

The evening was a long one, but hours flew by like minutes. By the end of the evening, we all seemed to realize how happy we are to have known the guys from Power Play and how many other people feel the same way. What a great night!

Below is an excerpt by Power Play from show's program...

A Final Farewell

Thank you all for coming out this evening to share in the final chapter of our "Barbershop Story". When a quartet has spanned nearly twenty years, it seems that one show, or one page of text is an inadequate amount of time or space to recognize all the people that have touched our lives in some way. The people you see on stage with us tonight are some of those special people. Others are seated among you in the audience. And still others are with us only in spirit today.

There are a few groups of people that we need to recognize and publically thank. First, our home chapters, Hillsdale and Macomb County, for being with us every step of the way. Second, to the barbershop fans that have followed us through the years. Your kindness and support has been overwhelming. And third, our families. Kitty, Traci, Staci, Jennifer, Michaela, Mackenzi, Madison, Holli, Dylan and Felicity. Thank you for always believing in us, supporting us, and picking us up when we fell. Your love and support has made this incredible journey possible. You make it so easy to sing the words, "Blessed are we and we know why, When there's Love at home."

A final thank you to the performers and presenters sharing in this celebration tonight. Thanks you for your inspiration and for serving as heroes to us and to all who have known you.

Power Play
(More photos page 29)



Audience view of stage



MC Doran McTaggart



Doran directs audience sing



Family Forum Michael Slamka, Don Slamka, Jack Slamka, "Big" Mike Slamka



Power Play 1989 District Champion lineup, Jason Oyler, Michael Slamka, Jack Slamka, Mark Slamka



Power Play 2003 International Champions lineup, Don Slamka, Michael Slamka, Jack Slamka, Mark Slamka



Power Play guest starring Dylan Slamka



Michael Slamka's daughters Michaela (tenor), Michael (bass), Madison (lead), Mackenzi (bari)



Power Play 2003 International Champions sing Little Boy, Don Slamka, Michael Slamka, Jack Slamka, Mark Slamka



Power Play



Rural Rout 4, 1986 International Champions Don Kahl, Calvin Yoder, Willard Yoder, Jim Bagby, Replacement Members: Wesley Yoder



The Ritz 1991 International Champions Jim Shisler, Doug Nichol, Ben Ayling, D.J. Hiner



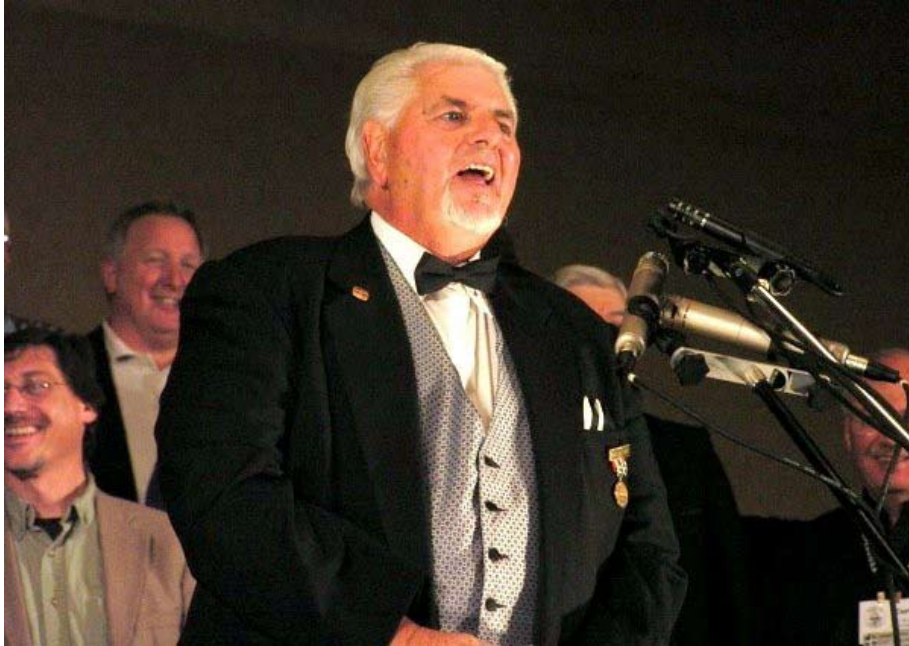
Gas House Gang 1993 International Champions Kipp Buckner, Rich Knight, Jim Henry, Rob Henry (Michael Slamka standing in)



Uptown Sound 2001 Silver Medalists: Jeff Archer, David Calland, Steve Denino, Steve "Phil" Kovach



Curtain call hugs



Departed Russ Seely

by Joe Serwach
Grosse Pointe Chapter
Lakeshore Chorus gpsingers.com

I am saddened to report we lost Russ Seely this afternoon (July 13th, 2008) after a battle with Pulmonary Fibrosis. He had only

recently turned 75.

For more than half a century he has been the soul, spirit and guiding life force of the Grosse Pointe Chapter and one of the greatest and most powerful voices of the Pioneer District. I could fill many paragraphs list-

ing the many leadership roles and honors (Champion, district and chapter president, director, QCA director, Hall of Famer, Society and District Board member) he won at the chapter, district and international levels.

But far more importantly, he was a combination of brother, father and friend to each and every one of us. With his eyes and voice and the sheer force of his personality, he took command the moment he walked into a room or onto a stage.

He cannot be replaced but the valuable impact he made on each of us will remain a part of us for decades to come. We hope you will remember Russ and the entire Seely family in your prayers.

Here are details on Russ Seely's funeral. Visitation will be at the Union Lake Chapel of the Elton Black & Son Funeral Home, 1233 Union Lake Road, White Lake MI Tuesday July 15 from 2-8 p.m. and on Wednesday from 12:00 noon until service.

Please share with your barbershop friends. Russ assembled armies of barbershoppers to sing at so many funerals. I'm sure the Seely family would be happy to see just how many people he has touched through the years. Hope to see you all there.



1965 District Champs 4/Four Fits John Purdy, Ray McCalpine, Russ Seeley, Marv Burke, replacement tenor John Wearing



1988 4/Four Senior District Champs and multiple International Reps



1977 Motor City Music Company District Champs Bob Demchak, Russ Seely, Dave Caldwell, Bob Wisdom



2002 Russ Seely and Linda Liddicoatt



1976 Foreign Policy District Champs John Wearing, Russ Seely, Don Humphries, Thom Hine



2007 Fall Joe Barbershop Mic Test Chorus Directed by Russ Seely



2008 Russ Seely and Chordiology 2007 Pioneer Champions

A Real Champion

Tribute To A Barbershop Hero

by Paul Ellinger
From the Chordiology.com blog

It would take reams of paper to allow just the people within the barbershop community to explain what Russ Seely meant to them. To the brethren of singers he was many formal things, President, Director, Champion and Leader, but to them he was also a father, brother, and friend.

To me he was "Papa Russ" and our relationship started by pure happenstance back in 1988. I was fresh out of college and working in downtown Detroit setting rates for Blue Cross' Chrysler account. Each day I would pack my lunch and walk across the street to eat it somewhere in the Renaissance Center. There was nothing really remarkable about my mid-day jaunts over to the 300 Tower of the "Ren Cen", until the day I met Russ.

Like other days, I sat down and began unpacking my lunch when I heard this beautiful music being sung. It was bouncing off the unusual lines of the tower's cement walls so it was difficult to tell where it was coming from. I left my lunch on the balustrade and followed my ears. I turned the last corner and saw just four guys making all of this music. I was enthralled. I was indeed the proverbial "portly kid in a candy store". I couldn't get enough of it. I listened to song after song. I got to talk to the guys at the end of the first song. Russ answered eager ques-

tion after eager question of mine. Yes, I went to college and high school, but neither had any music programs to speak of. I grew up in a farming community and my high school gym teacher was also the music teacher. In college I went to a technical college in Sault Sainte Marie (Lake Superior State) where the focus was on engineering, mathematics, science and hockey which was also the closest thing we had to "the arts" at the time. So, getting to hear music like this being performed right in front of me was something like I had never seen nor heard and I was absolutely thrilled.

I alternated between not being able to wait to hear the next song and not being able to wait to ask my next question. And Russ obliged me at every turn. As I said, I met each of the men in the quartet including Russ' son Matt, but Russ stuck out from the others not only because he was singing lead, but because he was supremely confident (and if you weren't sure on this point you could have just asked him - he'd have told you), direct, engaging, and most of all sincere. It was clear to me right then and there that he had a real passion for his hobby and he told me about all of these different places that people met to learn to sing this "barbershop" music. He said they called them "Chapter meetings" and that there was a chapter that met right in Ypsilanti (adjacent to Ann Arbor) where I was living at the time and said that I should check them out. Wow! Right in my home

town. I couldn't believe my luck! They sang a few more songs and then Russ invited me to join them in getting something to eat. "EAT!! What time is it?", I said. They gave me the time and not only was I late, but I also hadn't eaten a bite of my lunch as it was still sitting somewhere several corridors away. I was so enthralled with Russ and his music that I lost all track of time. I look back on that day and think again about how kind he was to this young kid that was wide-eyed and so green behind the gills when it came to singing and music. I am so thankful for that day and as you can imagine, I will never forget it.

I got back home and could not find the Huron Valley Harmonizers as they weren't listed in the phone book and this new-fangled thing called the Internet was only just starting up so no real information was to be found on them. But, as luck would have it not too many months later, I happened to catch the Huron Valley Harmonizers performing a Christmas set in the center of a mall in Ann Arbor. I remembered what Russ had told me about these "Chapter Meetings" and I couldn't wait for the last song so I could talk to someone and find out where they meet.

Then the last song came and one of the gentleman (Lyle Hanson) stepped forward and said, "If there are any men out there that would like to learn to sing this style of music just stop up and talk to one of us, we won't bite." Remembering the music I heard Russ singing, I couldn't get up there fast enough. And quite honestly, I wouldn't have cared if they did bite. I was going to learn to sing barbershop!!!

That day, I met my other barbershop mentor, Kelly Brummett. Kelly asked if I could sing, and really I had no clue as it had always been a real struggle for me to sing if someone was singing different notes than I was singing. Kelly was not dissuaded by my misgivings and grabbed 2 of the other guys from 'Smorgaschord' (Dave Conrad and Steve Heald) and he taught me the "Sleepy Time" tag. I did my best to glom onto my two solitary notes in the tag. When we made it through the series of chords Kelly told me how good it was and although I'm not sure on the point, I am sure that I was hooked! I wanted to sing barbershop and I wanted to sing in a quartet! Little did I know that in the not too distant future that I would be singing lead in Chordiology with Kelly Brummett singing tenor, Rob Pettigrew singing baritone and that "Long Drink of Water", Dave Spizarny, singing bass --- and all this thanks to Russ' prompting.

Year after year Chordiology would go to Convention and it was always exciting for me to see Russ there. And even though Russ was revered by many and also was one of the Big Men on Campus, he always had time for me and always remembered our conversation that day in the Ren Cen. He would ask how I was, would want to hear a song and would always be so complimentary. And I could tell that he took joy in seeing me having the time of my life. And I'm also quite sure in the beginning that he recognized that I had no clue what I was doing. I always wanted to sing my best for Russ as he was the man that I looked up to the most in barbershop. He was my barbershop dad. It was great to sing for him as he would always listen intently, and much like a father would he'd compliment me and give me well-placed suggestions of things that I could work on to improve so I could get just that much better. I always looked forward to his suggestions and really took them to heart. Because of who he was to me, there was no greater authority in barbershop than Russ.

As much as I looked forward to singing for Russ and receiving his nuggets of wisdom in return, I looked forward even more to seeing him sing lead in a quartet. You couldn't take your eyes off of the guy. Heck, he wouldn't let you! He was the consummate showman. People would always say, "When you sing lead, you have to command that stage." Now I'm still not completely certain what it is that you have to have to command the stage, but whatever it is Russ had it in spades!

Time went on, as time has want to do, and Chordiology continued to have a great time singing together and in between laughs and jokes we worked at this tough thing called singing. Cliff Duke had joined the quartet and we were actually a 5 man quartet for a while and we really thought we were getting somewhere when we lost Kelly to a short, but hard fought battle with cancer. It was tough but we picked ourselves up and began plugging away at it again. We saw Russ at convention and he was so supportive and gave me a hug like I was family and expressed how sorry he was to hear about Kelly and expressed how pleased he was to see us still singing.

After this we took a couple of years off from competition, but when we came back, Russ was right there in the lobby as if he had been waiting there for us. We hadn't done much more than walked through the door when he hit us with a barrage of about four or five heartfelt insults as to where we'd been and why we hadn't been around lately.

For those of you that knew Russ, know that he never picked on anyone he didn't like and the more cutting they were, the more he cared about you, so I was always proud when I received a good healthy dose of Russ' ribbing. After he had roasted us so we were good and toasty, he referenced that night's contest and said "Now, give 'em heck boys!" But, of course it wasn't "heck" that he said.

Well, we sang our Friday night set and we felt pretty good about it and then in the hallway outside of the auditorium I got the best compliment I'd ever received for singing. Russ found us and came up to me, looked me square in the eyes, gave me several light fatherly taps on the face with his open right hand and said, "Good job, kid. Real --- good --- job." I was on cloud 9. Or was it cloud 10? I had just received the best compliment that I could have imagined from my barbershop hero. Although I never told this to anyone, I played that compliment over and over in my head and found a place in my memory to frame it. For me, it was the highest honor that I could ever receive for singing.

After singing Saturday night, out of the group of great quartets that had sung, our name was the last to be called off. We had won. But it was like the evening had been set up by an out of work writer of Hollywood scripts that had written one too many cliché Hollywood endings. We had won on the 10th anniversary of The Detroit Sound Company's win (one of the many quartets that Kelly sang lead in while he was a Chordiology member) and we had received the exact same score to the point as they did. But the irony didn't stop there. The moon and planets decided to align themselves in just the right formation to allow things to come full circle for me, because when we were invited to join the QCA on the stage the man directing the QCA chorus was none other than Russ Seely. The man that had given me the gift of music in a chance meeting almost 20 years prior. Russ Seely --- my mentor --- my barbershop father --- my hero --- my friend.

I'd never sung with more intensity, more passion, more fervor, more commitment, or more pride than I did that night when I sang for Papa Russ. I have a picture of me singing behind Russ as he was "sending" those last chords out to the audience and I will always cherish this picture and am thankful for the person that sent it to me.

And all this would not have been possible if a knowledgeable barbershop sage hadn't taken the time to answer the questions of a wide-eyed kid that loved a cappella on that

day 20 years ago. Russ was never too busy to spread the word of barbershop or to encourage others.

I was always thankful to Russ for getting me into barbershop and in singing in general and I told him so almost every time I saw him. But this year in several hospitality suites after the contest I was able to share my story of thankfulness for Russ having taken the time with me at the Ren Cen and of what he had done for me in sharing the joy of song and how he had mentored me over the years. In one suite, Russ was in the room. I acknowledged him as my barbershop hero, my mentor and my friend. I couldn't begin to capture that moment in writing, but suffice it to say that we were both found ourselves with "something in our eyes" and this was the only time I ever saw Russ Seely actually speechless.

Russ and I were supposed to have lunch together this week to talk about new ideas for promoting quarteting in the District. I was looking forward to having time with Russ. I looked forward to more nuggets of knowledge and fatherly advice. I looked forward to hearing what he thought and how I could do just a little bit better. And in turn I looked forward to giving Russ tickets to this Saturday Night's show, a show that we had developed to spread the word of a cappella singing to a non-barbershop audience. I think he would have been proud. This Saturday night, those tickets will still be sitting at the "will call" window for Russ. If there is a means, if there is a way, if there is a loophole in the cosmos, I hope Russ will find a way to watch me sing for him.

In Russ' absence, I hope someday to become just a hint of the mentor that he was to me even if it's to only one person. And, over time, if I accomplish that, I will feel that I have truly accomplished something worthy of Russ' approval. And if I succeed, when I see him again I hope that Papa Russ will find me, look me square in the eyes, give me those light fatherly taps on the face and say to me one more time, "Good job, kid. Real --- good --- job."



Russ Seely 1933-2008



*2007 Fermata Nowhere at Spring District
Steve Pauling, Jeff Gougeon, Pete Burns,
Tom Conner*

Done Themselves Proud Fermata Nowhere Retires

Fermata Nowhere from the Grosse Pointe Chapter announced their retirement in November 2007. After a determined 7 years they had become a very popular quartet on the District competition stage providing some great performances and exciting close scores. In 2006 they won District Quartet Champs and in both 2006 and 2007 they won as Pioneer District International Quartet Representatives. They competed admirably on the International stage and in time with increasing International experience it was hoped they might work their way up to number one just like Power Play had done. But that changed with an email on behalf of the quartet (included here) announcing their retirement.

The Grosse Pointe Chapter Lakeshore Chorus website confirmed the loss saying, "...those of us that have listened to their fine blend of voices agree they will be missed."

And this comment from Windsor Chapter's Bill Strong, "We are much saddened by the news that Fermata Nowhere have put their pitch pipe away. They were always special in Windsor's eyes and will not be forgotten."

Fermata Nowhere's Bari Steve Pauling, tenor Jeff Gougeon, bass Pete Burns, and lead Tom Conner had done themselves, their chapter, the community, and the Pioneer District proud and will most certainly be missed.

by Jeff Gougeon

To all my barbershop and non-barbershop friends--

This Wednesday's, Nov. 7th 2008 performance on Grosse Pointe's show and glow will be my last as tenor of Fermata Nowhere. With my leaving the quartet, Fermata Nowhere has decided to officially retire.

I have found it necessary to re-evaluate what I need to do to focus on my current life situation and job prospects, and how my barbershop 'career' and love of barbershop and vocal music factor into that.

The last 7 years have been very rewarding and we will always treasure our memories of Fermata Nowhere and all our accomplishments together. We are so very pleased and thankful to have won the Pioneer District Championship and represented Pioneer in not just one but two Internationals. We especially thank you all for your support, encouragement, and friendship. It's been an honor.

Jeff Gougeon For Fermata Nowhere--
Steve, Tom, Pete, Jeff



New Blood

by Al Fisk
Music Judge/BOR
Director C & J Pioneer
alfisk@comcast.net

Ladies/Gentlemen:

I'm very proud and pleased to announce that all three of our judge/CA applicants (Denny Gore, Glen Hipple, and Jim Ryan) have successfully passed Applicant School down in MO this weekend. They are now Candidates!!

! Denny and Glen are Singing Candidates and Jim is a CA candidate. They will spend the next two years guest (practice) judging on as many panels as they can as they continue to hone their craft. Two years from now, they will join me at Category School where I will get recertified and they will get certified for the first time. I am very excited for them and wish them well. When you see them, please extend your congrats to them as well. They have worked very hard to come this far and deserve the applause. {{{clap, clap, clap, etc.}}} Bless you, boys.

by Jim Kunz
Pioneer District Pres

My hat's off to Denny, Glen and Jim for the commitment they've made to supporting their fellow barbershoppers and the Pioneer District. I know they've still got a bit of work ahead of them in order to become certified, but this is quite an accomplishment.

Thanks for your hard work, guys, and thanks, Al, for your work in encouraging and developing additional judge/CA candidates from Pioneer!

by Jim Ryan
CA Candidate
Pioneer District, BHS

Thanks, Jim and Thanks to the Guardians of Harmony and the Capital City Chordsmen for their support as well. Denny, Glenn and I have some grueling tests and guest judging engagements ahead of us, but as Glenn has coined the group, TEAM PIONEER is ready for the challenge and look forward to representing the PIONEER District as prospective judge CANDIDATES in our quest to become certified. Thanks to the Pioneer Board, Al Fisk, and each and every chapter for your continued support.

Keep 'em Ringin'

by Ron Eubank,
Contest Administrator

This current bunch will be the "class of 2010" because that's when they will have the opportunity to be invited to Category School and if they pass that one too, then they will be certified.

It's a long, sometimes tedious, always pressured journey to become certified and we should all join in wishing these guys "all the best!"



Marvin Skupski Retires

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Pioneer District:

What a pleasure it has been -- and what a thrill it has been -- to be Pioneer District Secretary for the last six years, to be able to participate in a constructive and helpful way in all the administrative functions of the of Pioneer District.

In my dealings over the last six years with District Officers, Society VIPs, Chapter Officers and just plain Joe Barbershoppers, the positive social and business experiences I have had are just too many to count, and, in all my dealings, I cannot recall even one unpleasant experience.

Please give our new Pioneer District Secretary Joe Serwach the same support and respect you have shown me. Joe is a good competent man and will do a good job for us.

I am not moving out of the Pioneer District so I will be in attendance at future conventions, and I will be continuing to do some miscellaneous assignments for the District. Wave and say Hi!

Marvin Skupski
Pioneer District Secretary (Retired)



2007 PROBE WINNERS

by Art Lane
PROBE District Contest Coordinator
Public Relations Officers & Bulletin Editors

Here are the winners of the district bulletin editor contest and the public relations officer contest sponsored by PROBE, the Association of Public Relations Officers and Bulletin Editors:

The winner of the 2007 Bulletin Editor of the Year contest is John Cowlshaw, editor of the Pontiac-Waterford Chapter Smoke Signals.

The district's Public Relations Officer of the Year for 2007 is Jack Teuber, Vice President of Marketing and Public Relations of the ---- Pontiac-Waterford Chapter!

the bulletin editor and public relations officer awards have been won by the same chapter.

Cowlshaw and Teuber were recognized and plaques awarded at the House of Delegates meeting during the spring convention in Battle Creek.

Both of the Pioneer District winners will go on to compete in the Society's bulletin and PR contests, with the winners to be announced in Nashville in July. Good luck, gentlemen!

269-857-2781
artlane@wmol.com
or the PROBE website:
www.harmonize.com/PROBE/

This is the second time in a row that both



MI Brigade May 2009

The Harmony Brigade has been around for awhile now (the North Carolina Harmony Brigade is 15 years old) but has recently received a lot of attention including a cover

page write-up in the Barbershop Harmony Society's publication The Harmonizer's July 2007 issue article called Extreme Quartetting.

It's described as 'extreme quartetting'. Everyone arrives to a Brigade rally fully versed in about 10 preselected songs, are teamed up with strangers, and then with little or no practice time together sing one song in competition.

There are 3 affiliates including one in nearby Indiana. A 4th is being organized here in Michigan and generating a lot of buzz in the State. The 1st Michigan Harmony Brigade Rally was scheduled for May 2008. I heard at Pioneer District's 2007 Spring Competition that you could sign up as early as then on their MIHB.org website. Music was expected to be distributed around December 2007 but then the announcement was made that, "We have decided to postpone from the May 2008

date in order to provide the best possible product for all participants." With that the first rally date was postponed one year to May 2009.

Here is the announcement...

Many of you have been inquiring about a variety of points regarding where things stand on the inaugural rally for a Michigan Harmony Brigade (location, dates, music, etc.)

At this time, we've decided that it would be better to reschedule the inaugural event from the original plan of May 2008.

For those that haven't had the pleasure of attending a brigade, quite a number of things have to be arranged in advance (hotel accommodations, 3-4 meals for 120 men, a venue for a Saturday evening chorus performance to the general public, music
(Continued page 35)

(Continued from page 34)

selections, associated arrangers fees, copy-right royalties, CDs, etc.). In addition to all those general categories, there are another whole set of coordinated efforts that must occur at the time of the event - but require a lot of preparation in advance to allow the attendees to have a wonderful experience.

There hadn't been a broadcast prior to now since work had been ongoing to try to iron out the critical items necessary to feel comfortable with moving forward and send out

packets for you to register (and send us your \$\$\$). However, we've reached the critical point where we had to make a decision to continue moving forward (with a lot of risk) to still make the May 2008 plan, or step back and rethink things.

We decided on the latter since we want to ensure that when we host an event of this importance, it's a success story. So with that thought in mind, rather than do a poor job and throw something out there that will fall short of our or your expectations, we are go-

ing to work on resolving the issues and plan for a new target date.

We hope this doesn't dampen your interest and that you stay tuned.

Yours for a Song....

Joe Queen
Rob Halsey

(co-chiefs, cooks, and bottle washers)



Sell Sell Sell

from Lansing Woodshedding Weekly
by Paul Howe Editor, Steve Whittaker, and
Don Horton
CapitalCityChordsmen.org

Ticket and Ad Sales

by Steve Whittaker

Myth #4 \$18 is too much money. Too much money for what? A tank of gas?

When selling you have to communicate to the buyer the VALUE of what your selling. 18 dollars is 18 dollars. \$18 for a hamburger is not a good value, \$18 for a tank of gas is a good value. The tried and true way of doing this is to break down the components of what is being purchased. In our case I would start with the chapter chorus. We are a very good singing chorus that is working very hard to give the customer every bit of his money's worth. We are the reigning district champions. We are worth coming to see all by ourselves. Emphasize the fact that we draw large crowds throughout the year, all by ourselves. (We had hundreds at the Lake Lansing Park).

Next is our chapter quartets, each of which is

doing a mini-show of their best stuff. These quartets are hired by community groups to come and perform and your customer can see both them and the chorus, each a value in their own right for one price.

But wait, there's more! Our Headline Quartet, Nightwatch, is an national known comedy quartet. They are energetic and hilarious.

But that's not all! All this high powered, energetic, thoroughly rehearsed and professionally performed entertainment is brought to you from the most comfortable, and best designed venue in the Greater Lansing area-The Warton Center. Only the best groups get to perform there.

By the time you are done, your customer should think the ticket price a bargain for all that they will get, and truthfully, I think it is. I've asked some of our seasoned members if they have ever had anyone say that they thought the shows in the past were not worth the ticket price, and the answer has been no. So sell value.

by Don Horton & Paul Howe Editor

With only about five weeks left until our show, we're seeing that ticket sales are not moving nearly as fast as we want. Don Horton gave a 10 minute presentation on how to SELL more tickets. Our chapter budget is approximately \$35,000 per year and the Wharton Show is our main source of income. In order to maintain the level of expenditures we have enjoyed, such as having our ticket to contest paid by the chapter, paying for coaching, sending members to Harmony College and COTS, buying music, etc. etc. etc. which ALL member benefit from, we need to sell another 500 to 1000 tickets between now and show time. If each chapter member sold 10 to 20 more tickets in the next 5 weeks over and above what you have already sold, we could raise another

\$10,000 to \$15,000. Current ticket sales are only slightly above our show production expenses.

Don presented a plan and a challenge that he used successfully a few years back, which was the only time this chapter ever sold out the Wharton. Don discussed the fact that SALES are made by personal contact with prospects and that most sales are made on the 3rd or 4th time you ask for the order.

The challenge was presented to each member to make a prospect list of 25 names and phone number (see attached work sheet).

Call these people the first time and tell them about the show, the date time etc. Normally they have to talk it over with their spouse (but they seldom call you back) So, you make the next (second) call. They normally admit they forgot to discuss it with their spouse but they typically will promise to do that and call you back. They normally don't call you so you have to make call number three, and occasionally a fourth call. Usually, on the second or third call they will tell you they have another commitment that night or they will place an order for some tickets. If they only order two, suggest they invite some friends to go with them. Many times they will call you back and order more.

Don calls it the 20/3/20 Challenge: Call 20 people 3 times and you'll sell 20 or more tickets.

Don has asked each man in the chapter to accept the challenge and collectively (as a team) we can put more people in the audience which is more FUN for us to sing to. It will also put more dollars in the chapter treasury so we can continue to enjoy the current level of expenditures. One thing Don forgot to mention is that it may help to break it down by weeks so it does not seem to be so overwhelming.

Make 5 calls each week along the follow up calls as needed. Every man should feel the excitement of the show, the responsibility to learn the music and sell tickets for the show to reach it optimum success. Don gave us a handout to help us have the necessary tools for success in selling. Get excited before you dial. Enthusiasm sells.

Prepare a positive mental attitude.

As you make your calls, consider the following to build a good positive attitude as to "why" people (your friends, neighbors, co-workers, relatives) may want to attend our show "Have Harmony Will Travel".

1. You joined the Barbershoppers for fun & fellowship. Are you fulfilling that desire?
2. You enjoy singing and you want to share your hobby and talents with others. (Like the person your calling)
3. You heard a barbershop chorus or quartet

or both before and you liked it.

4. Remember the thrill of competition or your first show? Get that excited when your selling tickets.
5. Remember how good you looked and felt and how proud you were in your new tux!!! Show this enthusiasm when making your calls.
6. Let your friends and neighbors know you've got something you're happy about sharing with them
7. The Wharton center is beautiful & has GREAT acoustics and virtually no bad seats. If they have been there before they know this. If not, encourage them to come one time and see if they agree!
8. The Chorus which you belong to has vastly improved over the past year We Are currently the 2007 District Champions and you want to share your talents with them.

Remember 80%-90% of our audience comes because they want to see their friend or relative perform. Sure they will be impressed with our headliners but they are really coming to see you.

9. Our talent is come of the best in the world. Our Guest Quartet is a great comedy quartet called "Nightwatch". They are past Buckeye Invitational Comedy Quartet Champions.

10. Our shows are strictly family entertainment. Bring mom, dad, grandma, grandpa, and all the kids.

The Show is March 8, 2008, 7:30 p.m. To Beat the Rush for Parking they should be in their seats by about 7:00 p.m. Suggest they ask friends, neighbors, and co-workers etc. to come to the show with them. Maybe even go out to dinner prior to the show.



High-Tech Tips Singing In The 21st Century

From the Chordiology.com blog

Many quartets and choruses use Learning Tapes or CD's to help them learn a song. Chordiology has been doing that for years now. We especially love any Learning CD put out by Tim Waurick, and we think we've learned to sing better, not just learned the notes, by listening to Tim sing and

trying to match him. Nearly all of the learning tracks available through the Music Premiere series (available through the Society barbershop.org) over the last couple of years have been produced by Tim, in addition to the tracks available through his website www.timtracks.com. But there are a couple of more "geeky" things we're doing.

Audacity

If you are not familiar with the Audacity software here is a rundown of what the software is, how much it costs (by the way Chordiology will be picking up the cost of this software for ANYONE that would like a legal copy), and how it can be most effectively utilized by anyone regardless of their technical abilities.

Recording software allows us to individually record ourselves singing along with a learning track, and then we send those recordings around to each other for comments. We use Audacity from audacity.sourceforge.net to do this, but nearly any audio editing application can do the trick, as long as it can play and record at the same time. We like Audacity because it's FREE and works on Mac and on Windows. It does a lot of things,

but we really just use it for recording. With this software you will never miss another rehearsal!

Audacity is very powerful and best of all its FREE TO EVERYONE!!! And given that it is free, again C4 is more than happy to pick up all of the costs for purchasing this free software. :) It allows you to pull in LEGAL learning tracks and then do all of the things that you would normally like to do such as listening to your part solo'd, part predominant or missing from the mix altogether allowing you to sing in a "quartet" environment. However, with Audacity, you can now take your rehearsing several steps further. With any kind of microphone plugged into your computer, you can now record yourself singing along with those tracks. You then can replay your "performance" and determine what area(s) you'd like to work on in your next "performance". You can rehearse in either a "quartet" or in a "sectional" mode for hours on end with no scheduling conflicts!

And there's more. Now when you're done, you can then email it out to others to either listen to or allow them to record their part along with yours. If you do this, congratulations! You
(Continued page 37)

(Continued from page 36)

may have just had your first "virtual rehearsal".

You need to have a microphone that you can hook up to your computer (either through the Line In port, or if you're really fancy you can buy a USB microphone), and some headphones so you can hear what's being played without playing it over your computer speakers (where it might get picked up by your microphone). Paul uses a nifty USB headphone/mic set. Open the learning track in Audacity, press "R" to start recording and it will play the learning track and you can sing along and record yourself. Press the space bar to stop recording. You can play around with switching the Left/Right balance so you can hear yourself singing with the trio, or singing along with just your voice part. The latter is a really good way to see how well you've learned your part -- are you singing all those pitches just like the guy on the learning track? For me, this is equal parts "immensely valuable" and "exceptionally depressing".

There are many good tutorials for Audacity available from the Audacity web site. It's fairly intuitive and among the most downloaded software in the country! Again, Audacity is a very powerful, very useful and very FREE tool!

*If you're using Audacity to export MP3 files, you'll need to download an additional file. The link for the file is available through Audacity link or Chordiology.com

The Truth Machine

We use Audacity outside of rehearsals to learn our parts and to get feedback from the other guys on how we're singing. During quartet rehearsal, too, we're recording ourselves fairly regularly. To do this, we purchased an audio interface device that lets us connect up to eight microphones (yes, we only use four) and send the signal into a computer where we use audio recording software to capture each channel (each microphone) separately. Then we can play it back as many times as we'd like, listening to all four parts together, or dropping out one or more of the parts to isolate individual voice parts to find where we're having problems.

This is by far one of the most useful things we've started doing in the last few years. So many times, we have been practicing a tune and thought, "There's something wrong with that chord", but we just can't figure out what it is. Recording this way lets us go back and really examine a section, down to individual voice parts, and see where the trouble is. At the end of a rehearsal, we can email the good recordings to the group.

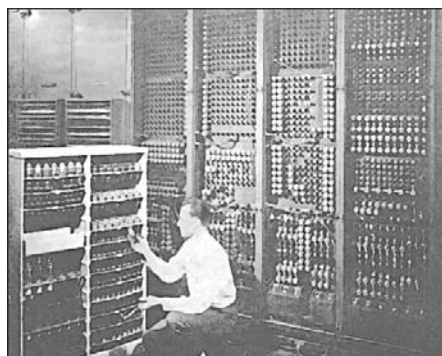
It's another one of those "valuable depressing" things. Every scooped interval, flat pitch, and flubbed word is right there, crystal clear and waiting for each of your buddies to hear. No matter how well you think you sang it, there's gonna be something embarrassing in there, I guarantee. At one of our rehearsals this summer, we were getting a little goofy and slap-happy over some of the things we were finding in our recordings, and the entire rehearsal came to a rollicking, laughing collapse when we replayed

a part where one guy muffed some words which came out as "I water myself"... It was at least twenty minutes before any of us could compose ourselves long enough to sing a single chord. For ten bucks, I'll tell you who it was. For twenty bucks, Cliff, I won't tell them it was you...

The device we purchased is an Alesis iO26 (pictured above). As I mentioned, it has eight microphone inputs (XLR or Phono), and connects to your computer via a FireWire cable. Looking at the Alesis web site now, it does appear they also have a similar device with only four inputs (the iO14), which would probably work for a quartet and would be cheaper than what we got -- it costs about \$200. As an added bonus, both devices have MIDI jacks so you can connect a MIDI keyboard to a computer to use it with music notation software if you wish.

Any multi-track audio recording software will work with this device. Cubase LE is the application that comes with it (Mac and Windows). I already knew how to use GarageBand (Mac only), so that's what we normally use during rehearsals. Unfortunately, as far as we can tell, Audacity doesn't do simultaneous multi-track recording. We have four Shure Beta 58 mics, and mic stands. We plug speakers into the Speaker Out port on the computer, so we can listen to our recordings.

Recording ourselves -- individually outside of rehearsal, and as a group during rehearsal -- has improved our ability to find problem spots. Painful as it can be, hilarious as it can be, that's what we do.



**Blogging
Pioneer
Chordiology.com**

Pioneer is a relatively small District with members throughout Michigan and the Ontario boarder. We don't have a big internet footprint but still a respectable public online presence of official publications such as with the Troubadour PioneerDistrict.org/Troubadour, the 2007 PROBE editor awarded Pontiac-Waterford Smoke Signals www.BigChiefChorus.org the Detroit-Oakland HiNotes Newsletter (no archive) www.Harmonize.com/doc/doc.htm the Grand Rapids GLC News and photo albums GreatLake-sChorus.org and the Lansing Woodshedder Weekly CapitolCityChordsmen.org All very informative with official reports and area news put together by hard working and dedicated members.

And now we have a new resource. If you

want an informal first person account and not just for a chorus but also quartetting, not just for a Chapter but throughout the District, if you want to take a real pulse for the health of barbershopping then read the missionary work by 2007 Pioneer District Champions Chordiology.

Follow their spread of the barbershop brotherhood under their new mantel as District Champs that they're reporting in their online blog they started last Fall.

They've written stories and provided insights for Uncle Sam Night in Windsor Canada, Canada Night hosted by Detroit-Oakland Chapter, COTS in Lansing, their home Chapter Huron Valley, a Chapter show in Monroe, a Chapter show in Wayne, the District

competition in Battle Creek, and they're only halfway into the year.

The Chordiology members contribute to the blog but Dave writes the lion's share as well as edits and posts the pics with the snappy captions. The writing style is the same entertaining wit and humor that the quartet displays in it's act on stage. They also cover many practical matters such as warm-up techniques, rehearsal tips with multitrack mixers and new recording software. They talk about coping with judge's critiques and even provide ideas for resolving quartet disagreements.

Saturday, November 10, 2007 A Moving And Reflective Rehearsal (Dave) "If we still don't agree, then we go around the table again, mirroring what was said in a respectful way.

If you use this strategy, you will be amazed at how often the heat comes out of any argument. Then, after all the discussions, after all the listening, after all the mirroring, we do whatever Paul wants"

They also bring moments of poignant reflection talking about their loss of Chordiology member Kelly Brummett to cancer and the recent death of their Chapter Director Paul Hansen.

They have been reporting frequently, usually weekly. It's intended as a temporary project with Chordiology retiring the blog with the next District Champs but I hope it doesn't end there. This will be a rich record of a year in Pioneer from a quartet's eyes as they travel the District. Read it, visit often for the latest news, and support the guys who are out there supporting us.

Monday, October 29, 2007 Monday Morning Thoughts (Dave), "I sat down next to a stranger to watch the chorus competition. In between choruses, this guy I never met before leaned toward me and said, 'We've missed you guys on the stage the past couple years. I'm glad you're back'. He was so sincere that I believed him, and I was flabbergasted that anyone could miss our 6th place performances. Then it hit me, he's a barbershopper. The amazing brotherhood, the unending good will, the appreciation that we have of this very difficult craft is remarkable. And it really is sincere. That guys could 'miss' our 6th place efforts says a lot about our society, our district, and our members."



Getting Your Group Online

by Editor Michael Bairbeau

For fun I was blogging our chapter, posting photos and reports about our rehearsals and shows. Like most blogs it had very little traffic and was mostly just my personal barbershop music log, weblog, blog. Then I was approached by my Grand Rapids Chapter and now we have a new official website for the Great Lakes Chorus and there's even an online version of the Pioneer District's publication of the Troubadour (nicknamed e-Troub).

OK, so that sounds cool but what good is it, would you want it, and how would you get it?

1. Audience
2. Features
3. Webmaster
4. Server
5. Domain Name
6. Software
7. Web design

1. Audience. Who's your audience and what do you want to accomplish? For the internet if your looking just to keep members updated then email or an email newsgroup will work well and is free. The Grand Rapids Chapter has all the member email addresses on a Yahoo newsgroup with weekly automated rehearsal reminders and the rehearsal report Chorus Notes by Chorus Manager John Trestrail. But if you want to put a shingle out for the cyberspace public to see for learning about your group and activities then you want a website.

2. Features. There are several levels of online presence. I've made up these distinctions but they seem to encompass what you will generally see.

a. Contact Page. the most basic website is just a Contact page with your group's photo, location, and contact info. It requires very little expertise or maintenance. But it's usefulness and traffic is limited. A visitor might view it only once and not return. It's essentially an online flyer.

b. Plus Event's Calendar. Next level is a site that also provides an Events Calendar. It can either have just a simple list of scheduled performances for the year or a little trickier

using software with some kind of calendar like pages. This requires some maintenance for updating events. It gets a little more repeat visit traffic by fans tracking upcoming performances and audiences confirming show times.

c. Plus Public Relations. A full blown website with multiple pages like the group's history, a page about the group, a page how to join, a newsletter, etc. By including current photos, audio, and video clips this encourages visitors to explore the site. This gives prospective members, audiences, and clients a more complete picture of your group. Plus it's a nice morale boost for member's able to see photos of their recent shows and share with family and friends. This means an online photo album and considerably more time spent in website maintenance.

d. Plus Marketing. Providing online ticket orders for attending shows, online forms to contract the group like for Singing Valentines, music CDs and any other merchandise. Lots of Maintenance for this too.

3. Webmaster. If your hiring a professional webmaster they should be able to set up any website feature level (provided the server is equipped for it). The upside is usually a professional and reliable site. One downside is expense. I haven't priced it myself since I had no money to spend anyways but I got a friend who charges minimum \$1,700, but I assume there are prices both lower and much higher. Another downside is maintenance. Typically once your website is set up
(Continued page 39)

(Continued from page 38)

it can be tough to get a webmaster to update it in a timely manner. And your group still may be expected to maintain things that require frequent updates such as a photo album.

Using a chorus member provides easier access to the webmaster but not always more reliable website maintenance. In either case having two webmasters with at least one from your group as maintenance backup might be helpful.

If thinking of using a chorus member as webmaster their level of expertise will be a big part in determining the website features. For just a Contact page a simple documents program can be used. Most computer users are familiar with document programs like Microsoft Word which may already be available on their system. Word is not only good for composing letters but for flyers as well, just like in a Contact page. It's saved as an html file for a web page instead of doc file as a printable document.

The Calendar page level can be added in the same way and Word can produce web links connecting the two pages. Some sites also combine the two pages on one.

If your using a group member for a webmaster then going much beyond the Contact and Calendar pages they will need to be VERY computer savvy and prepared for the steep learning curve and time. I have to say when I made the leap from simple blogging to webmaster it was a lot of work but rewarding. The exposure it has provided the group and access to the public has proven to be a significant contribution. Many of these features do require considerable maintenance, updates, and time. A photo album can be very time consuming so if this duty can be split between the group's webmaster and a photographer that would be helpful but in my experience they are often the same person.

4. Server. The IP/ISP (Internet Service Provider) is the company you use to get online using your cable tv lines, phone lines, or some area wireless provider. But a SERVER is the company that hosts your website, allowing internet users to access your website online which is stored on the server's own computer system.

Many chapters and quartets are using the server Harmonize.com It's a fairly basic set-up with a few feature limitations. It's gener-

ously provided for free to any barbershop music group by Steve DiNino from the 2002 Silver Medalist quartet Uptown Sound out of Ohio.

For a server with additional services like email, running of certain software for music or forms, and to pick or reuse your own domain name Harmonize.com/services.html recommends Virtual Creations, "A web development and hosting company run by Mark Virtue, a Barbershopper singing with Sydney Harmony and Ignition quartet, and provides commercial hosting solutions for many Barbershop groups." I believe Virtual Creations' prices start around \$60 per year. www.virtualcreations.com.au/

Our chorus website is using the server ipower.com The cost is \$70 a year and comes with many useful features but their tech support right now is spotty at best.

The Pioneer District website and online Troubadour publication are using server space donated by Matthew Tipton, the Pioneer District Director of Music & Performance, lead with Macomb County Chapter's Guardians of Harmony Chorus and the quartet Border Crossing. www.harmonize.com/BorderCrossing/

The Pioneer District website was designed and is managed by District Webmaster Steve Sutherland, Musical Director of the Detroit-Oakland Gentlemen Songsters and baritone for the quartet Night Shift. www.harmonize.com/NightShift/Night_Shift.htm

5. Domain Name. This is your web address, your url, what you type into your browser to get to the website, like PioneerDistrict.org for the PioD website. Many server websites have a search feature allowing you to type in a domain name you would like and it will tell you if it's available.

Don't be surprised if your first choice is taken. A small yearly fee of about \$7 is required to purchase and maintain your domain name.

6. Software. If doing your website in-house your going to want to use some real website editing software, I think a popular one right now is FrontPage. Or if your adventurous and have no budget (like me) there's all kinds of free software (freeware) online. Some are no good and some come with trial periods or limits on features that you won't find out about until after it's installed. But then your not stuck with them and you do

get to experiment with different software until you find one your happy with for free. I've been using a freeware WYSIWYG, What You See Is What You Get, (barbershoppers aren't the only ones who like long acronyms) the website editor Nvu (N-view). It's pretty bare bones.

To upload your new website online sometimes the servers with the extra features provide an interface you can use. But another useful method that is usually faster is FTP (File Transfer Protocol) software. A lot of times typing the FTP username, password, and address provided by the server into an Internet Explorer browser will work like a Windows Explorer screen to your online directory but not always or sometimes with limits. There are a lot of free FTPs but I've had trouble getting some to work with my particular system. What has been best for me so far is the freeware FTP Core Lite.

To reduce photo files sizes for online upload I use the free program Easy Thumbnails but have also heard recommended the free FastStone Image Viewer. If the site doesn't come with a photo album feature then I use free program Web Album Generator.

There's all kinds of other software but these will get you up and running.

If you have any trouble using ANY software the best place for answers is the software's online forum if they have one. But even then half of the time you'll have to figure it out for yourself.

7. Web design Style. What do you want your website to look like? Best way to answer this to take a look around. Go to Harmonize.com and view all the other group's, list your favorites, then pick and choose what you like about them and try incorporating them together. If you right click on the webpage you like and from the drop down window select View Source (or however you Mac users do it) you'll actually see the code being used, then cut and paste the part you like into your editor. It doesn't hurt to also take a look at some brand name sites and see what the big money is doing. Use a template that comes with your editor or find one online either free or for a fee, or if your server provides one use their template for a starting point and add the code you like to it.

What to expect from your site. You won't see a big jump in ticket sales for shows, membership, or even website visitors. For any of that to happen the website has to be part

of a coordinated effort. The web address has to be on your business cards, your flyers, posters, show programs, MC announcements, and any ads. Group members have to be encouraged and repeatedly reminded to forward the website address to friends and family announcing upcoming shows. Send out email announcements about the latest site updates of photos, news, etc. Combine fundraisers with online visits. Offer a draw-

ing for a free Singing Valentine for having ordered online, or have a drawing for a free barbershop telephone message for an online ticket order, etc.

Be proactive. If you never change the site then don't expect people to return. Put your next performance on the main home page and a link for a map to the location. Change the photos. Add photos to a photo album, a

Newsletter, a members only page.

On a personal note. I have been blessed by a very supportive Chapter who gives me loads of attboys and they go a long way to making it all worthwhile. Our donated server guys and webmasters put in a LOT of hours and typically gets very little feedback so be sure to give them a pat on the back.



Singing Valentines Digital Pics

by Michael Baribeau,
Troubadour Editor
Great Lakes Chorus Webmaster

DIGITAL FORMS

There's an interesting variety of approaches of how chapters are doing Singing Valentine orders online. The three main tactics are offering contact phone numbers and/or email addresses, a combination online form and payment via phone or email, or both order and payment done online.

For the contact information a slick and easy idea is having the www.SingingValentines.com banner ad (not the one pictured here) on your home page with the default link taking you to their main information page which a visitor can then use to look up the chapter in their area. Or it's a simple matter for a webmaster to change the link to go directly to your chapter's contact page at the SV.com site.

Their pages look good done up in pink and white, hearts, information about the Singing

Valentine, and how to contact the chapter. The banner ads are available for download at the Barbershop Harmony Society's Barbershop.org site. I saw some good examples of these at Hillsdale Chapter's website <http://www.geocities.com/nvance97/Barbershop.html> for the SV.com main page and Huron Valley Chapter's hvharmonizers.org for their specific SV.com contact page.

A convenient online option is just a short announcement and contact information on the chapter's Home page. Or go a little fancier with a separate page set aside with this information. A nice example is at Wayne Chapter WeSingBarbershop.com website's Singing Valentine page, <http://www.wesingbarbershop.com/page5.html> and on Lansing Chapter's CapitolCityChordsmen.org

One combination is to order over phone or email while paying online. The e-pay method PayPal is easy to establish and a popular online payment method but another one is Google.com like being used by Macomb Chapter's GuardiansOfHarmony.org website. They've even made their own version of the Singing Valentine banner ad and linked it to a nice photo and flyer contact page.

A reversal of this approach is to order online and to make payment arrangements via phone or email like my Grand Rapids Chapter GreatLakesChorus.org website. Our form includes photos, has several days to choose from, three prices, and variable time slots. It has been tailored so when received via the email like form mail by our order guy Derek Hatley it's easy to cut and past into an Excel type program. We have a photo linked on our home page as well as set the SV.com banner ad to redirect visitors to our form.

Then there's offering the whole thing online like Kalamazoo Chapter's BarbershopHarmony.org website. Their home page has a link to a form with a neat graphic and photo and allows four time blocks for Valentine's Day and two packages to choose from.

There's the online option to use the e-pay system PayPal or to postal mail check or money order.

DIGITAL PHOTOS

Frequently the person purchasing the Singing Valentine can't be there to see their sweetie's expression. So both sweethearts are usually pretty excited about getting a photo of the Valentine with the quartet. In the past we've been using Polaroid cameras both because you know quickly if the shot is good and because you can just hand it to them and not try to sort and postal mail them all after the fact. But there has been difficulty in keeping track of the chorus Polaroid cameras afterwards as well as film issues.

This year the GLC is going digital with each quartet bringing it's own digital camera instead (no cell phone cameras). The photos are to be burned to CD (preferred) or emailed to the webmaster to be loaded on the chorus website's photo album. Customers can then find their photos in the album, download, and print or email to share their fun. No having to print, sort, or snail mail photos. Last year I was taking backup photos with my digital camera and had one customer ask for the digital copy, she said she was the one wearing red. You can see what a nightmare that could quickly turn into.

If emailing, due to some email client/server limitations total email file size maximum is limited to 10M (Meg, MbPS, or megabits per second). It might be necessary to email the photos in batches. A quartet name and total photo count should be included in an email so webmaster can confirm all photos received.

A name should be assigned the quartet and told to the customer so that they may more

(Continued page 41)

(Continued from page 40)

easily find their photos in the online album. If the quartet doesn't give me a name I'll name them after their lead like The Baribeau Quartet (Oh, I like that!)

If unable to burn or email then the webmaster will try to download at rehearsal to a laptop directly from the camera.

In my case as webmaster I'll probably have to reduce most of the photo files to be able to upload them all. I got a nice free program that does it quickly called Easy Thumbnails but have also heard recommended FastStone Image Viewer.

This means more work for the webmaster (or whoever you use to upload photos) but

it's great for providing traffic to the website and gives a little more value to the customer by providing the versatility of digital copies.

Should be interesting, we'll let you know how it turned out.



What's Up With The Troub'?

by Editor Michael Bairbeau

Did you see the Troubadour print issue Aug/Sep '07 with the Bush League competition invitation as the front page headline? Did you notice it was after the competition had already been held and wondered, 'what's up with that'? And what about the decline in the number of issues per year? I know I puzzled so my first job as the new Troubadour editor was to get up to speed on the wonderful world of subscription publishing.

Our previous Editor Joe Serwach and Marketing PR guy Rick Anderson have been a big help explaining it all. First thing I learned is that there's some great people who volunteer a lot of their time doing a demanding job to get the Troubadour out and deserve a tip from our collective straw hats.

As to the Bush League question there was a snafu with the membership mailing labels received from the Barbershop Harmony Society that go onto the printed copies.

When the count didn't come out right it was discovered they were the wrong labels and had to all be redone. The Troubadour apologizes to the Bush League organizers and anyone else for any inconvenience this may have caused.

But there's a bigger difficulty for the publication, money. The 'free' issues are paid for with membership dues and advertising but the cost to produce issues has been rising faster. This has caused a gradual reduction in the number of issues published per year

from 6 to 4.

And then another blow, because Pioneer District membership dues are not paid directly to the Pioneer District but through the Barbershop Harmony Society, the United States Postal Service decided to pull the Troubadour's temporary non-profit discounted 2nd Class mailing status.

What to do? Most districts have gone to using the internet to distribute publications online while reducing or eliminating entirely their printed publications. The Pioneer District leadership has expressed a desire to have printed publications available for non-internet users and for those who simply enjoy reading off paper and keeping their Troubadour library collection current. Copies of the Troubadour have been available online for some time as pdf files thanks to District Webmaster Steve Sutherland but those online copies were only available when the printed versions were completed and ready for mailing.

So, we're going to reverse the process. We're putting out a monthly online publication not constrained by mailing costs or the volume of articles and then, pending the results of the District's Troubadour survey, consolidate those top stories for a printed quarterly or triannual version (since the original online release of this article we are now looking at biannual publications). It's possible the printed publications will no longer be free and will have a subscription fee for those who want to continue receiving them (since after this article the biannual publications are currently sent to all members covered by membership dues and ads). The price will be kept at a minimum (again, currently covered entirely), offset with advertising both in print and online and membership dues. The details are still pending, as some surveys have not been returned yet. The next printed publication will probably include details for continuing the subscription.

Okay, so it's both exciting and disconcerting. We all liked getting that familiar Troubadour

issue in the mail as part of the membership and not have to worry about it. But we have delayed this change for as long as possible and need to adapt like other Districts have in order for the Troubadour to survive and thrive.

**Update since the online article, we are currently submitting monthly webpage Troubadour issues online, eTroubs, which are then consolidated into biannual unabridged downloadable pdf editions that can be printed from home and also abridged versions for the print Troubadour publication distributed via postal mail to all members and paid by membership dues and ads. The eTroub webpages may eventually only be available as pdf files and it's expected some years in the future the printed Troubadour will be phased out entirely opting instead to print from home the online version to keep membership costs down.*

Survey results from Rick Anderson.

1. Would an electronic newsletter serve your needs?

Yes, 69%. No, 31%.

2. Would you be willing to pay more to the district for a printed newsletter?

Yes, 7%. No, 93%.

3. Do you have internet access?

Yes, 74%. No, 26%.

4. Do you have an e-mail account?

Yes, 74%. No, 26%.

Pioneer has 1736 members 2008. 462 of them, or 26.6%, didn't list an e-mail addresses.



Chapters In Action



Alena & Gaylord Chapters Rekindling The Tradition

by Alpena and Gaylord Chapters

This event has already occurred

Barbershop Show @ Cheboygan Opera House

June 21, 2008

Contact the Opera House Box Office at 231-627-5841 for ticket information.

TheOperaHouse.org

On this date barbershop chords will ring again in Rivertown at the acoustically perfect Cheboygan Opera House. The Huron Shore Chorus from Alpena, Michigan and the Harmonie Meisters from Gaylord Michigan will combine to provide a night of harmony that will be sure to delight you. They have arranged for the former Pioneer District Quartet Champions of the Barbershop Harmony Society, Four Man Fishin' Tackle Choir, to join them in song. And there will be several additional quartets performing from within the ranks of the choruses. The theme will be "Reflections on the water here in Rivertown".

Barbershop was preformed regularly in the Cheboygan Opera House for many years and was always a favorite until about 15 years ago when some of the singers were no longer able to perform and the show could not be produced. Since then, the choruses in Alpena and Gaylord have carried on and worked very hard to preserve the barbershop harmony craft in Northern Michigan. Last year they rekindled the tradition with a moving performance. They are thrilled at the opportunity to once again bring barbershop back to Cheboygan, and ring some chords in our beautiful opera house which just happens to be an incredible, acoustically perfect venue. Plan now to attend the show and be prepared for a night of pure musical magic that you will surely treasure.

*Additional Gaylord Chapter announcements see Bush League articles this issue.



Battle Creek Chapter BBBB

by Raleigh Bloch
RJLewisCMC@aol.com
Cereal City Chorus

Well, he did it again. He being Roger Lewis and it being the BBBB. For those of you who missed the BBBB (Barber-

shop, Brats, Beans and Beer in the Barn), at the Lewis Ranch, 20125 12 Mile Road, Battle Creek. Here's an update. Guys from all over arrived at Roger's place around 6:30pm Saturday. There were registered quartets, MoxXy and Patch Chords. It was an absolutely beautiful night. Woodshedding abound. Only one person did not sing in a quartet, (his choice) and the contest was a hoot. The judges were the Patch Chords and what fine judges they were. They took judging to a new level. You'll notice, I didn't say up to a new level. In the Judges A&R, they mentioned important stuff like, the bass was too short, three in one of the quartets had ugly knees and shouldn't have worn shorts, comments on facial hair or no hair and things like that.

Prizes were handed out to the winning quartets of the two categories, Seniors and regular. Quartets were chosen by signing up as to which part you wanted to sing and then just randomly as-

signing the four parts. Each quartet had 15 minutes to practice and find a name. Obviously, nobody had any fun and there wasn't much singing, except when you got there and in between quartets, after dinner, while the judges were tallying scores, after the contests and for some people even before they got there in their cars. So if you get a chance to go next year, I'd think about it long and hard and ask yourself, do I want have some good food, sing alot, have fun and be with some great guys who love to sing? Hmmm.





Detroit- Oakland Chapter What's Up DOC?

www.harmonize.com/doc/doc.htm



Nightshift

This event has already occurred

Photos from the DOC's 69th Parade of Harmony What's Up DOC? show.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2008
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2008

SCHMIDT AUDITORIUM — CLARENCEVILLE
HIGH SCHOOL, LIVONIA, MI



Coda Honor



Today's Special



*2004 District Chorus Champions
GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS CHORUS.*



*DOWNSTATE EXPRESS 2004 Seniors
Quartet Champs.*



*HUMDINGERS Comedy Quartet from Cen-
tral Florida*



Arrowhead Barbershop Chorus

Flint Chapter The Happiness Of Christmas

by Doug Lynn Lead Section Leader
Flint Arrowhead Chorus
www.flintarrowhead.org/

This holiday season has been a very busy one for the Flint Arrowhead Chorus. Starting on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, we visited many of the senior centers in the Flint area, bringing with us the happiness of Christmas music through Barbershop Harmony. For

the many elderly who are no longer able to get out, it is their one opportunity each year to witness a live performance of Christmas music. The light in their eyes and the smiles on their faces were a joy to behold. It may be the most satisfying thing our chorus does all year.

On the 18th of December we had our annual Christmas dinner, which was attended by chorus members as well as spouses. The Fenton Hotel provided wonderful food and atmosphere for the fellowship that we all value so much as brothers in harmony. On the 19th, we sang at the Genesys Medical Center where our performance was taped and broadcast into all the rooms making it available to all the patients. On the 22nd of December we performed in the church at historic Crossroads Village. An audience of about 200 adults and children sat

mesmerized as the chorus spun out its rendition of all the old Christmas favorites. It was wonderful to see the audience participation, especially in the children, as they joined in singing old favorites like "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer" and "Silent Night". Finally, on the 23rd of December, eight of us sang live on the morning news show on Channel 12. It was a great opportunity to "spread the word" to the whole community.

We will end the current year with a New Year's Eve performance at the Annual Fenton Jubile'Eve in Fenton, Michigan and start off the New Year with a bang when we head north for our annual retreat at the Higgins Lake DNR facility. This retreat is our way of getting the new year started off with a bang and recreating all those bonds of friendship and brotherhood that are so valued in the Barbershop Harmony Society. We hope everyone had a terrific holiday season and we wish you all a wonderful new year. Let us dedicate ourselves anew to the truly American art form of Barbershop Harmony.

Dead Creek Saloon

by Don Horton

Tuesday June 24th at the JC Pavilion in Heritage Park in Frankenmuth

Thanks to the 22 singers and 8 wives who participated in the Flint Chapters Annual Dead Creek Saloon out last Tuesday in Frankenmuth.

The Lansing Chapter Chorus was saved to the last Chorus and under the direction of Stevie "Wonder" Waarnar, we WOWED them with It had to be You and I'll Fly Away. There were 5 choruses and umpteen quartets who sang including Sufficient Grounds and Patch Chords from the Lansing Chapter. S. G. sang Brand New Day and Mary Lou while the Patch Chords with "subbies" D. Horton on Bari and Don Terpe on Tenor sang I Want A Girl and you guessed it? Lion Sleeps Tonight.

Everybody seemed to have a GREAT time with the Brats, Beer and Chips. Ron Gilles did his usual FINE job pulling off the Show Part of the evening and Dave Lounsbury, Jack Stevens, John Noteware and many other Flint Chapter Members made sure everybody got food and drinks etc.

Reese Olger made the trip and got to sing a few with the Chord-Agains with fill in Don

Terpe. Special Thanks to Don Terpe for attending as he was our only TENOR. Reese also got to sing a couple of songs with his grandson Chandler who arrived from Oklahoma on Tuesday afternoon just in time for he and Mother Elisse to joint in the FUN!!!

Next year let plan now to take 35 guys and at least 15 wives. Make plans now to attend the Grand Rapids Chapter's annual CORN ROAST in August.

Don Horton

This next report by Doug Pearson.

I'm sure I share the feelings of all who attended when I say that I had one great time last night (Tuesday) at the Flint Chapter's Annual Dead Creek Picnic in Frankenmuth.

The timing was perfect with musical fireworks serving as a perfect intro to our Fourth of July celebrations. What a super turnout of chapter choruses and quartets from all over! Brats, beer and barbershop. You can't beat that combination. Congratulations to Ron Gillies and his hard-working Flint crew for pulling it all together.

Doug Pearson
Patch Chords
Lansing Chapter



Grand Rapids Chapter Conducting A Director Search

by Jim Gillette, President
Great Lakes Chorus
GreatLakesChorus.org

The Great Lakes Chorus is beginning a search to replace its current director who will be leaving by the end of the 2008 calendar year. Current director, Dr. Curt Struyk, will be retiring as director and the chapter will need to have someone in place no later than January, 2009.

The Great Lakes Chorus is a very active chapter in the Grand Rapids community, has become increasingly competitive in recent years, and has begun to draw more and younger members to its risers over the past several months. This is an excellent opportunity for anyone who has skills as a director and a passion for barbershop singing. Interested candidates should submit a letter of interest to chapter president, Jim Gillette, via this email jimsbbs@verizon.net or by sending a letter to

Jim Gillette
599 6th Street
Pentwater, Michigan 49449.



2008 GLC Board Election

by Jim Gillette, President
Great Lakes Chorus

2008 Great Lakes Chorus Board Members were installed Dec. 19, 2007. The Installation Ceremony and potluck dinner were held at the Forest Hills Presbyterian Church near Grand Rapids where we rehearse. Our honored guests were Pioneer District President, (Continued page 45)

(Continued from page 44)

Raleigh Bloch, and his wife, Jean. Raleigh presided over the installation ceremony (pictured here) and offered some words of inspiration to our chapter members.

President - Jim Gillette
Immediate Past President- Bud Kraft
Secretary - Eric O'Brock
Treasurer - Jack Schneider
VP Chapter Development - Bill Robbins
VP Marketing - Orson Coe
VP Music & Music Director - Curt Struyk
VP Special Events - Paul Slack

Youth-In-Harmony - Ralph Mueller
Chorus Manager and
Chorus Notes Editor - John Trestrail
Music Librarian - Derek Hatley
Webmaster - Michael Baribeau
Board Members-at-Large:
Al Smith
Doug Weaver
Derek Hatley
Jeff Chesnut
Barbershopper Of The Year- Derek Hatley



GLC Board & Members-at-Large lined up



**Derek Hatley
2007 BOTY**

by Ralph R. Mueller, 2006 BOTY
Great Lakes Chorus

The Grand Rapids Chapter announced Derek Hatley as 2007 Barbershopper of the Year at its Annual Chapter Banquet this past December 11. Derek has been an active member of the chapter for many years, serving on the Board in several capacities, currently as Chorus Music Librarian. Derek also produces most of the learning tracks for the chorus, and does quite a bit of arranging for the chorus and for quartets of the chapter. He also plays a vital part in scheduling Singing Valentines, taking most of the orders and coordinating the times and locations for Valentines, and providing maps for the various quartets.

The Grand Rapids Chapter just this year revised its procedure for selecting Barbershopper of the Year, in order to recognize contributions that are often overlooked,

and to give greater weight to members' long-term efforts to promote, preserve, and encourage barbershopping. As a previous winner of the Society's arranging contest, and as an avid promoter of new technology in improving and refining the barbershop craft, Derek was among those receiving the highest number of votes from the membership. Derek's participation this year in sing-outs and competitions, and his tireless work for the chapter and for barbershopping as a whole, were taken into account by the panel of the five previous winners of the BOTY Award. The Grand Rapids Chapter is pleased and proud to recognize Derek as its 2007 Barbershopper of the Year.



Christmas Eve In My Home Town

by Michael Baribeau, Webmaster
Great Lakes Chorus

Attending the holiday season festivities is great fun but 'participating', now that really puts the rose in your cheeks and the spirit in your heart.

December 8th, 2007, we held our 11th annual Grand Rapids Barbershop Chapter Great Lakes Chorus Christmas Show, Christmas Eve In My Home Town, directed by Dr. Curt Struyk and Guest Director Rev. Ralph Mueller at the St Cecilia Music Center (recently changed from Society to Center) on 54 Ransom St. NE. It was a nearly sold out show filling the ornate Royce Auditorium's 650 seats. The size brings an intimate experience for the audience as well as those on stage. I especially enjoyed the acoustics with 33 members on stage filling the place with our holiday harmonies. Also performing was quartets Barbershop Style, Grand River Serenade, Harmony Transfer, and Wildcard.

The chorus and quartets wore long sleeve pullovers of red, green, or white scattered throughout the risers like Christmas tree ornaments. We had an old fashioned town stage-set behind us complete with barbershop and pole.

The first half of the show was mostly secular music beginning with the show's title song Christmas Eve In My Home Town. We ended the first half with the always popular and fun barbershop arrangement of the 12 Days Of Christmas including an appearance by our very own elf, Paul Slack. Instead of 5 golden rings our 5 showboat baritones got hosed into submission with a volley from several cans of silly string. And with that a roar of applause ended the first half of the show.

The second half opened with performances by the very impressive 30 men and

women's member chorus Jenison High School ChamberSingers directed by Les Rowsey, Student Intern Corie Brown and accompanied on piano by Marti King. The Jenison Public Schools had been honored as having one of the top 100 school music programs in the United States. The gentlemen wore black tuxedos and the women in black full length sleeveless tunics over white gowns. They sang Two Early Christmas Carols, Sing We Noel Once More-arr. Smith, Sing We Now of Christmas-arr. Prentice, and Winter Wonderland-arr. Lojeski.

The Great Lakes Chorus and member quartets then returned, this time performing spiritual Christmas numbers such as the chorus singing The Virgin Mary and Lo, How A Rose.

During Wildcard's moving Mary, Did You know, all the auditorium's winter coughs and sniffing stopped and at a dramatic pause all 650 audience members were completely silent. Wildcard received a standing

ovation for this song, only partway into the concert's second half. The chorus director Curt Struyk who is also Wildcard's baritone stepped up to the mic to introduce the next song and drew chuckles of agreement from the audience as he rubbed out the goose bumps from his arms. But the GLC kept the emotional momentum going with a stirring performance of a sweet carol Still, Still, Still arranged by chorus member Derek Hatley who also arranged 2 other songs in the show, Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree and Once On David's Royal city.

We closed the show with the GLC and JHSCS choirs together on the risers singing Do You Hear What I Hear to an enthusiastic standing ovation.

I turned to one of the young men from the ChamberSingers to shake his hand and he said after school he'd like to sing with the GLC. Merry Christmas indeed!

After the show the chorus mingled with the

audience. A pick-up quartet formed in the lobby and sang love songs to the gushing girls.

Then for the Afterglow it was just a convenient walk across icy street to the One Trick Pony for drinks and pizza.

Still fired up from the show, quartets Barber-shop Style, Grand River Serenade, and Wildcard sang to the chorus and their dates and wowed all the other customers as well.

one young man, one of our newest members, was actually teaching tags to a large group of us gathered in the middle of the dinning room. It was late and many of the bistro's regulars had already gone home. Standing in a circle we stared down at our collection of brown loafers and glossy black tuxedo shoes as we listened and learned our parts for that 20 seconds of harmony, a night of camaraderie, and a life time of fond memories.



GLC on stage for Christmas Show



St Cecilia Music Center's Royce Auditorium



Jenison High School ChamberSingers directed by Les Rowsey



Grand Rapids Home For Vets Christmas

by Michael Baribeau, Webmaster
Great Lakes Chorus

The Grand Rapids Barbershop Chapter The Great Lakes Chorus and member quartets performed a Christmas show at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans December 5th, 2007. We started having our first snow of the year about a week ago so the ground was covered in white with the cold night air. The hall was their multi-purpose room which had a shuffleboard court on the floor and lighted bingo display signs on the walls. There was a small but grateful audience of vets, their families, and staff. Plus the rest of those in the home physically unable to attend the concert saw it on their closed circuit TVs. During the warm-up we had many

early arrivals already in their seats. One vet with CD player in hand heard us singing, burst into the room and was moved to shout out a few joyful notes.

Caught up in the excitement he then came up front and together with our director Curt Struyk directed us in a song. We were introduced on stage by one of our newest additions to the GLC, Fred Jost, who's also a barbershop barber (no joke) for the GRHV. The chorus and quartets were decked out in a variety of red and green Christmas neckties with images of Santas and snowmen on them. The chorus sang several holiday songs including Jingle Bell Rock and Joy To The World. Member quartets Grand River
(Continued page 47)

(Continued from page 46)

Serenade, Barbershop Style, and Harmony Transfer each sang a couple songs of the season as well. At the end, walking off stage into the audience of wheelchairs filled with frail looking vets, we were greeted with warm hearty handshakes and merry Christmas well wishing.



Valentine Drills

by Michael Baribeau,
GLC Webmaster
Great Lakes Chorus
GreatLakesChorus.org

It's getting closer to my favorite barbershop time of the year, Singing Valentine's! The Great Lakes Chorus is getting geared up. At rehearsals our director Dr Curt Struyk lines us up in 4 columns of pickup quartets as we do a round robin, singing halfway through Let Me Call You Sweet Heart or Song Of The Rose and then another quartet steps up and sings the other half. Several different group combinations get tried in quick succession this way and is a lot of fun.

We've updated our online Singing Valentine order form to streamline the ordering process. We're also trying something new with the cameras. Instead of taking photos of each Singing Valentine with a Polaroid we're going digital and uploading the photos to our online album.

February 16th a bunch of us are car pooling to Power Play's Farewell Show in St Clair.

And in March some of us are heading to the Indiana Harmony Brigade to compete.

We've got a date for our annual Spring Great Lakes Invitational show for May 10th! The same day as the BHS Singing For Life Blood Drive so we're looking into doing the blood drive on another day. Our GLI show theme is mothers and our Music Librarian Derek Hatley has already received/ordered many of the practice tracks or made them himself.

Starting out as an exciting year!

Michigan Winter Picnic In Florida

by Gary Branch,
GLC & Shades Of Grey
Great Lakes Chorus

This event has already occurred

Hi to you all. Here it is and we are planning another Michigan Barbershop Picnic. This year we are holding it at Bernie and Marilyn Poelmans. They live in Pon-

ta Gorda near the airport just off I-75. The date is Thursday, February 21, 2008 and we will plan on getting together at 12:00 noon. I realize that I'm sending this message to many unable to come, but this just keeps you in the know. If any of you are planning on coming down, email me and I will give you directions to the site. For the rest of you, we will miss you and maybe someday you can be a part of this.

And now the rest of the story. Directions to Bernie Poelman's home. Take I-75 to exit 161 which is the airport exit at Ponta Gorda. Turn left or east and go about 3/4 miles to Ventura Lakes, a mobile home park. Turn left into park and

follow road to the Clubhouse which will take you through 2 4-way stops. The clubhouse will be on your left. Plenty of parking.

Although this is primarily Michigan, all are welcome. For more info, you can Email me Gary Branch at twig35@character.net or call 941-423-0476 or my cell, 616-540-7376.

Hope to see many there.



Singing Valentines & Photos

by Michael Baribeau, GLC Webmaster
Great Lakes Chorus

The GLC has been experiencing a steady decline in Singing Valentine orders for the last few years. Gigs were split among 3 established quartets, Wildcard, Grand River Serenade, Barbershop Style and one pickup quartet, Westy's Boys, while there were several other members also interested. We were

also accepting orders to sing the weekend before but didn't receive any.

There's talk that it was the difficult economic times in Michigan that were to blame for the dropping number in orders. But I also heard Traverse City had a near record year in Singing Valentine orders.

We did try something new with photos. Instead of using Polaroid instant cameras and giving the photo to the Valentine there, we took digital photos and uploaded them to our website which was noted on each Valentine card. With quartets using their own personal digital camera it was hoped this would guarantee available cameras and remove any film issues. A bonus was that this would generate traffic to the chorus website as well. Since I was unable to get in a pickup quartet I instead followed one of our quartets for the day and took lots of photos. The ones I took I had uploaded the next day. Two of the other quartets emailed me theirs a few days later. The last quartet instead used a disposable camera, had a lab develop including a disk they gave to me about a week after Valentine's Day. Overall it went fairly well and we hope to streamline the process

in future years.

I had a great time shooting for the quartet Barbershop Style. I got the day off from work and we met at a Big Boy restaurant at 8am for breakfast. I got a video clip of the guys singing to our waitress that I later put on our GreatLakesChorus.org website and on Barbershop Style's page GreatLakesChorus.org/bstyle.html using YouTube.com. Besides doing homes and businesses they also performed at 2 different church luncheons, one was a large audience where they were well received performing for over 30 minutes. My favorite stop was at an assisted living home's filled dining hall. A gift from her daughters the elderly mother broke down in tears before the guys even started singing and was then surrounded by her daughters and granddaughters weeping and smiling as Barbershop Style serenaded them all. I did get to 'sit in' for their lead and sing one Valentine for my Grandpa. It was dinner time at his assisted living home and we hid around the corner waiting for the evening benediction to conclude. Then we strode in to the dining hall and sang to a 'full house'. He was glad to be the talk of the evening among all the ladies.



Barbershop Style in downtown Grand Rapids



Westy's Boys



Wildcard



City High School

High School Barbershop Competition & Spring GLI Show



City High School

(Continued page 49)

(Continued from page 48)

by Michael Baribeau, Webmaster
Great Lakes Chorus

The Great Lakes Chorus held the 2nd Annual Grand Rapids Area High School Barbershop Competition at the Grand Rapids Christian High School's Devos Center of Arts and Worship Auditorium on Saturday afternoon May 10th, 2008. The winning quartet was City High School, four gentlemen dressed all in black each with a different color necktie (Director Darla Jewel). Taking first in the small chorus (5-10) category was the Hastings High School group directed by Pat LaJoye, all freshmen ladies in their green t-shirts saying "The Fabulous Freshmen".

The large chorus category was won by Ionia High School directed by Rose Scheller, all gentlemen singers in white dress shirts, black pants and ties.

Performing between groups were Grand Rapids professional quartets the men's Grand River Serenade, Barbershop Style,

new collegiate quartet Post-ed Notes, and the women's Joy Ride Inc.

Judges were GLC members Director Dr. Curt Struyk and District Judge Mike O'Donnell.

Publicity Chairman Orson Coe spearheaded organizing the competition with assistance from Youth & Harmony VP Ralph Mueller.

Several members of the GLC also helped as chaperones back stage. Al Smith noted how impressed he was by these young performers doing so well singing in a new venue and in the barbershop style that they only had a short time to prepare. Doug Weaver enjoyed seeing the kids all excited to be at the competition and having lots of fun. Jeff Chesnut had a similar impression saying the students were very enthusiastic, that he could see all the hard work that they had committed, and that it made the audience smile to see the winners so elated.

GLC chorus choreographer John Trestrail even gave tips on stage presence to the

teenagers.

The winning groups were invited to perform that evening in the 65th Annual Great Lakes Invitational A Salute To Mothers by the Grand Rapids Barbershop Chapter Great Lakes Chorus. City High School quartet and the Ionia High School group were able to sing in the show. The students were a big hit, their young faces beaming as they sang to the large audience on the day before Mother's Day. All the professional men's quartets also performed as well as guest comedy quartet Hot Air Buffoons, also area quartet Harmony Transfer, the Grand Rapids Chapter quartets Shades of Grey and 2008 Pioneer District International Quartet Representatives Wildcard.

The hosting of the High School Competition by the Great Lakes Chorus and inclusion of High School groups in GLC shows has been inspiring to the chorus members. The Chapter is committed to the encouragement of barbershop singing in the Grand Rapids area.



Harmony Transfer



Post-ed Notes



Hot Air Buffoons



Grand Rapids Arts Festival

by Michael Baribeau, Webmaster
Great Lakes Chorus

The Great Lakes Chorus performed at the

free 2008 Grand Rapids Arts Festival Saturday morning June 7th.

Joining the chorus was Grand Rapids Chapter quartets Grand River Serenade and 2008 Pioneer District International Quartet Representatives Wildcard.

The downtown is closed off to car traffic for the weekend while food booths of many nationalities and thousands of people fill the streets. Several outdoor stages run continuously throughout downtown with every kind of music and dance.

The chorus had to park a few blocks away and rehearsed in the parking garage. Then we walked to the Clock Tower Stage off Ottawa and Pearl, a good spot without a lot of echo off buildings. It was a beautiful sunny day but after leaving the shade of the parking garage the heat and humidity immedi-

ately started to work on us in our tux shirts, bow ties, and vests.

We were the first performance of the morning and some in the chorus had a playful bet as to how big (or small) the audience would be and whether it would just be the wives in the front row. At some of the downtown stages in the morning the MCs were talking just to empty chairs. But we did have scores of people turn out and in our last song we even stopped many in the adjacent street. OK, so it was God Bless America but it was real good.

After our 45-minute show some of us tried the food booths and I took my first grader to the kid's art tent but many left soon after due to the heat. However it was a great way to start off the summer and I hope we get the opportunity again.



Grand River Serenade



Great Lakes Chorus



Wildcard



Blood Drive & Car Show

Great Lakes Chorus

The Barbershop Harmony Society promoted a barbershop blood drive across the US and Canada on May 10th, 2008 called Singing for Life with Pioneer District Chapters also participating. Considered a success the following was posted on the BHS website notice,

"More than 170 chapters participated in what was designed to be the largest North American blood drive and donor recruitment project in history."

"A special thanks to our blood center partners: Canadian Blood Services, American Red Cross, Héma-Quebec, and America's Blood Centers."

"Congratulations to all those who organized, participated in, and supported the May 10 event!"

by John H. Baker IV
GLC Blood Drive Chairman

The 'Society' wide Singing For Life barber-

shop blood drive was scheduled for May 10th, 2008 which fell on the same day as our Great Lakes Invitational spring show. But not to be left out, June 14th 10am-2pm the Great Lakes Chorus with quartets Barbershop Style & 2008 International Representatives Wildcard joined with the Michigan Community Blood Centers' Grand Valley Blood Center 1036 Fuller NE Grand Rapids to help sponsor a Blood Drive and Car Show. With help from a local "Oldies" radio station remote, over fifty classic cars, and lots of good eats. We were able to get 118 donors signed in, with six new donors and collected 92 pints of blood.

With help from other chapters in Traverse City and St. Joseph areas the Michigan Blood Centers were able to collect a total of 120 units making Michigan the second largest collector. 1st place goes to blood center Hema-Quebec of Canada who topped the chart with 180 units. All in all a good effort for our first time out. Thanks to all that participated in this worthy event and thanks also go to Barbra Koning and her staff.

Looking forward to doing this next year.

The following is feedback the Great Lakes Chorus received from MCBC and ABC.

I wanted to send you a copy of the article that was published with the America's Blood Centers. We received lots of press because of you guys! I wanted to thank you again for coming out on the 14th. It was fantastic to have you all here. Please pass this along to everyone in the group and let them know how much we appreciate all you guys did to help us out! I will contact you next year in late winter to see if we can work something out again for 2009! Thanks, again!

Barbara Koning
Special Events Assistant

Michigan Community Blood Centers
616-233-8524

If you didn't already see this e-publication from ABC, take a look & notice front-page story on Barbershop Harmony Society campaign, with Michigan Community Blood Centers drives mentioned as achieving second-highest draw (only Hema-Quebec drew more). Much of the credit for that goes to GR for combining the car show drive w/ BHS campaign/4 barbershop music from GR area BHS — but every BHS affiliated group that participated (3 MCBC regions: Traverse City, St. Joseph, Grand Rapids) should get abundant thanks and credit for helping us achieve this great result. Nice to get a little national-level "ink" in ABC's publication — I hope you will make sure your BHS contacts know how much we appreciated their support.

Toni Gould
Michigan Community Blood Centers
ABC Marketing Communications e-Newsletter Issue No. 66, June 26, 2008
pioneerdistrict.org/troubadour/online/2008/07/grc/abcnewsletter.pdf

Barbershop Harmony Society North
American Blood Drive Results

The Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS), in partnership with America's Blood Centers, successfully completed its first annual "Singing for Life" North American Blood Drive. In order to ensure the continued success of this event in the future and at the request of BHS, ABC recently collected results from this year's drive to provide both to the membership and BHS.

Of the 28 members who replied to the survey, 22 participated in BHS events. Through these drives nearly 800 units of blood were
(Continued page 51)

(Continued from page 50)
collected. The top collecting centers include Héma-Québec (180 units), Michigan Community Blood Centers (120 units) and United Blood Services – Las Vegas (84 units). The majority of participating members felt that there was plenty of planning time provided for the events, however, most did not use the PSAs developed by BHS. Some additional suggestions and comments included:

"I think having one year under our belt will help us improve next year. The groups were

fun to have around."

"Donors loved this!"

"It was an absolute pleasure to work with the local BHS chapter."

ABC will continue to work with BHS to plan and promote the continuation of this event in upcoming years. With suggestions from both our members and their chapter representatives, we believe that the relationship between BHS and community blood centers

across North America will continue to grow and improve. Contact Abbey at aspittle@americasblood.org with any additional comments or suggestions.

Abbey Spittle
Coordinator, Member Services
America's Blood Centers
Direct Line: +1 (202) 654-2980
aspittle@americasblood.org
It's About Life.
www.AmericasBlood.org



A real classic



A GLC pickup quartet



Great Lakes Chorus



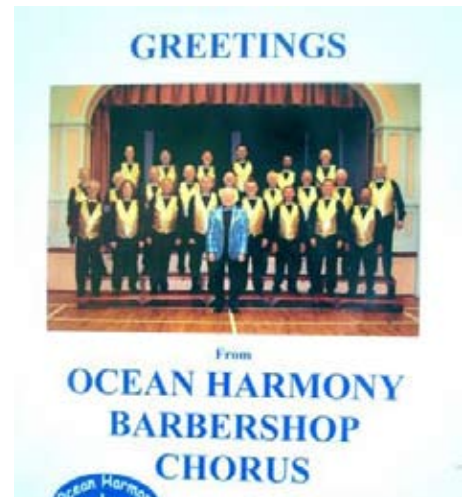
WA. & UK Ambassadors

by Michael Baribeau, Webmaster

Great Lakes Chorus

June 17, 2008 a special guest night with visits not only from Robert Joskell of near by Greenville but also Chuck Kalkstine Past President Harmony Kings chorus and Country Squires Barbershop Quartet from Federal Way Washington and Mike Beven of Ocean Harmony of New Forest Hampshire (Southampton) England.

Mike presented the Grand Rapids Barbershop Chapter Great Lakes Chorus, Michigan USA with a photo and greeting from across the pond accepted by director Curt Struyk.



Stage Coach Park Middleville MI

Continued next page



by Michael Baribeau, Webmaster
Great Lakes Chorus

June 20th, 2008 the Grand Rapids Barber-shop Chapter Great Lakes Chorus performed for the outdoor River Bank Music Series in Stage Coach Park Middletown MI. The weather was fantastic with beautiful clear blue

skies and comfortable temperatures along the Thornapple River.

The Chorus sang from a large raised pavilion lined with bushes of pink flowers to a grassy bowl shaped park filled with families of music lovers on blankets and in lawn chairs. It felt like a good old fashioned summer time

concert with birds darting in and out of the pavilion, kids rolling down the hill and some young boys were even playing touch football in the back. Grand Rapids quartets the 2008 Pioneer District International Quartet Representatives Wildcard and Shades Of Grey were big hits with the crowd.



Wildcard



Shades Of Grey



Grand River Serenade



Gratiot County Chapter Good With Children

by Woody Ely, VP Marketing and PR
Midstatesmen Chorus

Pictured is Alma High School vocal instructor, Georgia Fisher, receiving a \$500 check from members of "Gray Matters" quartet.

On December 3rd, "Gray Matters" quartet, representing the Gratiot County Midstatesmen Chorus, spent most of the day singing to local school vocal music groups and presenting monetary donations to the school vocal music directors. Such donations have been given to these schools for several years and the funds are used by the recipient schools to support their music programs in any way the directors deem suitable.

Checks were given to vocal directors, Georgia Fisher (Alma), Liz Loyselle (Breckenridge), Kevin Smith (Ithaca), and Margaret Metcalf (St. Louis) schools.

The total money disbursed was \$3,000 and represented funds raised by the Midstatesmen from Valentine singouts, as well as re-

ceipts from the chapter's

Annual Fall Show. Part of this money was also given to the Alma Schools for the use of their facilities throughout the year.

This spring, these same school choirs will again join the Midstatesmen and present a concert at the Doig Chapel of the Alma Masonic Pathways. This endeavor has been a success for several years and provides each choir, and any small ensembles they wish to present, the opportunity to perform for a large audience as well as their peers. The show finale consists of all of the choirs joining the Midstatesmen as the entire group sings two mass numbers. This provides an opportunity for the smaller choirs to perform with a large ensemble and also offers them the opportunity to sing with a group of mature male voices which is lacking in their individual choirs.



Spring Happening

by Woody Ely
VP Marketing & PR
Midstatesmen Chorus

On May 5, 2008 the Gratiot County Midstatesmen Chorus hosted three area high school choirs from Alma, Breckenridge, and

Ithaca along with approximately 50 fourth and fifth graders from St. Louis as we presented a "Spring Happening" joint concert from an enthusiastic crowd of parents, friends, and Alma Masonic Pathways residents at the Masonic Home's Doig Chapel.

This endeavor, put together by Ken Smith, which has become an annual event, provides each choir and any small ensembles they wish to present, as well as the Midstatesmen Chorus, an opportunity to

perform for the peers and a very receptive large audience.

The finale of all the choirs joining with the Midstatesmen as the entire group sings two appropriate compositions en masse. The combination of the youth and mature male voices is very special.

This year the entire ensemble sang, "I'd Like To Teach The World To Sing" and "This Is My Country" as the program finale. The nearly

250 voices singing together in the acoustically splendid Doig Chapel once again provided the singers and listeners a truly wonderful musical experience.

The schedule of the afternoon's program includes a group rehearsal of the two mass compositions, directed by two high school directors, from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. This is followed by a "get acquainted" pizza party for all participants from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30

p.m. in the chapel's large conference room. Then we all meet back in the chapel proper for the joint concert which lasts from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. This schedule works well since students don't miss any school time and allows them to get home early enough to do their homework and also allows the elderly Masonic Pathways residents to retire early as is their normal habit.



Grosse Pointe Chapter

**See Russ Seely article this issue*



Hillsdale Chapter Spring Show

by Bob Snow
Town & Country Chorus

This event has already occurred.

Hillsdale Town & Country Chorus annual spring show! To be held May 17th at 7 P.M. at the Sports Center on campus of Hillsdale College. 4 Man fishing Tackle Choir will headline the event with an appearance by the 2nd Place 2008 International Senior Quartet Champion Quartet Resisting-A-Rest. Tickets available by calling 517 567-4460 or 517 849 5066.



Holland Windmill Chorus
The Holland MI Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society

Holland Chapter

by Art Lane
PR & The Windmill Blade Editor
Holland Windmill Chorus

The Holland Windmill Chorus held its Christmas concert Dec. 9 2007 at the Park Theater

in downtown Holland. An offering was received and donated by the Holland Chapter to the Park Theater Foundation. It will assist in renovation of the former movie theater into a community performance center. Kirk Wood and Mike Oonk directed the chorus. Chapter quartets performing included Havin' A Blast, Generations of Harmony and No Rehearsal Band.

After the concert the singers served coffee, hot chocolate, cider and cookies to an admiring throng.



Holland Tulip Time

Holland Windmill Chorus
www.harmonize.com/windmill
 Barbershop on Parade
www.tuliptime.org/barbershop-parade

This event has already occurred

05/09/2008 - 7:30pm
 Joining the Holland Windmill Chorus for an evening of wonderful singing is Northern Michigan's champion quartet of hilarious hunting and fishing songs, FOUR-MAN FISHIN' TACKLE CHOIR. There's humor and patriotic music but the star of the evening

is that good old four-part barbershop harmony. Approximately 90 minutes.

Groups of 15 or more please call 1.800.822.2770 x107 to purchase tickets.

Location(s)
 Christ Memorial Auditorium
 595 Graafschap Road
 Holland, MI, 49423



Huron Valley Chapter Chords & Cuisine II

by Greg Humbel
hvharmonizers.org

Holiday Show turned Winter Cabaret Snow Date

The Huron Valley Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society presents Chords and Cuisine II, Sunday, January 27 at 2:00 and 7:00 pm, at the Stony Creek United Methodist Church, 8635 Stony Creek Rd, Ypsilanti, MI. The show will feature the Huron Valley Harmonizers chorus and The Huron Valley's own Pioneer District Quartet Champs, Chordiology! Tickets for the show and a wonderful pasta dinner (with meat), including desert, are available for purchase from any chorus member, by e-mailing info@hvharmonizers.org, or calling (734) 445-1925 for \$20 each. We can Leave the tickets at the door.



Paul & The Harmonizers Fall District 2007

Departed Paul Hanson

by Gregory P Humbel
hvharmonizers.org

It is with extremely heavy hearts that the Huron Valley Chapter announces the sudden passing of our director, Paul Hanson, Saturday morning, May 17, 2008. Paul passed away in Cleveland while attending the Sweet Adelines convention in which his beloved daughter Chelsea was competing

with the County Connection Chorus from our area.

Paul was a talented musician and singer, and dearly loved all his barbershop brethren. He was our assistant director for several years before taking the director position in September 2006. Many years ago he was the bass for the Ivy League. His passing has left a void in our lives and he will be missed.

The Huron Valley Harmonizers pass along our sincere thanks for all the Sweet Adelines in Cleveland for watching over her until family could get to Cleveland.

We especially thank our former director and the current director of the County Connection Chorus (Sweet Adelines), Lynne Peirce and Tom Peirce for being Chelsea's temporary guardians.

Surviving Paul are his daughter, Chelsea, wife of three months, Alissa, his Mother, Diane, Sister, Audrey and brother Mathew.

The family is trying to contact Wayne Kinde, but is having trouble. If anyone knows how to contact Wayne, please contact Chelsea at link email. Chelsea would also like anyone

who has a life lesson that they have learned from Paul to e-mail her with that lesson. In lieu of flowers the family has asked for donations to the Chelsea Hanson Scholarship Fund

Visitation Wednesday May 21th 2-4 PM
 6-9 PM Funeral Service Thursday May 22th 11AM

Stark Funeral Home
 101 South Washington Street
 Ypsilanti MI 48197

Chelsea has expressed a wish to have a celebration of Paul's life in the near future. We will keep you informed when the date is announced. Cards and well wishes may also be sent to:>

Chelsea and Alissa Hanson
 2644 EastLawn
 Ypsilanti MI 48197

by Terry Grimme VP/PR

The Huron Valley family, including Chelsea & Alissa Hanson, would like to thank all who came together to honor our director Paul
(Continued next page)

(Continued from previous page)

Hanson following his sudden passing. The outpouring of love for Paul was tremendous. As one member said after the service; "I have never felt so much love, from so many, directed at one man." Special thanks to our sister chapter, County Connection, and their director Lynne Pierce for all they

have done and continue to do. Also, thanks to all in the district & our chapter who have stepped forward to offer their help. The Harmonizers chorus will be directed, in the interim, by Rob Pettigrew, former director & bari in our current district champs, Chordiology, with the help of our assistant directors. Stay tuned, we will be working with Chelsea

and Alissa to set up a "Memorial Celebration" for Paul. In the meantime you can follow the Huron Valley Harmonizers activities at; www.hvharmonizers.org or on our Hotline @ (734) 445-1925.

"FRIENDS ARE FRIENDS FOREVER"



With All My Love

by Mrs. Alissan Hanson

From the moment I met Paul on November 12th of 2005 I knew he was a special person and someone I wanted in my life. He was charming, caring, funny and very handsome. His love for life radiated all around him. Live, laugh and love... we had all those wonderful and important life skills to share together. I didn't think there was anything more that could bring more joy to the two of us UNTIL..... I heard him sing, I saw him direct the chorus and I witnessed the friendships he had gained because of his love for music.

When Paul sang or was directing there was a passion and an energy that came about him

that blew me away.

I have never seen that much love for anything in my entire life. It made me happy to see him that happy. Paul was music and music was Paul.

I have to tell you that over the course of the last 2 ½ years we have had numerous conversations about the friends he has met through the years due to his love for music. I've been able to meet a lot of you and some I know from a picture or because he would talk about his experiences with the people he met. Paul would talk to me about his Cedar Point days and the quartets he had been in over the years. I heard so many stories and was intrigued by all of the experiences he was able to live and how his passion for music opened so many different doors for him. Music moved him and it was such a huge part of this life. Family, friends and music were so important to him so I will leave you with this.....

Remember Paul when you sing. He will be there with you and give you the inspiration to sing louder and sing big. You know he is proud of all of you and he loved all of you. You were his brothers and you were very important to him. Sing on and sing prouder than ever knowing you had a remarkable man in

your life that has left a footprint on this earth to be proud of. He certainly made me proud. I need to thank the Huron Valley Harmonizers for loving and embracing Chelsea and I during the most difficult days of our lives. Thank you for your support and graciousness you showed to us. You were there for us and we never needed to ask, you were just there. I am forever grateful to you for that. You were such a big part of Paul's life and he loved every single one of you as a brother. You guys keep it going for yourselves and for Paul. Make the Huron Valley Harmonizers be heard all around. You made Paul proud to be your director now sing big in his memory.

I also need to thank the County Connection Chorus and their Director Lynne Peirce. Without having to say it all, YOU were there during the worse moment of Chelsea's life. You took her in and cared for her and comforted her. There is not a word big enough to tell you how much I value you for that. I knew she was safe during my 3 hour drive to Cleveland because of you. You as well embraced us and loved us without us ever having to ask. You were a comfort during a very hard time. Thank you for everything.

With all my love,
Alissa Hanson



Kalamazoo Chapter

Gary Monroe 2007 BOTY

by Alexander Boltenko
PR Writer & Webmaster
Kalamazoo Barbershop Chorus
barbershopharmony.org

At its annual meeting on December 14, 2007 Kalamazoo Barbershop Harmony Society that includes Kalamazoo Barbershop Chorus and quartets, named *Gary Monroe* from Schoolcraft as their *Barbershopper of the Year*. This award -- officially Gary Brown Memorial Award, was started in 1977 and Gary Brown, long-time barbershopper and past Chapter President was its first recipient. Each year the local chapter votes for one of its members whose contribution to

the success and well-being of these men's a cappella singing organization was the most critical and significant. Gary Monroe is a relatively new barbershop singer, he started 3 years ago and he thoroughly enjoys singing with the rest of the guys in the chapter. Gary sings baritone, the most difficult part in barbershop harmony style of singing. He is also VP for Music and Performance. "Our priority is to have fun singing together, yet we strive to make our art of singing four-part men's a-cappella harmony better through hard work and excellent direction from our music team", says Gary. "Both my mom and dad

were musical. My mom played the organ at our church, and both of them were in special Christmas choruses. My dad proudly played the sousaphone in the national FFA band in the 40's. They got me involved at a young age with piano lessons at the age of 7 that I gave up at the age of 14 when I joined the band program. I was very active in the high school band playing trombone and bass guitar in the concert, marching, jazz bands and rock bands. I also sang bass for our high school choir, and also sing bass in my church choir", says Monroe. "I strive for perfection in everything that I do, yet I try not to take life

too seriously. That's my way of trying to keep everything in my life: God, family, work and pleasure in balance, and in a priority that works best for me. I'm honored and humbled by receiving the Barbershopper of the Year award for 2007 for our chapter because there are so many in our chapter that are just as worthy of this reward". Gary Monroe. A computer technician has been married for 32 years and he lives in Schoolcraft. All his 3 sons sing and enjoy barbershop and sports.



V-Day Testimonials

Kalamazoo Barbershop Chorus
barbershopharmony.org

Jodi Hansen, music teacher (about 4G2S),
"--- Thank- you so much for singing for me...
and my students. My students loved it ...
and it is a great way to teach a lesson/unit
about Male Chorus groups and Barbershop
quartets..."

Ken Hensen, "Your guys did a great job. Jodi
was thrilled! Thanks for setting it up."

Tony Dugal, "Kalamazoo harmonizers: Thank
you for singing to my wife, Sandy (at Kalam-
azoo College). She loved it! Her co-workers
also enjoyed it very much, so you may get
more business next year."

Caryl (co-worker of Sandy Dugal), "...I just
saw you at Kalamazoo College singing to
Sandy Dugal in Mandelle Hall. I saw you go-
ing up the stairs and headed up at the end
of your first song when I heard clapping.
WOW! You are wonderful and such a pleas-
ant surprise in the middle of your work day.
I would like you to pay my husband a visit at
his office on Lovers Lane in Portage."

Stacy Ridenour (KSO), "What a lovely ser-
enade from the Barbershoppers this morn-
ing. Makes one feel so special...."

Burt, "You guys saved my life"



Lansing Chapter

March Show Success!

from Lansing Woodshedding Weekly
by Paul Howe Editor
CapitalCityChordsmen.org

Nightwatch Steals the Show " A TERRIFIC
show!" "Great show!" "Everyone (on stage)
looked like they were having so much fun
." "Everything went so smoothly - flow and
pace of the show made it seem much short-
er than it was." "A most enjoyable evening."

But, Nightwatch was the biggest hit. "How
can he keep eating all those donuts and still

sing?" And from the weight watchers in the
crowd, "How does he eat all that stuff and
still stay so slender?" Everyone was laughing
throughout their routine.

Unsung Hero of the Night: Pat Lind.

Everyone involved in the planning, prepa-
ration, and performance of our show did a
great job, something that definitely showed
in the final product. However, one individual
went virtually unnoticed - because the pro-
duction went so smoothly - our stage man-
ager. GREAT JOB, PAT!!! And a HUGE "THANK
YOU" for your hard work!

(Continued next page)



Nightwatch Report

by James Hall
Lansing chapter member

Our Lansing chapter had our annual show 3 weeks ago, and it went well. Thanks to those of you who were there with us.

If you are looking for a very entertaining quartet for your show, I wanted to recommend NIGHTWATCH, since they simply had people roaring with laughter with their Diner Set (flying donuts and all). I think good comedy quartets are like gold when putting together a great show. And these guys sing well too!

They are from Milwaukee, WI and go all out to entertain their audiences including costumes, props & sets, and a whole storyline.

They won the 2000 Buckeye Invitational Funny Bone Comedy Quartet contest and the 2003 and 2007 Chicago Region of the a cappella music Harmony Sweepstakes.

If you would like more information about Nightwatch, you can visit their website, www.nightwatchqt.com I especially recommend checking out their photo gallery or comments on past performances. Or you could also visit their Myspace page at www.myspace.com/nwsortafunny

NightwatchQT@yahoo.com
or Squadgoon@wi.rr.com
Phone: (262)653-1414



Valentine

from Lansing Woodshedding Weekly
by Don Horton
of Sufficient Grounds
CapitalCityChordsmen.org

Sufficient Grounds has another banner year

Singing Valentines all over Shiawassee and Saginaw Co. This year the quartet did 23 gigs which included 3 freebies. Many times the spontaneous freebies are some of the best.

I received a call from Mrs. Bob Demoss telling me that her husband loved Barbershop Music. She told me he was at home with HOSPICE coming in and that he would not be too responsive because he is paralyzed from the neck down. She said he can only show his emotions through his eyes and facial expressions. I told her we would try to work him in if I could. It worked out so that we could make the trip to Durand MI. and sing to Bob Demoss.

NOTE: This couple is on a fixed income and he has not long to live. There was NO CHARGE for our performance.

The following is the letter I received from his wife Doris DeMoss a few days later.

Doris & Bob DeMoss, "Hi Don & ALL the Sufficient Grounds quartet: Yes! you sure did make Bob Happy & I can't Thank You enough. When I saw his eyes filling up with tears---I knew he was enjoying it. He always has enjoyed Barbershop music. When I mention it to him now--he SMILES. You guys are good--both with your music and in your hearts. Thanks again, I wanted to get out & get a Thank You card --but thought this note would be just as good.

Gigs, like this one are PRICELESS!!! Sufficient Grounds turned in a check to the chapter last week for \$450.00 for our efforts on February 14, 2008. Don Terpe, Doc Oliver, Don Horton & T.R. Gerard.



An Interesting Day

from Lansing Woodshedding Weekly
story and photos
by Paul Howe Editor
CapitalCityChordsmen.org

An "Interesting" Day at the Curwood Festival Performance. There's an old Chinese curse - "May you live in interesting times." I don't know what we did to make whomever mad, but this proved to be an interesting Sunday performance. It all started innocently enough, with a fairly normal warm-up. We were a little short on performers, but balanced pretty well. Then followed the three block walk to the performance tent. That's when things started to go a wee bit "off." As we started to get on the stage, one of the support jacks gave way, and one of the stage started listing to port, so to speak. We all figured it must be Don Horton's fault, as it gave way as he entered. After a quick exodus, the support was repaired, and we went on with the show. The side walls of the tent had been removed to improve cooling airflow. That plus a gusty 25 - 30

mph breeze did help keep things cool, but played havoc trying to hear the other sections. Also performing on the show were Sufficient Grounds, with Ben Ong subbing on tenor, and a patched together version of the Patch Chords, with Don Horton subbing for Larry Parker on Bari. Even the ride home had some eventful moments, with a VERY DARK cloud looming to the west and seemingly moving towards me at a high rate of speed. Instant deluge and winds that rocked the car even though I was in a 30 mph zone in south Lansing. That's when I heard the civil defense sirens over the noise of the wind and rain. I never saw a funnel cloud although the weather people claim there was one, however there were several instances of tree limbs down in the road.



Patch Chords New Tenor

from Lansing Woodshedding Weekly
by Doug Pearson
CapitalCityChordsmen.org

The Patch Chords are pleased to announce the addition of tenor Bud Burrill to their quartet, succeeding Roger Cahaney. Bud brings years of experience and talent to the Patch Chords. He joined the Society in 1967 as a member of the Battle Creek Cereal City Chorus. In 1978, he became a member of the well-known comedic quartet Harmony Hounds and sang with them for five years. In 2004, Bud sang with the Brotherhood quartet which won the Pioneer District Se-

nior Quartet Championship. Joining Don in this quartet were his brothers, Don, Dean and Dorn. Bud's "Maiden Voyage" with the Capitol City Chordsmen was the Patch Chords' performance as part of Owosso's Curwood Festival. Since Larry Parker was ill, Bud got to sing with fill-in bari Don Horton, an original member of the Patch Chords who seems to get younger and more energetic with age. For the Patch Chords, this performance was kind of the past and the future all rolled into one.



Livingston County Chapter Valentine & Dine

Ralph LeRoy
Livingston Lamplighters
Brighton, Michigan
TheLivingstonLamplighters.com

Just a note - We are having some success with singing for restaurants during their noon and evening hours. It seems that a quartet singing in the waiting area has some real merit on this special day.

We are getting our \$100 for 1/2 hour. You have to make the calls on the restaurant but it's worth it. We have orders for Bennigans and Applebees and are awaiting several more. Have fun -



Macomb County Chapter

Director Found

by Dave Anderson, President
Guardians of Harmony
GuardiansofHarmony.org

It is with great pride and joy that the Macomb County Chapter Board of Di-

rectors announces the appointment of Mr. Glen Hipple as the Director of the Guardians of Harmony. Glen has been our Interim Director for only a few weeks, but in that short period of time, seeing him in action caused us to realize what a true gem we had. We decided that we would like to make this association a little more permanent.

Mr. Hipple is 30 years old and is a music teacher in the Grosse Pointe school system. He holds a bachelors degree in music education and recently completed a masters degree in educational leadership. Glen was also recently accepted as a candidate judge in the Sing-

ing Category of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

Glen has great hands that tell you what he wants, good ears to hear what is produced, and the musical knowledge to fix what needs fixing. Stop by any Thursday Night and see him in action. The Guardians look forward to seeing you all in Battle Creek and are looking forward to a good chorus competition.





Winter Break Fun Night

by Roger Walker, VP PR Mkt.
Guardians of Harmony
GuardiansofHarmony.org

Many of you can relate to the hard work and long hours that go into successful shows, contests and other appearances, so it should

come as no surprise that they were ready to take a break.

After two remarkable Christmas shows featuring both the Guardians of Harmony and the Toronto Northern Lights and an afterglow that no one wanted to leave, the chorus took the rest of December off. A well deserved break was just the medicine we all needed to heal our spirits and invigorate our desire to start all over again. As proof of our determination and motivation, the Guardians of Harmony, to a man, promised to learn two brand new songs over the Holiday and show up to our first rehearsal of 2008 without bringing paper onto the risers. We feel that this is what it's going to take to be on top.

The trouble with taking a break is that we miss that fellowship and harmony. So, the Guardians hosted a quartet fun night on December 14. About fifty fellows showed up. After a brief warm up and "The Old Songs" lead by Matt Tipton, the musical mayhem

commenced. Four guys were volunteered and a round of tap out quartet singing started the quartet activities. Carl Dalke taught the whole gang a tag to segue into exhibitions by registered quartets including "Moxxy," (with Joe Queen on lead) "Fermata Nowhere," "Singing With Dad," and our own district champion "Chordiology." If you weren't there, you missed the stylings of lesser known quartets such as "Fermata With Dad" and "Moxiology" and even "Singing With FerMoxiology." Another tag by Carl and then we really mixed things up. Everyone had opportunity to sing in a quartet or two. The evening most certainly sparked the imaginations of some future quartet singers. Attendees were encouraged to wear badges from all of the quartets of which they had been a part. I think the tie goes to TC and Dave Anderson for "Most Hardware." It felt like we all returned to society roots. Please consider being a part of events like this and encourage others to take advantage of these opportunities.



Motor City Metro Chapter

Chelsea Sounds and Sights

by Keith M. Opal
Bachelors of Harmony
dearbornvocalassembly@yahoo.com

The Motor City Bachelors of Harmony have been singing out lately. We sang on June 26 and July 17 in Chelsea, where they have "Chelsea Sounds and Sights." These performances are outside in various locations around downtown. That's to get folks to come into town and see the shops that maybe wouldn't usually.

The store's stay open later for these events to bring in business. They have various groups come in and perform, bands and singing groups and we got the chance to do so. We have one more performance, August 21, from 6:30-8:30 PM. If you're in the area come down and see us!

The Motor City Bachelors of Harmony meet on Thursday night from 7:30-10:00. We've moved to the University of Michigan campus area and we rehearse at 1510-1520 Hill St., Ann Arbor. Just west of Washtenaw Avenue (where the "big painted rock" is). We are behind the Luther Co-Op house, and parking is on side streets. Come down and see us.



Mount Pleasant Chapter

Instead of their regular annual fund raiser show the Mountaintown Singers hosted their show Eclecticity, Friday April 25th 8:30pm right at the Spring Convention free!





Muskegon Chapter Rockin' Barber- shop Camp



*Last year's Rockin' Barbershop Camp
curtain call*

by Jeffrey L Pierson
VP Youth in Harmony
Muskegon Shoreline Chorus
www.ShorelineChorus.org

Rockin' Barbershop Camp 2009 is hosted by
Shoreline Chorus

2009 Youth Camp at Interlochen. Plans for a co-ed youth harmony camp are progressing for August of 2009. The Interlochen Center for the Arts is working with us to firm up a contract, and clinicians are already volunteering.

A website exists - www.rockinbarbershop.org, where you can see video of previous workshops, sponsor students, or register students (send no money yet!). In your neighborhood, we need you to approach your local school choir directors and show them how this camp can improve their student's ear and singing skills. See also the video at the www.harmonycamp.org, the camp which is the pattern for ours, for points to help on this. Their video is fine and expensive, ours is fun but cheap! RockinBarbershop '09 - Michigan Camp in August

www.rockinbarbershop.org
PO Box 464
Whitehall MI 49461-0464

(From Rockinbarbershop.org)
What Is Rockin' Barbershop Camp?

Three days (two overnights) of fun for high school students, both young men and women, interested in vocal performance. The camp will be held at (tentatively) Interlochen Center for the Arts. Professional vocal instruction at an affordable price. An opportunity to sing with and learn from talented performers. A crash course in the intricacies of four-part, a cappella harmony. Instruction and experience in singing technique and stage presence. A performance in front of 750 barbershop enthusiasts. Special attention will be given to student quartets. A chance to make new friends from across the state.

Jeffrey L Pierson
VP Youth in Harmony
Home phone 231-894-6838
Cell 616-990-1388 also SMS
rockinbarber08@aol.com
Mail - 6112 Murray Road,
Whitehall MI 49461

*Our 27 September Shows (Matinee/Evening) will be during Whitehall's Harvest Festival, and include a food tent, shopping, and general happy mayhem. Use our www.ShorelineChorus.org website events page link as the place to get more updates!



Pontiac- Waterford Chapter

Christmas Sing-Out & Director Debut Tom Blue

Event has already occurred

Story & Photos by John Cowlishaw, Pontiac-Waterford Newsletter Editor

The Pontiac-Waterford Big Chief Chorus has concluded another gig-filled Christmas season. During November and December 2007, the barbershop chorus morphs into an all-comers Christmas chorus. Between December 4 and 22, armed with a repertoire of nine songs, half-and-half sacred and secular, the chapter sang to 27 groups, including elder-care facilities, business groups, grocery stores, medical facilities, show sponsors'

businesses, and the Holly Dickens Festival. Eighteen of these involved the whole chorus although they also included in-house quartets whenever available - B-Natural, Celebration, Four Wheel Drive, On Tap, Local Color IV, and Northbound Sound. We averaged 42 singers per singout this year compared to 33 last year, illustrating the growth of the chorus under new director Tom Blue, and also the decision to welcome several Sweet Adelines for the holiday season. A 23-minute audio recording of the concert at Canterbury on the Lake is available on our web site, www.bigchiefchorus.org by clicking on the Holiday photo half way down the home page. At the chorus party following that concert, framed certificates were handed out to all the participants, and the winners of annual awards were announced. Barbershop-of-the Year award went to outgoing-president and Four Wheel Drive bass, Zaven Melkonian. Fred McFadyen received the Rawley Hallman Music award, and spoke emotionally of the joy of singing with a group whose primary purpose was to enjoy
(Continued next page)

(Continued from previous page)
singing.



Big Chief Chorus at Holly Dickens Festival

The chorus re-gathers at Crary Middle School January 8, 2008, under the leader-



Tom Blue & Santa

ship of President-elect "Doc" Mann, the new Executive Board, and director Tom Blue.



BOTY Zaven Melkonian, Fred McFadyen with Rawley Hallman award, Dick Johnson



New Year Report

by John Cowlshaw, Bulletin editor,
Big Chief Chorus

The Big Chief Chorus started off the new year with an attendance of 42, swelling the Crary Middle School music room almost to its capacity.

90% of our Executive Board members were able to attend COTS.

The Music Committee has chosen music for the new year. "Aura Lee" and "I'm Beginning to See the Light" are intended as our contest songs. The year's music will include fourteen new songs, and our fall show will have a patriotic theme.

Members' news: Tenor Al Monroe was the soloist in his church's Christmas program, Dec 23. Bari Cory Flatoff has returned from Hawker 800 school to become the Assistant Chief Pilot of ADL. "I missed the entire Christmas Sing-Out program with great disappointment and hope to have more time next year with my new positions."

Tenor Terry Jamison became a victim of corporate down-sizing and is now job-hunting, including out of state.

Our auxiliary Big Chief Chicks met for lunch at Dobski's on Saturday, Dec. 22.

Our Christmas season singers included: Doug Metzger, Eric Domke, Jack Miesel, Bill Maxfield, Pat Newkirk, and Austin Quinn. Several are intending to continue with us post-holidays. For the first time, the Big Chief Chorus also invited women to join the Holiday chorus, and these included: Donna Bevington, Eileen Marshall, Sharon Lepley,

Elaine Greene, and Linda Parks.

One of our Christmas guests asked about the process for new singers. Our chorus's primer for new singers is in the October 2006 Smoke Signals. You'll find it at:

http://www.bigchiefchorus.org/Smoke_Signals/2006/October%202006-Issue%2066.pdf

Long-time barbershopper Lyle Howard has written a three-part remembrance of Pioneer chapter activity in the early days. He describes (nostalgically) how chapters were organized around quartetting. If you'd like to read his essay, see the October, November, and January issues of Smoke Signals, at:

http://www.bigchiefchorus.org/Current_Smoke_Signals_1.htm

Signing off, with Director Tom Blue's mantra:

"full, low breath that fills the inner-tube tall and round vowels use of low, mid and head tone registers the importance of the words a face that knows you are singing a unit sound within your section and within the group"



Big Chief Chicks Singing Valentine

Pontiac-Waterford Chapter has an active ladies auxiliary, who call themselves "The Big Chief Chicks". The "Chicks" get together periodically for fun, and do things to help the chorus, like making centerpieces and table

decorations for show afterglows, hand-crafted Valentine cards, etc.

The wives met Saturday morning, Feb. 16th, at Finos Restaurant in Waterford to have breakfast together. When the wives get together like this, some of the Big Chief Chorus husbands also tag along. Right after the food disappeared, the men surprised their wives, and serenaded them with a belated Singing Valentine!



Celebration- Bill Dabbs, Greg Moss, Bruce Brede, Jack Teuber

Schools Need Love Too

by Jack Teuber
VP PR & Marketing
Big Chief Barbershop Chorus
bigchiefchorus.org

How About those Singing Valentines! Deliveries ranged from quality fine dining Chef's Cuisine to Jerry's Coney Island. From heart surgery at Beaumont Hospital to school classrooms. How do you deliver a rose to the owner of a competing florist? (Include a box of chocolates.) Dentists, doctors and bankers were also included in the mix. Several senior citizen residences and a variety of businesses were also visited. All-in-all the Big Chief Chorus delivered 51 valentines in 14 different communities. The project included 19 BCC members and 3 guest singers.

The Valentine Promotion began with an appearance by B-Natural on the local cable Media Network of Waterford. Thank you Lyle, Roger, Fred, and Dick. This was followed up by a photo of the Celebration quartet in 3

different local newspapers. Thank you Bruce, Greg, Bill and Jack.

On February 14th Four Wheel Drive, Jeff, Zaven, Bob and Al, kept the tires hot cruising from Wixom to Madison Heights to Troy to Clarkston. They also maintained their Education Tradition by including two schools on their tour. The BCC visited 6 schools in all. The Flexible Five, Rob, Ross, David, Don and Tom, featured rotating Bari, Lead and Tenors. Thank you Ross for providing stability as the Bass and leading the way with 15 gigs. Special thanks to 5th wheel drivers Bob Brain, Mike Frye and Howard Lynn. All deliveries were made safely and on schedule. Our President, Irwin "Doc" Mann kept track of everything as Valentine Coordinator and Dispatcher.

The Big Chief Chorus is looking forward to the 2009 Valentine Delivery. Stow-away the Polaroid Cameras and bring out the snow shovels.

April Singouts & Convention

by Jack Teuber
VP PR & Marketing
Big Chief Barbershop Chorus
bigchiefchorus.org
The Big Chief Chorus was very busy in April.

Once again, the chorus held its Spring Singing Retreat at the Ralph MacMullan Center on the north shore of Higgins Lake. This year the snow was a little deeper. The facility was also a little busier, with trout fishermen, fire inspectors, and others sharing the facility. The time was used for intensive improvement on our two contest numbers. But it was also fun. (Austin Quinn called it the most fun he's had in 27 years of barbershopping.) In ensemble competition, the Crocs (Clarke, Teuber, Mann, Cowlshaw, Valko, Keith, Holmes, Allen, and Mahacek) beat out the Hippos, the Mooses, and the Apes.

Thanks to Pete Mazzara for his organization of the event! And to all those who assisted him.

The Big Chief Chorus led off this year's district chorus competition, singing "Aura Lee/ Love Me Tender," and "Let the Rest of the

World Go By." The chorus was pleased with its performance, more pleased than the judges were, but then life is about more than numbers. Those 664 pts are just one small part of the convention and of our entire year. It is still rewarding to share the barbershop experience with one's colleagues from outside the chorus. Here are some favorite moments: Singing the National Anthem with an auditorium full of singers is rousing. Singing tags in the hallway is another. Experiencing the excellent quartets in Saturday night's finals was another. How else could one hear Metropolis, Crossroads, SEP, Wildcard and Four Man Fishin' Tackle Choir all in one evening, without going to International? Furthermore, we are known and appreciated throughout the district for our singouts and community involvement. We are drawing new members who understand that.

Another highlight of the convention was the first-place awards received by Jack Teuber and John Cowlshaw for PR and Smoke Signals respectively.

Our post-competition dinner was held at the Griffin Grill, where we assuaged our grief with beer and wine and salmon, steak, and chicken, and got drunk on the tags of Mike Frye.

Our member, Lew Mahacek, who had a medical episode prior to the competition was treated at the hospital, released Sunday,

and back to practice on Tuesday.

New members Eric Domke, Lance Shew, and Austin Quinn brought along their wives, Mary, Nola, and Martha – a full intro to Big Chief Barbershop in one day.

Our annual Woodshed contest had to be cancelled this year, but will return.

Four Wheel Drive had three singouts in April. It sang to 637 school kids and staff at Wixom Elementary School, on April 8. The occasion was the shaving off of Principle Alec Bender's moustache, the consequence of his reading challenge to the school kids. They listened to the quartet sing "Barbershop Style, Zip-Ah-Dee-Doo-Dah, Mickey Mouse tag, Wild Irish Rose, I'm Sittin', and In the Still of the Night." Then a fanfare as the two local stylists went to work, and the gymnasium-full of kids did their ear-splitting chant, "Shave It!, Shave It!" The culmination was the handing out of fake moustaches for all the kids to don.

Four Wheel Drive had two other singouts and Celebration Quartet one other.

65th Anniversary

by Jack Teuber
VP PR & Marketing
Big Chief Barbershop Chorus
bigchiefchorus.org

April 17th, 2008 marks the 65th anniversary of the Pontiac Big Chief Chorus' origination. To commemorate this anniversary, the Big Chief Chorus will be presenting a luncheon

concert for the Oakland County Parks and Recreation. This performance will be at Waterford Oaks Activity Center on Friday, April, 11th.

April will be a full month for the chapter spending the week-end of April 4th-6th on a retreat at the MacMullen Conference Center on the shores of Higgins Lake.

Included in the week-end of coaching by Director Tom Blue and Fred McFadyen will be a performance to entertain the residents

of the Brook of Roscommon. Luckily, we will have a break in our schedule to set-out for the Pioneer Convention in Battle Creek, April 24th-27th. Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 3rd @ 7:30 pm. The 52nd Annual Woodshed Contest will take place at the Pontiac Country Club, 4335 Elizabeth Lake Rd. A good time is guaranteed and a good chance to get together with the Wayne Chapter (Show, May 10th) and Flint Chapter (Show, May 17th). We are looking to see the Pioneer District well represented at this event.

Busy May

Big Chief Barbershop Chorus
bigchiefchorus.org
The Big Chief Chorus was busy in May.

On May 8, the Chorus sang for a Mother's Day Luncheon at the Waterford Senior Center. The 36 men were tightly packed on the small stage, in front of 162 attendees. B Natural provided a quartetting respite.

Several of our singers, including Roger Holm, Bob Greenwood, and Bill Dabbs, joined the 52-member chorus that sang at the New Horizons band concert at Central United Methodist church on Friday, May 16. New Horizons is a band that was created for adults who want to continue to play with an orchestra after leaving school. It includes several of our members.

On Saturday 3rd, at the Frankenmuth Bavarian Inn, Celebration Quartet entertained about 45 family members and guests to celebrate Greg Moss' mother's 90th birthday. Phyllis Moss was very appreciative of her son's extensive family planning and the quartet's special trip to sing for her and her family. After a beautiful luncheon, the quartet led a Happy Birthday group

sing followed by "Precious Lord," "Aura Lee," "Shine/Doo Lord Medley" and others.

Mike Keith was one of the honorees in the Honor Flight program this past month. Honor Flight is a non profit organization created solely to honor America's veterans for all their sacrifices. There were fifty veterans in Mike's flight. They convened at Royal Oak's American Legion Post 253 at 3 a.m., and were bussed to the airport, where they were served breakfast at National Coney Island. Then they boarded a plane for Ronald Reagan Airport. At the airport they were cheered by those who recognized the nature of their group.

First they visited the World War II memorial. Mike says it is absolutely unbelievable. Mike walked all the way around it, looking at the depictions of different stages of the war. (See: www.wwiimemorial.com for photos.) A field of 4000 stars honors the 400,000 soldiers who died.

Although the group was confined, Mike bolted from the group to walk past the moat to the Lincoln Memorial. He also saw the Vietnam and Korean War memorials from a distance, then hurried back just in time to board the bus for the Arlington cemetery. The number of graves is "unbelievable, and emphasizes how awful

war is."

They were back at the airport by 2 p.m. and back to Detroit by 7:30.

BCCers plan to gather for a WEBCAST party for the International Quartet finals on Saturday night, July 5. Last year about twenty of us gathered at Cory Flatoff's house for about \$5 per and enjoyed the competition immensely. If Cory is in town, he's offering that option for 2008 also.

During the summer months, rehearsal site for the Big Chief Chorus moves from Crary Middle School to Waterford Oaks County Park, 2800 Watkins Lake Rd, Waterford MI.

From our Pioneer-District-champion PR man:

FELLOW CHIEFTANS,

The summer months are filling up for the Big Chief Chorus. We have Sing-Outs scheduled for June, July and August. The Frankenmuth Bratfest, June 24th, is always a fun evening, as we travel by bus to the event. Waterford Log Cabin Days, June 28th will be good exposure for us.

Jack Teuber, VP Public Relations



Saginaw Bay Chapter Savoring Sunday's Sensational Sing-Out

by Ralph Brown, President
Saginaw Bay Chapter
harborsounds.org

"How Sweet It Is", yesterday was an example of what our 'Hobby' is all about. We had twenty guys looking sharp in patriotic red, white, and blue outfits. This included four first timers: Bob Soldan(bass), Jerry Kehrer(lead), Lee Leffingwell(lead), and our youngest at 14 years (Alejandro) Hondo Cervantes.

The Christmas Spirit was in the air from the very beginning when we started warming

up. Bob Winters stepped directed us for our five Christmas songs. All was well until someone suggested that we line up in rows and we suddenly looked like a bunch of hungry shoppers on Black Friday mauling about looking for the best deals. Oh Well!!!

We proceeded to move on to the performance area, but, were temporarily quagmired in the hall between the serving tables and the walls while people tried to get through for a 'potty break'. So much for organized chaos.

Then the Heaven's parted and we walked into a room filled with happy smiling faces. Although the space was limited, we all man-

aged to squeeze in. We were introduced and started our program. Chuck noted that since their Organization was "Cars Of The Past" we would sing a song of the past and we opened with "Hello Mary Lou". Now that the tone was set we followed with The Beer Barrel Polka" This drew a few chuckles and even broader smiles. We then changed the mood a little with "Aura Lee/Love Me Tender". NOW WE HAD THEM! We sang "Amazing Grace" and received a wonderful round of applause. Closing with God Bless America/God Bless The USA/Medley it brought the crowd to their feet as they joined in on God Bless America. We had a standing ovation, of course they were all ready standing, which rocked the room.

Since this was their Christmas Party we had to do some Christmas Songs. What better way than to start with "O Come All Ye Faithful". By the way, Chuck did a superb job setting the order of the songs. Next was "Angels We Have Heard On High", "Oh, Holy Night", "Silent Night". Then we closed with We Wish You A Merry Christmas".

It is such a thrill to sing to an attentive audience, especially when you can feel that magical connection which is hard to explain. Somehow the audience and Chorus become as one and we go on a musical fantasy trip reveling in the mood of song.



Love Is In The Airwaves

by Ralph Brown, President
Harbor Sounds Chorus
harborsounds.org

Our Chapter has done Singing Valentines for the past eight years and have had many

interesting situations occur including one 'Proposal of Marriage'.

This year we did not do a full blown activity, but, we did have a newly forming quartet go to a local radio station to sing for the husband of one of their employee's; Sue Smith. This station, WSGW, with Art Lewis and Sue Smith has been very supportive of our Chapter for many years in promoting our Shows and other activities.

Jerry Hammond, our Chorus Manager, arranged to have Dave Szutkowski(Tenor), Jack Guttowsky(Base), Bill Matson(Lead), and a new member to our Chorus Jeff Bonn(Bari) sing 'On The Air'. About a week later Jerry received the following email...

Jerry: After your Valentine's appearance (which was wonderful! Thanks so much, again!) we received a very touching note I'd love to have you pass on to your Harbor Sounds guys (below)!

Sue Smith, WSGW

Dear Sue and Art:

This is to thank you and your show "Listen to the Mrs." program for the best Valentine gift I have ever received. We were listening to the show on valentine's Day and you had a quartet on, and one of the songs they sang was "Let Me Call You Sweetheart." We have been married 59 years, and my husband suffers from Alzheimer's dementia. When the quartet sang that song, my husband sang along to me, a truly rare gift! Just thought you would like to know that your show touches lives in many ways. Thank you so much. (and THANK YOU ALL! God bless you always and all ways!)

Charlene in Gladwin.

This is just one more example of how far reaching and rewarding our hobby can be without our knowledge unless a message like this comes back to us.

YOU GOTTA LOVE IT!!!!!!



United We Sing

by Ralph Brown
Harbor Sounds Chorus
harborsounds.org

I think it is a good thing to look back at some of the highlights of the past year. One of the most enjoyable events was our show at a local movie theater which has been restored to its' original state. The facility took me back to the late forties and fifties when my Dad operated a similar small Theater in Vicks-

burg, Michigan, where I was raised.

Our Director, Chuck Brooks, introduced us to the "United We Sing - A Patriotic Song Fest" which is a scripted program from the International that pays tribute to our Country and all of the Armed Forces that guard our borders and Freedoms. We followed it almost to the letter and with the help of many Chapter Members we put on a wonderful Show.

Participating in the Program were a Congressman, County Executive, local Red Cross Director, Deputy Sheriff, School District
(Continued next page)

(Continued from previous page)

Official, and perhaps most importantly local Veteran Organization Officials including a Color Guard. The script calls for reading various tributes to the Military, our Country and its Citizens. We put 43 on stage. Several men who sing in local vocal groups and church choirs as well as our Chorus and five fellow Barbershoppers from the Flint Chapter (John Noteware, Dave Lonsbury, Bob Longroy, Dave Flattley and Bob Bamert). We extend a great big thank you to them.

INTRODUCTION:

"Throughout our country, we have seen a resurgence of patriotism as each American has expressed in his own way, "United We Stand!" Tonight, we invite you to enjoy and partake in a program that will give each of us a chance to stand and sing some wonderful songs of America. Our program

features the voices of many of your friends and neighbors as they sing in a special men's chorus sponsored by the Bay City Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society. Not all of these singers are necessarily Barbershoppers. We have come together to express our national pride and love of our homeland united through song. Please welcome your friends as they proudly present "United We Sing!"

So the evening began; the chorus sang America. With various intermittent readings we continued with "The Star Spangled Banner" (audience participation), "This Is My Country", as we sang the Armed Service Medley, Service men in the audience stood as their anthem was sung and some local Boy Scouts presented each one with a small United States Flag. God bless them each and every one.

We sang "Battle Hymn of the Republic", "Eternal Father Strong to Save",

"America the Beautiful", "USA Medley" (which brought them to their feet) and concluded with "Let There Be Peace On Earth".

We had over 300 in attendance and each person was filled with excitement and were caught up in the moment as their hearts swelled with love of Country and a renewed sense of Patriotism. "MISSION ACCOMPLISHED"

For those of you who have put on this Program or attended one, know how great it feels to be a part of it, and those who have not should give it a try. The experience is awesome. People around town are still talking about how pleased they are to have been there and shared some magic moments.

Hope to see all of you at Convention in Battle Creek!



*Smoky And The Bandits- 1995 Wedding
Albert (Doug) Beaver, Bob Deming,
Jack Ware, Bill Grumbley (& Sandy)*

Departed Jack Ware

by Ralph Brown
Newsletter Editor
Harbor Sounds Chorus
harborsounds.org

We have had too many requests to sing at funerals in the past few months and our most recent Celebration of Life was for Jack Ware. Jack was not much of a chorus guy, but, loved quarteting. He sang Lead in the "Smoky And The Bandits" for over 20 years. He was one of those singers that become a total different person once he stepped on stage. Normally a quiet unassuming guy he became a whimsical fun loving personality when he got behind the mic.

The "Bandits", as he called them, derived their name from the fact that he was a State Police Trooper and he said the other three guys looked like bandits. The quartet traveled all over the State and ventured into neighboring States on occasion and was one of the longest standing Registered Quartets.

As a comedy quartet a couple of their feature songs were the "Side By Side Parody" and his solo rendition of The Ink

Spot's "If I Didn't Care".

He had been battling with Cancer for several years and it took it's toll to the point that he pretty much had to give up one of the activities he enjoyed the most, four part harmony singing. Jack had just over 20 years as a member of The Society while other members of the quartet; Albert (Doug) Beaver-Bari 57 years, Bill Grumbley-Tenor 63 years, and Bob Deming-Bass 46years. Bob (Wagon Wheels) Deming still active and singing with our chorus. Jack is gone but not forgotten.





Sault Ste. Marie Chapter



BOTY Wes Triplett

by Art Fink
The Northland Barbershop Chorus
harmonize.com/NorthlandChorus

We're back, and with our brand-new Barber-shopper Of The Year!

Peter McLarty, our beloved Pres, did us proud with the introduction of our new B.O.T.Y., keeping many of us in suspense while he listed the positive attributes of Wes, our BOTY. He's a long time member, has been a member of a number of quartets and added a whole lot to our chapter. As our warmup man, he gets us ready to sing and bouncy in anticipation of the work to come that night. As our pitch man, he is always ready and poised to give us the starting shot.

As a quartet coach, we've found him invaluable, especially in getting new quartetters to be aware of what they are presenting to the public.

Let's all extend our greetings to Wes, in that sunnier clime of Hawaii, and be happy when he returns to the helm of warmup.

Our thanks also to the organizers of Ladies' night, as it went off mostly without a hitch. The toasts were masterful, giving us something to think about, with each one. Bernie's reminder of our shared hobby being a bridge between our two countries also made me think more closely about what effect we have on each other, and our cultures.



Wes Triplett

USO Show

by Bob Shami
Music Director & Chapter Treasurer
The Northland Barbershop Chorus
harmonize.com/NorthlandChorus

(These events have already occurred)

Come North, fellow Pioneer Barbershop fans! Experience the thrill of April in Northern Ontario - a time when Old Man Winter mocks those poor souls who think spring is nigh! However, the snow is almost certain to have melted down far enough by then so I can find where I parked my car last November!

The Northland Barbershop Chorus of Sault Ste Marie, Ontario is presenting our 44th annual show on April 5 entitled: G.I. Jukebox - Music from the WW II Era - a show in the style of the USO Camp Shows that were presented at military bases and in combat areas throughout the war. By 1945, USO curtains were rising 700 times a day to audiences as large as 15,000 and as small as 25 in outposts all over the world. More than 7,000

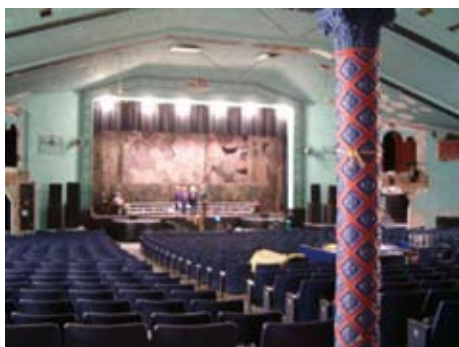
(Continued next page)



(Continued from previous page)

entertainers travelled overseas, but none was more recognized or more loved than Bob Hope. Through the music of Vera Lynn, Doris Day, The Andrews Sisters and many more, we salute Bob and pay tribute to the men and women who served, and who continue to serve, in the armed forces.

A special feature of this show will be the anticipated involvement of veteran's groups and active-duty military service personnel from both the Canadian and American sides. Tickets will be offered at half price (\$10 vs \$20) to any service person attending in uniform, whether veteran or active-duty. They will be offered seating in a special reserved section up front in which to watch the show with their families. This small token reflects our sincere desire to show support for our local military, both vets and active-duty members alike, whether Canadian or American.



can.

FEATURED GUESTS:

HOT AIR BUFFOONS - the hilarious comedy quartet

LISE WHITE and the AIN'T MISBEHAVIN' ENSEMBLE: "A Special Tribute to The Andrews Sisters" Pretty gals singing great WW II hits, in harmony, accompanied by a live band! What more could one want?

To take advantage of the military special \$10 price for vets or active duty service personnel attending in uniform, contact Jim Schmidt on the US side for ticket information at 906-440-7405. On the Canadian side, call Doug at 705-942-3075

Regular tickets, general admission, are \$20, in either \$CDN or \$US. Tickets may be or-



dered by phone by dialing the Box Office at 1-705-945-7299. Or save their \$2.00 service charge and contact Jim or Doug directly at the numbers above .

NEW START TIME: 7:30 P.M.

WWII Revue Salutes Veterans on June 1

Back by popular demand, WWII Revue is being performed in Soo, Michigan. Recently performed in Soo, Ontario, this performance showcases the great talents of the Northland Barbershop Chorus and the Lock Cities Chorus of Sweet Adelines.

(Photos from June 1st show)



Traverse City Chapter

Near Record Valentine Year

Greg Fiebing, President
Cherry Capital Chorus
cherrycapitalchorus.org

We sang over 100 Valentines. Our promotion consisted primarily of PSA's on radio & cablevision, Cold Calls and "Word of Mouth".

We had 5 quartets out most of the day at \$45.00 each Valentine. Al Fisk helped us by pre-qualify our quartets with a score of 50 or better. We sang in homes, Banks, Adult Foster Care Homes, Restaurants, Auto Dealerships, Non-Profit Groups etc. We're definitely considering an increase in price for next year.

We provided a "booking office" phone num-

ber at one of our members homes and a Web Site order form. Payments were by Credit card, Check, Cash & COD. Regular sales were confined to a 4 hour time frame. For those who needed an exact time (+/- 15 minutes) we charged an extra \$20.00.

We advertised 1 song, a rose, a card and a Polaroid photo of the event within 10 mile radius limit. Extras were \$10.00 each although we sang many extra songs at no additional \$.

Our competition included Sweet Adelines, and 2 High School groups. Extra effort this year brought about a near record year for Valentine Sales which are our 2nd largest fund raiser for the year.

Preliminary reports indicate that all had fun and can't wait until next year to do it again.

2008 -- Commitment, Hard Work, Great Chorus!



Wayne Chapter

Ending The Year On A High Note

by Frank Adams, Webmaster
Renaissance Chorus
wesingbarbershop.com

The months of November & December are always busy months for the Renaissance Chorus of the Wayne Chapter. 2007 was no exception.

We started out on the 10th of November with 2 performances on the same day. In the morning we welcomed Santa to the West-

land Shopping Center Mall. That evening we did 2 songs for the Redford Harmony Society Vaudeville Show. The show had a number of interesting and unusual acts. It was very entertaining and we were glad we could contribute.

On the 15th, we did a noon-time concert at the Livonia Public Library.

This has become a yearly thing for us and we really enjoy singing there because of the outstanding audiences that fill the atrium year after year.

Another of our favorite venues is the Hawthorn Center in Northville. This is a facility that helps abused children. You would think that a bunch of young children wouldn't care for old guys singing ... barbershop music. We are simply amazed at the enthusiasm that these kids have displayed each year we have performed there. This shows how the barbershop style is even appealing to youngsters. All the guys leave there with such joyous, but sad, hearts for these kids.

The library and Hawthorn Center have been regular stops for us for at least 8 years.

We were scheduled to start out December by singing the National Anthem at the Plymouth Whaler's hockey game at the Computware Sports Arena but; unfortunately, the game had to be canceled because of injuries to a few of the opposing team's players in an auto/pedestrian accident. We're hoping to be rescheduled for a later date.

The day was saved when we decided to go from there to the Lutheran Home of Livonia. This turned out to be very uplifting. This is a nursing home and we were able to entertain quite a few of the elderly residents. They really enjoyed the singing. One of our chapter's former members, John Lynn (25 years), is a resident there and he actually was able to sing along with us on a few of the songs. It was very heart warming.

Our final destination for 2007 was at St. Mary's Hospital in Livonia on the 23rd. We have been going there about 30 years or more. We spent an hour and a half singing Christmas carols for the nurses and patients at each of the nursing stations. We even sang for the newborns and their mothers.

These performances were a very fitting ending to the year for us. It has been a very successful year for our chapter.

In case you haven't been to our website lately, you might be interested in checking it out. It has undergone a complete revision recently. www.wesingbarbershop.com



My First Singing Valentine

by Frank Adams, Webmaster
Renaissance Chorus
wesingbarbershop.com

I have been a member of the Wayne Chapter for a little over a year. I had heard the guys talk about doing Singing Valentines last year and had been really looking forward to doing them this year. From the stories they told, it sounded like it would be a lot of fun. Here is the story of my experience this year.

I decided that I would add to the experience by being the person booking the telephone orders. It was really interesting to talk to the givers and hear some of their stories. It brings the singing to a more personal level. There were quite a few that I wanted to personally go to because I knew their stories. Taking the orders also ended up involving me in scheduling the 4 groups we were going to send out. I say groups because we only have 2 actual quartets in our chorus. Since we had 12 other guys who wanted to

sing, we ended up having 2 sextets instead of just quartets. I was to be with the group Mark Pritchard (our president) had originally named Four Instants thinking we would only have a quartet. We decided to stick with the name anyway. Singing in our group were Mark (T), Jerry Beamish and Jim Farkas (L), Tony Pyrkosz and I (Ba) and Charles Nalbandian (Br)

I got my tux and all the accessories and patiently awaited the big day. I wasn't disappointed. We met at 8 A.M. at the church where we rehearse. Everyone was busy getting the roses wrapped in cellophane and ribbons, looking at their schedules, making last minute adjustments and putting on their boutonnieres. You could feel the excitement in the air.

(Continued next page)

(Continued next page)

At last it was time to leave. Our first assignment was to sing to Mark's mother-in-law. Mark went to the door and rang the doorbell. Nobody was answering but he did notice that the TV was on so we waited a few minutes and she finally came to the door. Wouldn't you know it, she had been in the shower. We waited for her to get dressed and then sang to her. She was really thrilled to have her son-in-law sing to her.

Our next job was at a facility called ARC. It is a place where they try to help the developmentally disabled. We knew that this was going to be a fairly large group so we had one of the quartets (3D's & W) join with us. Along with the usual songs, we sang a few additional upbeat songs. We were really amazed at how well behaved these people were and how much they enjoyed the music. Some of them can't talk but you could see it in their faces. The director of the facility asked if they could take a few photos of us and a bunch of the disabled came and got in the pictures. When we were leaving, they wanted to shake hands with us and thanked us in their own special way for singing for them. This is the type of assignment that makes us feel really good about what we do.

Mark's wife is a teacher at Divine Child High School in Dearborn. We entered the building just as the students were changing classes so we were waiting to go to her classroom as they walked by and we got a lot of really curious looks. One of the classrooms was directly across the hall from the lobby and they were all congregating by the door and asked what we were doing. We told them we were going to sing a couple of romantic songs to one of the teachers. One of the girls asked if we could give them a sample. So, being the gentlemen that we are, we sang one for them. After we were done, I heard one of them say how "cute" we were. It made our day.

Now it was time to go to Karen's classroom. We entered and lined up in front and started to sing. She introduced us to them and told them that Mark was her husband. Again, it's amazing how our type of singing is enjoyed by even the younger generation.

Now it was time to go sing for Tony's wife. She wasn't home so we decided to go to lunch. As any of you have done Singing Valentines know, when you walk into a restaurant, you really draw a lot of attention. We ended up singing a few songs for the waitresses and the customers.

Tony's wife still wasn't home and we still had some time to kill so we stopped at another restaurant for a cup of coffee. This time the owner bought our drinks for us after we sang a few songs.

We finally got to Tony's wife and sang for her (and their dog).

The next stop was at the Livonia City Hall where we had the other sextet join us. We go there every year. The ceiling of their lobby area goes all the way to the 5th floor and is open to each floor with a balcony. The acoustics are great.

The receptionist calls up to each floor and everyone comes out and looks down from their floor. It is really a lot of fun. It's kind of like Romeo singing to Juliet. The ladies throw dollar bills down to us as we sing (sometimes even a five will show up).

As I said earlier, when you take the bookings over the phone, you sometimes get into a conversation with the giver and find out some interesting things about the recipient. The guy we were to sing to next had called his wife on their first Valentine's Day together and sang "I Love You Truly" to her. He has done this every year since. This year she wanted to turn the tables on him and have it sung to him. He is working 2 jobs and she wanted us to come when he was

home for supper. As soon as we pulled up, she was waving for us to come in in a hurry. He was in the shower. We waited quietly in the living room as she called to him to come in there. He walked in wearing his bathrobe and was quite stunned. For a few seconds we thought he was going to kick us out. We sang "...Sweetheart" first. Then Mark told him that we understood he had a song that had a special meaning to him and began "I Love You Truly". That brought a smile to his face as well as his wife's. It even looked like his eyes got a little wet. Another job that made our day.

The next gig was for a young guy who was taking his girlfriend out to dinner. The restaurant was fairly dark. She was engrossed in conversation with him. We walked up to the table and she still hadn't noticed us. Finally she turned her head and saw us. I asked her if she was Karah. She said "NO! (pause) Yes". I think she was so surprised that she didn't know who she was for a moment. Either that or she thought that by denying it, we would go away. This was the only time throughout the day that I was the only bass.

We concluded our day with most of the Renaissance Chorus meeting at the Livonia Senior Center. There was a Parkinson's Disease Support Group having their meeting there and we sang a few songs for them after their meeting. We always feel a special warmth when we are able to entertain groups like these.

"Singing Valentines" was one of the most enjoyable and entertaining experiences I have had since joining the Wayne Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society. It was really a lot of fun bringing these special one-of-a-kind gifts of love and affection to these people. The ability to sing together with a group of guys all day long and contribute to the sound was a whole new adventure for me. I am already looking forward to next year.



The Wayne Chapter of the
Presents




The Renaissance Chorus

"Showtunes & More"

with special guest quartet



2007
Pioneer District
Quartet Champions

chordiology

Saturday, May 10th, 2008 at 7:00 P.M.
Sacred Heart Byzantine Catholic Church (Activities Center)
29125 W. Six Mile Rd. (just East of Middlebelt Rd.)
PRICE: Adult—\$16 Senior/Student—\$14

Afterglow Party: same location - following the show
(Pizza, Salad, Drinks & More Entertainment)
\$6 pre-purchased \$8 at the door on night of show

For Ticket Information Contact:
Bob (734) 453-0574 or Frank (248) 471-2782
www.wesingbarbershop.com

Showtunes & More Show

Renaissance Chorus
wesingbarbershop.com
Matthew Tipton
Director of Music & Performance
Pioneer District

Mark your calendars! On May 10 you have a great opportunity to learn more about your singing craft.

The incomparable Jim DeBusman Bio will be in town to conduct a wonderful seminar on vocal production. Helping him to help you hone your skills will be our reigning district championship quartet, Chordiology.

See our boys get coached by the best and how they integrate new techniques into their singing. Then try it yourself as we learn a new song together under Jim's masterful direction. Finally, take it back to your own chorus and/or quartet and reap the rewards.

WHO: Anyone who wants to sing better. Know everything already? This class isn't for you.

WHAT: Vocal production techniques seminar - light meal served.

WHERE: Sacred Heart Byzantine Catholic Church (Activities Center) 29125 W. Six Mile Rd. (just East of Middlebelt)

WHEN: May 10, noon to 6:30 PM

HOW MUCH: \$10

Did he say \$10? That's right! But wait. . . don't order yet. . . there's more! The Renaissance Chorus along with 3D's & W and Four Decades (our chapter's quartets) and our special guest quartet will be the 2007 Pioneer District Champions, Chordiology. will be putting on a show right there at Sacred Heart at 7:00 PM following the seminar. And if you order now there will be an afterglow in the same location following the show.

SHOW PRICE: Adult--\$16 Senior/Student--\$14

AFTERGLOW: \$6 advance, \$8 @ door

And that's not all! If you are a show ticket-holder the DeBusman seminar will be just \$5! That's right. Half off!

So that's coaching from one of the best in the world, singing, two meals, drinks, entertainment, more singing, fun and fellowship and even more singing and all for just \$27. And if you're a student or senior - \$25!!

OK! Who's *not* going? You if you don't register soon! There is limited capacity for this event. So don't delay! Go to this link to sign-up online now.



2007 BOTY Walter Jennings

by Frank Adams
Renaissance Chorus
wesingbarbershop.com

The Wayne Chapter proudly announces its recipient of the 12th Annual "Albert J. Fricker" Memorial Award "for Barbershopper of the Year for 2007. An excellent member of our Lead section, an all-round chapter contributor in many ways, a quartet singer, a man who helps our Chapter keep the Green Light on for performances, and the Red Light on at breaks, this honoree is our own—Wally Jennings

A member for 8 years now, Wally has been part of the backbone of the chapter since he joined and has helped keep our chapter strong as we've moved into the 21st Century.

It was clear from the beginning that Wally would be one of the guys who could always be counted on, whether it was for singing in the ensemble, passing around get well cards, or tweaking our director with a well-placed non-verbal comment.

Walter Jennings contributions to our chap-

ter's livelihood and good times are numerous, and everyone who knows him, appreciates his presence and accurate melodic singing. Wally keeps us going each night with his break-time refreshments, including homemade cookies which he cleverly disguises as store-bought, and assorted beverages. He was instrumental in helping us relocate to Kirk of Our Savior Church when our old rehearsal venue was no longer available, and has been a steady, reliable contact for us on all our ongoing communications and requests, including use of the church for extra rehearsals and meetings. Wally's reliability and punctuality are the cornerstone of hobbies like ours and sometimes are easy to take for granted.

Wally's easy, friendly manner belie his history as one of our Nation's finest, having given service time in the Marines, doing the important work of protecting our freedoms and ensuring them for future generations. He was reputed to have done important
(Continued next page)

(Continued from previous page)

espionage work with James Bond, although this has never been confirmed, Wally's quartet work is, of course, a cover for his continuing surveillance missions.

All kidding aside, Wally has been the versatile lead for 3 D's & W from its inception and his range has allowed them to explore many types of music in their repertoire. His quartet regularly participates in the chapter's Singing Valentines and Wally is always game to join in the regular "after hours" singing that

frequently occurs on Tuesday nights.

A member of our Chorus Front Row, Wally is strategically located in the position most ideally suited to the important task of "reining our director in". Sometimes Scott will do something "irregular" during a song, and Wally is always ready with an impish or knowing look to redirect Scott back on to the straight and narrow! Scott has described Wally as "my own personal barometer".

In our hobby, as in all of life, there are people

that you can accurately describe as "team players", or "people you'd like to go into battle with". Wally is such a man. We're lucky he's on the risers with us, and better people are getting to spend time with him.

For all the above reasons, and many others, Wally Jennings is the perfect choice for our Wayne Chapter 2007 Barbershopper of the Year, along with the ever-accompanying GGG "Good Going Guy" Award.

Sempre Fi, Walter Jennings!



Windsor Chapter

Windsor Report

Bill Strong
Sun Parlour Chorus

2007 is history and now we begin a new year. Our new Chapter Officers were well installed by Past District Secretary Marv Skupski and what can you say about a "young" man who leaves home on a cold December Night to come to Windsor to install Chapter officers.

Marv, you did a fine job and Windsor is in your debt. Many thanks for a job well done to those individuals who are leaving the Board and congratulations to the new comers and especially the new VP's who will be doing the hard lifting. Congratulations also to Windsor's 2007 Barbershopper of the Year Tom Grimes. Well deserved Tom, for all your hard work.

So much happened last year. Our chorus and quartets did more performances than ever before and for this we are grateful to all who participated. What better way to spread the word. Our Youth in Harmony program was involved with several district High Schools and it would appear that we'll do more in the New Year. Many thanks to Ron Gibb and the quartets that assisted him in this won-

derful endeavor.

Of course, we are much saddened by the news that Fermata Nowhere have put their pitch pipe away. They were always special in Windsor's eyes and will not be forgotten. We'll always remember the trips they made to our chapter when they entertained us royally. Good luck guys.

Put a mark on your calendar for Windsor's Send Off show on June 13th. This event is one of the best shows in the District and it shouldn't be missed for a couple of reasons. It's great entertainment and more importantly it provides some financial assistance to our quartets and chorus. It's a great evening. Oh yes, I almost forgot, you also get to listen to Doran.

Many thanks need to go to Joe Serwach for his contribution and hard work as Editor of this fine tabloid. Good luck in your new job Joe as District Secretary. At the same time we welcome Michael Baribeau as our new editor. Hopefully you'll not have to correct too many of my errors.

Our best to everyone in the New Year from the Windsor Chapter.



Uncle Sam Report

by Bill Strong
Sun Parlour Chorus

Uncle Sam Night in January in Windsor is always a great draw and this year was no exception. We hosted 89 singers including quartets headed by our own Pioneer Dis-

trict Champions "Chordiology" followed by "Singing with Dad" and "Moxxy" It doesn't get much better than that. Windsor contributed with their own "Desperate Measures" plus 3 pickups quartets.

Choruses got into the act with Windsor, Grosse Pointe, Macomb and DOC doing their bit. Not to be outdone, Doran did his own unique "Chorus Contest" which allowed everyone in the room to be on stage. Judging by the name selection by these choruses they all sang like birds. The food was great

and hopefully everyone got their fill, even though it was a little late.

Windsor is so proud to host this fine evening each year and it truly brought back memories of the old days when Chapter visitations were the norm.

What made this evening even more special was the presence of no less than 4 "Hall of Famers". Thanks so much for coming out.

John Wearing brought us up to date concerning Russ Seely's recovery from recent surgery. Russ, we really missed you and look forward to seeing you in Windsor real soon. I think John Wade could benefit by your presence. His attempts at singing Lead made us realize that he really does belong as a Bass. Just kidding John.

Thanks to all who assisted in making this evening happen and a special thanks goes

out to our own Doran for doing such a fine job as MC. After a full evening of singing this "young" man was up at 5:00 am in order to board a plane for San Antonio Texas. Good job Doran.

Mark your calendars for next year as the date is always the same, the third Friday in January. Don't miss it.



Desperate Measures



Chordiology



Singing With Dad



Moxxy



Desperate Measures Bernie Hall, Bill Stron, Doug Scott, Doran McTaggart

Singing Valentine Mends Lovers Spat

by Bill Strong
Sun Parlour Chorus

Valentine's Day started off pretty early as three members of "Desperate Measures" traveled in from the county to meet up with Doran our baritone at 8:00am. Our first call was at a local high school to sing for a teacher who was totally surprised as we sang our songs as a gift from her husband. The tears flowed like buttermilk. During the mid part of the morning a videographer from our local French language TV station caught up with us and insisted on interviewing (Continued next page)

(Continued from previous page)

several of our next recipients. We found that a little strange in that none of the people he interviewed spoke French. We let him do his thing but I think the odds of it hitting the air would be slim. On a humorous note one of our stops was for a young lady who was convinced her husband was a "jerk" when she left home that morning (lover's spat) but after we sang our love songs she agreed that all was forgiven. In all we did some 26

Valentines which left us a little tired by the time 5:00pm rolled around.

Highlights of the day were many. One that comes to mind might be the one in the nursing home where the recipient was a 90 year old grandma who was given her gift from her "out of town" son. She was thrilled. We also sang for the widow of one of our recently deceased members and that was a toughie. Emotions were pretty high. We did

sing for Doran's daughter and his daughter-in-law and that was pretty special. For me it was singing for my 13 year old grand daughter and that was very emotional. I won't forget it for a while.

Our chapter had three quartets performing this year and our combined efforts brought much joy to the people who received our songs, roses and cards.

And Live In Perfect Harmony

by Bill Strong, Program VP
Sun Parlour Chorus

There are times when one has to sit back and consider that our little old Windsor Chapter is the chapter that made this wonder organization of ours truly International and we are truly grateful to our American cousins. It's a thing that gets overlooked from time to time. It took place a long time ago and hence it is easy to forget.

This International thing was brought home to me recently while traveling with my wife to the beautiful island of Barbados. Barbados is the most easterly island of the Windward Islands in the Caribbean.

During our stay there was one evening that the entertainment happened to be a very good male vocalist and of course being one who appreciates a good singer I took the opportunity to introduce myself after he'd finished his set. During the course of our conversation I told him that I sang Barbershop. I assumed I would have to go into a lengthy explanation as this fellow was a native Bajan.

Much to my surprise he informed me that a while ago he'd spent considerable time with a Barbershop chorus from Colchester Eng-

land no less, and that they had taught him a number of tags. He was thoroughly impressed with our brand of singing. At that point in our conversation our only problem was that there were only two of us and try as we might we couldn't find two other parts to be able to sing a few tags.

After having returned home with some time to reflect on my vacation it dawned on me one more time how truly International our organization is and that it had its "International" start right here in our Windsor Chapter.

I know I will be excused if this article seems a little boastful but one must take every opportunity to blow one's horn. 'Cause if we don't who will.



Sing For Blood

by Bill Strong, Program VP
Desperate Measures, Lead
Sun Parlour Chorus

We had 3 quartets entertaining people as they donated the gifts of life. One picture shows 2 of Windsor's own doing their bit for blood. The McCann brothers Andy and Roy have been blood donors for a long time. Andy (he's the one with the white hair on

the couch) has donated over 100 pints and Roy (the good looking one) has given over 75 pints. Quite a feat for these 2 long time Barbershoppers. They tell us they will keep on donating until they won't take it any longer.

Notice the picture showing one of the Blood Services' attendants joining in with one of our quartets. She sang a fine lead part. All in all Windsor Chapter members spent some three hours singing and just having fun while members of the community gave the gift of life.

I can see this event turning into an annual event. It was fun for us as singers, the donors enjoyed it and so did the staff. A worthwhile event and a terrific public relations affair.

One thing we did neglect was not having members of the press there to tell the people of Windsor and Essex County what great Community supporters the members of Barbershop Harmony Society are. They will be asked to attend next time for sure.



Send-Off Show

(This event has already occurred)

by Doran McTaggart,
Send-Off Show Chair

The Windsor Chapter has been hosting the Pioneer District Send-Off Show for 31 years. This premier show is held the second Friday in June with all of the profit going to our District Representatives. The doors and cash bar

opens at 6:30 pm; a pasta dinner is served at 7:30 pm; and the spectacular show starts right after dinner at about 9:00 pm.

Our International quartet and chorus reps sing as well as our College quartet reps and our Senior quartet reps.

All choruses with sufficient members present also sing and a massed chorus of 250 men sing many songs directed by different directors.

We welcome all barbershoppers, their spouses and friends to the

Hellenic Banquet Halls
1019 Highway # 3
Windsor, Ontario
doranmct@aol.com

Friday, June 13, 2008. A million dollars worth of talent for \$20.00.

***Identification required to drive cross the boarder. Presently if no passport available then a government issued photo ID (like a drivers license) AND a birth certificate are required (June 2009 a passport becomes mandatory).



www.harmonize.com/doc/doc.htm

Gentlemen Songsters Meet:
Monday, 7:30 pm
Starr Presbyterian Church
13 Mile & Crooks Rd.
Royal Oak, MI 48301





**2008 PIONEER DISTRICT
FALL CONVENTION
October 17-19th
McCamly Plaza Hotel
Battle Creek, 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)

**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 26, 2008

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 McCamly Plaza 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 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. _____



**FALL PIONEER DISTRICT CONVENTION October 17-19th, 2008
REQUEST FOR HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS
BATTLE CREEK CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU**

Please fill out this form and send or fax directly to Jan Tabor at the Holiday Inn 12812 Harper Village Dr. Battle Creek, MI 49015. Or fax it to her at 269-979-0501. One form for EACH room must be submitted.

Please indicate your preference:

<u>Hotel:</u>	<u>Single</u>	<u>Double</u>	<u>Phone</u>
<u>McCamly Plaza Hotel(Headquarters Hotel A)</u>			
Regular Guestroom	\$95	\$95	888-622-2659
Holiday Inn (Headquarters Hotel B)	\$99	\$99	269-979-0500
Amerihost Inn (downtown)	\$80	\$80	269-565-0500
Ramada Inn	\$70	\$70	269-979-1100

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

*** Room rates reflect a min. 2 night stay

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: VISA MC AE DS Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

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

Name: _____ Date of Arrival: _____

Address: _____ Date of Departure: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Number of people in room: _____

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: _____

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 25, 2008

Pioneer District Assoc. Chapters - SPEBSQSA
46210 Copper Lock Ln.
Macomb, MI 48044

Non - Profit ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Mt. Clemens, MI
Permit No. 89

Postmaster: Dated Material - Please RUSH!

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.

Doug
(517) 351-9587

Rich
(517) 622-5042



The Patch Chords
 Music and Mirth

(517) 521-3218
Roger

(517) 372-8389
Larry

Dave and Rick Anderson & Dave and Roger Walker

Barbershop Quartet Entertainment
for All Occasions



Singing With Dad

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

CALENDAR: 2008 Events

January 5-6 COTS
 February 16 Power Play Farewell Show, 7:30pm at Lakeview HS in St. Clair Shores
 February 22-23 Detroit-Oakland Chapter Show
 March 8 Lansing Chapter Show
 April 5 Sault Ste Marie Chapter Show
 April 19 Monroe North Chapter Show
 April 25-27 District Convention - Battle Creek
 May 3 Pontiac 52nd Annual Woodshed Contest
 May 9 Holland Chapter Show
 May 10 Wayne Chapter Show
 May 10 Grand Rapids Chapter Show
 May 17 Flint Chapter Show
 May 18 Detroit Princess Riverboat Cruise with Detroit Oakland's Gentlemen Songsters
 June 8 Detroit Princess Riverboat Cruise with Grosse Pointe's Lakeshore Chorus
 June 13 Send-off Show - Hellenic Center, Windsor, ON Canada
 June 21 Barbershop Show @ Cheboygan Opera House - Alpena & Gaylord show
 July 13 Detroit Princess Riverboat Cruise with Sweet Adeline's Great Lakes Chorus
 August 10 Detroit Princess Riverboat Cruise with Pontiac-Waterford's Big Chief Chorus
 August 26 Grand Rapids - Baker Corn Roast & Pick up Quartet Show - 7 pm
 September 13 Kalamazoo Chapter Show
 September 13 Grosse Pointe Chapter Show
 September 27 Windsor Chapter Show
 September 27 Muskegon Chapter Show
 October 17-19 District Convention - Battle Creek
 October 25 Rochester Chapter Show
 November 1 Pontiac-Waterford Chapter Show

Chapter Locations

