

Pioneer Troubadour

Official Publication of the Pioneer District - March 2009 - Online Edition #12

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

Resisting-A-Rest Wins Silver Midwinter Int Seniors Quartet Convention



Resisting-A-Rest Silver Medalists Steve Warnaar, Tom Connor, Phill Haines and Bruce LaMarte photo by Westunes' Ray Rhymer



Showtime BHS Wild Card quartet Wayne Hodgson, Allan Smith, Tom Weidner, and Jim Johnson photo by Westunes' Ray Rhymer

Congratulations to Pioneer District Senior Reps Resisting-A-Rest for winning Silver with 859 points! Pioneer District's BHS wild card drawn quartet Showtime coming in 24th scoring 748. Audacity of Greater Phoenix Chapter took 1st with 911.

by Shelley Herman
Harmonet Newsgroup Member

About 2000 members attended the Midwinter in Pasadena, CA this weekend. For the other 25,000 of you, you missed one of the best conventions the hobby ever presented.

First place, for those of you freezing your pitch pipes off in some other place than Southern California, the temperature here during the day was in the high 70's.

The seniors contest was very high level, with Audacity winning handily. For those of us who know Fraiser Brown and his record of competition, it was a victory beyond words.

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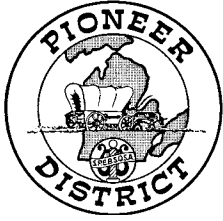
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March 2009 Pioneer Troubadour

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

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

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Raleigh Bloch
2033 Wild Cherry Lane
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
269-375-6849

EXECUTIVE VP

Joe McDonald
510 S Franklin
Mt. Pleasant, Michigan
989-560-6181
joecab2@hotmail.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

Joe McDonald
510 S Franklin
Mt. Pleasant, Michigan
989-560-6181
joecab2@hotmail.com

CHORUS DIRECTOR DEVELOPMENT

James Ryan
308 Harvard Street
Canton, MI 48188
734-981-1172
jamesryan@sbcglobal.net

CONTEST & JUDGING

Ron Eubank
4272 Browning Drive
St. Joseph, MI 49085
roneubank@sbcglobal.net
269-470-2088

EVENTS

Jerry Ditto
753 72nd Ave.
Lawton, MI 49065-8600
(269) 387-6016 (R)
(269) 624-6735 (B)
jerryditto@msn.com

MARKETING/PUBLIC RELATIONS

Rick Anderson
20255 Drummon Bay
Clinton Twp., MI 48038
H: (586) 286-1110
C: (586) 909-8489
randerson@tdktca.com

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

George Doyle
7107 Juniper Ct
Spring Lake MI 49456
231-798-7903
george.doyle21@verizon.net

MUSIC AND PERFORMANCE

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

YOUTH IN HARMONY

Jeff Pierson
6112 Murray Rd
Whitehall MI 49461-9457
231 894-6838
Rockinbarber08@aol.com

Address changes

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Midwinter Con

(Continued from page 1)

The Youth Chorus Festival and Contest was great. We were watching the future of barbershop. The Northwest Vocal Project looks like the beginnings of another Westminster. The Denver chorus, "52eighty", under the direction of Chris Vaughn sounds and moves like GOTCHA! Wonder Why?

Having all those kids around the convention boosted up the excitement level of the whole convention by several notches. HOO-RAY!

I had the pleasure of watching Dr. Greg Lyne morph about 100 barbershoppers from just some guys who knew the words and music into a great sounding chorus with only five or six hours total rehearsal. Seeing Greg at work is really a pleasure to watch. His talent is awesome.

OC Times spent an hour with singing and some questions and answers. One of the big points they made was: Learn The Polecats, that's our roots!

Now to the shows. Friday night started out with the Jurassic Larks, 1998 AISC champs. Someone noted that their combined age exceeded the combined age of one of the youth choruses. The AISC chorus brought us back to the time of the Beach Boys, (which for many of us wasn't that long ago), then Old School (5th Place 2008 BHS) sang. As they are wont to do, they sang some of the old time favorites, finishing with Buzz Hager's arrangement of Last Night Was The End Of The World, with that huge tag that we all love to sing. When they finished the audience rose as one person yelling and screaming.

The KIBBERS are often quoted as saying: "I can't describe barbershop, but I know it when I hear it!" Well we heard it, in spades!

When we thought it couldn't get any better than that, along came Redline (4th place

2008 BHS) and State Line Grocery (3rd Place 2008 BHS), each with potential Gold Medal performances.

If that wasn't enough, Ringmasters, our 2008 Collegiate Champs who are from Sweden showed us how the youth quartets are closing in on us old folks. Each time they sang, (three performances total) they gave us a performance that is potentially top ten in Anaheim.

Finally, Eureka, last year's AISC champs did their swan song. Brian Beck and the others demonstrated why they have all those medals.

Saturday night's show started at the level left off the previous night, with the winning youth chorus, Northwest Vocal Project, Antique Gold, (2006 AISC champs), and Ringmasters again. Audacity taking their victory lap and showing us why they deserved to be champions.

A special event was a performance by VoCA (Voices of California) a group of 13 performers from the world of barbershop. There are at least a dozen BHS & SAI gold medals in the group. Not barbershop, but spectacular in performance.

Then Crossroads (2nd Place 2008 BHS) thrilled the audience with a performance that's going to be hard to beat in Anaheim.

Just when we thought we had heard everything, out came our International champs, OC Times with their usual incredible performance, as they finished the curtain behind them rose and there was the Masters of Harmony, our current chorus champions. OC TIMES took their usual places in the chorus and MOH gave us a reprise of their winning performance in Nashville.

The entire show was one for the ages. Except for International Conventions I don't think many of us will ever be witness to a show like that.

Then the afterglow started. Usually at International Conventions there is a formal afterglow with a large crowd watching the stars of the shows and local quartets performing. There was one at this convention, but it was sparsely attended. The action was all in the lobbies. With all of those young people woodshedding with each other and some seasoned barbershoppers, it was just like the conventions I remember many years ago. There was excitement in the air as hundreds of quartets were woodshedding all at

once. When I finally left at 1:15AM, I passed OC Times singing with everybody who still wanted to sing.

What an incredible convention. Everybody there should thank Ed Watson and Ev Nau and the entire BHS and HF staffs for all their hard work to make it that way.



Showtime photo by Doug Weaver

Al Smith
Showtime
GreatLakesChorus.org/Showtime

Showtime had a fantastic time competing at the Midwinter Seniors International Convention as a BHS wildcard quartet. We placed 24th because the 25th quartet was a no show (but felt privileged representing our Chapter and District). The weather was beautiful in Pasadena California (while cold and snowy in Michigan). Exciting weekend also to have the Harmony Society's second annual International Youth Chorus Festival. There were 7 youth choruses competing. At 8 am there would be all these kids in the hotel lobby singing tags, challenging each other who could sing higher and louder. The top quartets were there for exhibition performances and the 2008 International Chorus Champs Master Of Harmony. Definitely a convention worth attending. The highlight for me was when Crossroads (2008 International Quartet Silver Medalists and include lead Mike Slamka from retired Pioneer District quartet Power Play) sang the song Crying to my wife.



Showtime photo by Doug Weaver



"The Year of the Chapter" We Need The Help Of ALL Members

Brian Dunckel
Pioneer District President

Last weekend following the installation of the Pioneer District Board and Management Team, I delivered the following words to the attendees at the Leadership Academy. Hopefully your leadership carried the message back to your chapters, but to make sure, I am posting it here today. Our district and chapter leaders can't do it alone- we need the help of ALL members. Together we can make a difference in the Pioneer District!

Membership in any organization has three aspects: obligation, duty and responsibility. Regardless of the organization you join, you are expected to contribute to it. As a member of your chapter your obligations include learning your words and notes, regular attendance at chapter meetings and performances, general support of the chapter, and leading in whatever office you have been elected to.

Duties are varied, but not limited to, setting up/tearing down risers or chairs, selling tickets to your annual show, selling ads for your show's program, serving on committees, or performing the functions of your elected position. We also all have responsibilities, one of which, is recruiting new members. (I was the Director of Membership for 7 years

here in Pioneer- you had to know I was going to get around to this topic!) New members are the lifeblood of our Society, the Pioneer District, but more importantly, YOUR chapter. You once visited a chapter and made the decision that this hobby was something you wanted to be a part of. By taking that step towards membership, you accepted the obligations, duties, and responsibilities associated with that membership. We must ALL respond to that responsibility. If each member would recruit just one new member every six years, the Society would grow by nearly 2% per year. Yet, as we all know, Society membership has been dropping for the past dozen years. Sadly, almost half of the BHS membership has NEVER recruited a new member, and a member who has 5 Man of Note Awards, is in the top 10% of all recruiters in the Society! So are we fighting a losing battle? Only if we sit back and continue to do things the same old way.

The Society has chosen a slogan for 2009- "The Year of the Chapter". I urge all chapters to look inward and examine themselves and their operations. Find your strengths and weaknesses, then play to those strengths and work on improving your weaknesses. In other words make your chapter all it can be. As your chapter leaders have been installed, they have taken the first step to leading your chapter on to bigger and better things in 2009. Soon the next step will have to be taken- making a difference in your chapter and our district! Like our Society Presidents, I have chosen a motto for my term as President of the District. Why is a motto a big deal? It indicates to you that I am willing to put my name next to a statement that I believe in. It also tells you that I am going to do all I can, to make sure that your barbershop experience is the best it can be here in the Pioneer District. By putting my name next to that statement, I am also saying, hold me to it. Each of you officers have taken a similar pledge and by doing so, they have also said "hold me to it- make me responsible to YOU."

So, that motto- for my term as President of the Pioneer District is, "Dare to Make a Difference."

Dare to make a difference - its ACTIONS speaking louder than words. It's leading by example; it's encouraging those around you rather than criticizing. It's making sure you are the first one off paper with your words and notes; it's making sure you are quiet on the risers; it's all the best of barbershop, and it's making everyone's barbershop experi-

ence BETTER!

It's involving many in your chapters' tasks, it's asking others to serve with you and thanking them after they have done the job, It's recognizing members publicly for a job well done. It's not waiting till the last minute to find out that someone is struggling- its checking with them as they are working on a task and making sure they remain on target. Sadly, in some cases, it's even making a change in personnel to ensure the job gets done.

How would you like to make twice as much money? I bet I got a "yes" from everyone on that question! Going one step further, I now ask you to figure out how you could make that happen. Obviously it would mean working more hours, more sales calls, seeing more patients, more phone calls, more nights on the road- whatever might be specific to your profession. It might even mean a second job. One thing for sure it would mean less time to spend with your family, your friends and probably even barbershopping. You said you wanted to make twice the money, but are you willing to do what it would take to do it? That is the choice you must make if you want it to happen, and are willing to make it happen.

WE have the task of leading our chapters, and the Pioneer District ahead- to ensure that we as barbershoppers are still here for future generations. I challenge each and every one of you to take that challenge to heart, Make a difference, I dare you!

Are you up to that dare? Do you WANT to make a difference? But now, I must ask the real question, are you WILLING to make a difference?

I am confident that we in Pioneer ARE willing to make that difference!

"Dare to Make a Difference"



Brian Dunckel photo by Paul Howe

COTS PICS

Chapter Officer Training School

January 3-4, 2009



Marketing & PR photo by Paul Howe



Rick Anderson, Marketing Seminar photo by Karen Schaefer



Faculty photo by Paul Howe



Brian Dunckel photo by Karen Schaefer



photo by Karen Schaefer



Swearing in of Officers photo by Paul Howe



Mach 1 (Four D Minors members plus Spear's son Mark) photo by Rick Anderson

More COTS Pics



Moxxy photo by Karen Schaefer



Chordiology photo by Karen Schaefer



Something BIG!! photo by Karen Schaefer



Moxxy Chordiology Something BIG!! photo by Karen Schaefer



photo by Rick Anderson



Host chorus The Sun Parlour Chorus of the Windsor Chapter photo by T.R. Gerard

Uncle Sam Night

A Fine Night Of Barbershopping

Bill Strong
Program VP Windsor Chapter

Another fine night of Barbershopping (January 16th 2009) was held in Windsor on what was likely one of the coldest nights of the year. Uncle Sam Night proved once again that Barbershoppers are either the most dedicated singers in the world or the dumbest, to be out on such a cold night. In

my own opinion I do believe people come out on nights like that because they have that great desire to sing and socialize. It was good and toasty inside and the meal was remarkable.

We had a fine group of quartets and choruses, some small some bigger. Doran did his thing with various choruses being directed by various directors and as always the results shall remain secret.

The line up of quartets included our District Champs, Something Big as well as Moxxy and Side Kicks. Windsor was well represented by Doran's Quartet and County Connection.

Nights such as these are a great way to bring chapters together for singing and fellowship. We seem to have lost some of this over the past few years. Canada Night and Uncle Sam Night are two good examples of how Chapters are trying to keep this practice alive.

Mark your calendars for next year's Uncle Sam Night. Always the third Friday in January. Hopefully it will be a little warmer in 2010.

See ya'll in Traverse City



photo by T.R. Gerard



3 Hairs And A Head photo by T.R. Gerard



County Connection photo by T.R. Gerard



Desperate Measures photo by T.R. Gerard



Moxxy photo by Bill Strong



Something BIG!! photo by Bill Strong



Something-Moxxy Octet photo by Bill Strong



Sidekicks mixed quartet photo by Bill Strong



Doran McTaggart awards to mini chorus directors photo by Bill Strong

Uncle Sam Night Something BIG!!

by T.R. Gerard
Something BIG!!

Something BIG!! wanted to thank (somewhat belatedly) the Windsor Chapter's Sun Parlour Chorus for their wonderful hospitality at this years Uncle Sam Night. Despite the frigid temperatures our Canadian Brothers made us all feel right at home in front of the fire...

There was plenty of good food and Old Vienna to go around...and eventually, we got around to singing. With the affable Doran McTaggart as emcee we commenced with annual pickup chorus contest. Funny how

there never seems to be a shortage of chorus directors at these functions.....Several quartets also performed including three from the Sun Parlour Chorus. There were 3 Hairs and a Head, County Connection, and Desperate Measures, featuring Doran McTaggart and Bill Strong, our most gracious host. Even with Tom Grimes filling in on bass for Doug Roberts, Desperate Measure sounded great.

Also singing were 2006 Buckeye Invitational Mixed Quartet Champs Sidekicks, and they put on there usual classy performance. Moxxy was up next and they were fantastic! I have never them heard the singing better. In fact we closed out the evening with Moxxy singing a rousing octet version of "Good Old Accapella." This is the second year in a row I've attended Uncle Sam Night (and this time, no one mistook me for Dave Spizarny!) It's on my schedule, and should be on all

yours too. As usual, a fine time was had by all. It was nice to see everyone and sing into the wee hours.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in Traverse City this Spring!





District Leadership Academy Pioneer Posse

THERE'S A NEW SHERIFF IN PIONEER DISTRICT!

At the District Leadership Academy in January, George Doyle, the new District Director of Chapter Development, formed the Pioneer Posse to track down new members. He gave each attendee to his class a shiny new plastic badge and a list of rights to read to prospective "desperados".

1. YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO PRESERVE BARBERSHOP SINGING.
2. YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO SING IN CHORUSES OR QUARTETS.
3. IF YOU NEED WE WILL APPOINT LEARNING TAPES TO HELP YOU SING.
4. YOU CAN ATTEND CONVENTIONS, CONTESTS, AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES IF YOU DESIRE.
5. YOU WILL RING CHORDS THAT WILL GIVE

YOU GOOSE BUMPS.

6. YOU MAY SING SOFTLY BUT YOU MAY NOT REMAIN SILENT!

George invites every member of the Pioneer District to become a deputized member of the Pioneer Posse for 2009. Round 'em up and bring 'em in!



The Hall Of Fame Form

No Later Than April First

Brian Dunckel
President Pioneer District

The Hall Of Fame has been the Pioneer District's highest honor for over 30 years. You have the opportunity to continue that tradition, by nominating one of your chapter members who has gone "above and beyond" for the Society, the District as well as your Chapter. I ask you to take a moment to consider the men within your chapter who have been "Pioneers" and leaders in the District.

The nomination forms have been sent to all Chapter Presidents through the CPres

group. They are also now posted on the Pioneer District website, www.pioneerdistrict.org under "District Business". The process that must be followed, as well as the criteria for eligibility in the Hall of Fame are also listed there.

Completed nominations forms must be submitted to me, by email or snail mail, NO LATER than April 1, 2009.

Thank you for your assistance as we seek to honor the "best of the best"

BHS Survey Pioneer Leads In Responses

Brian Dunckel
President Pioneer District

On behalf of the leadership of the Barber-shop Harmony Society, I thank you for making sure our Pioneer voices were heard. The recent survey of chapter activities was responded to by 71% of our chapters here in

Pioneer. For those of you who know about survey responses, that is a HUGE number—so big in fact, that Pioneer led all districts in percentage of chapters responding!! Way to take the lead, and thanks for being willing to take a few minutes to "make a difference"!

"Dare to make a Difference"



Fountain Street 4 at 2008 Christmas show

MI Music Con **Fountain Street** **Four Plug Rockin'** **Barbershop**

by Jeff Pierson
 Co-ordinator Rockin' Barbershop Camp
www.rockinbarbershop.org

Friday and Saturday (Jan 23&24) at the Michigan Music Convention in Grand Rapids,

<http://www.michiganmusicconference.org/>

the young GR quartet Fountain Street Four, Dan Winer, Phil Spencer, Owen Sharpe, and Andrew Magnussen, wowed the students and teachers. They taught tags to students, to wild approval, a few times accumulating a dozen at once in front of our booth, and charmed teachers and the pizza vendor, among others.

They have on YouTube "Oh, Holy Night" video - nice work

<http://fs4quartet.com/videos.php>

I would say the convention for music teachers was quite good for us - many took our Camp brochure, with some saying "I have some boys who would love this..." Some said "I'm so glad you're here!"

And thanks to District President Brian Dunkel for attending. He got to see the enthusiasm and keep a watchful eye on your district effort. Doug Weaver of GR (GLC President) helped out with some audio/visual adapters.

The next step for promoting Camp is for each chapter to email me directly with a responsible party for promoting in your neighborhood! Please include chapter name and zip code in Subject line.

Thu, Aug 27 - Sat, Aug 29, 2009 at the campus of Interlochen Center for the Arts. The camp brochure is in version 6. Version 3 is on the www.rockinbarbershop.org website in Forms.

PIO Spring **Convention** **Traverse City** **April 17-19**

by Ron Eubank
 Director Contest & Judging
 Pioneer District
 Contest Administrator
roneubank@sbcglobal.net
 269-470-2088

Greetings, fellow Eskimos: (Al Fisk has used this greeting in the past and I think it's very appropriate!) It's time to be thinkin' Spring!

CONVENTION: We're extremely fortunate to have two special classes in the works for Friday afternoon! Mr. Ron Black, music judge and current chairman of the society Music & Performance Committee, and Mr. James Estes, singing judge and society Music Educator - Youth in Harmony/Collegiate Development, will be leading classes of Harmony University quality so get your registration in and arrive early Friday afternoon to take advantage of this great opportunity.

CONTESTS: The contest is set up and ready to be entered for the April convention in Traverse City. There's the Senior Quartet Championship, the College Quartet Contest, the International Quartet Prelims, the District Chorus Championship, and the Chorus Plateau Championships. So far, there is one quartet (Showtime) and one chorus (Kalamazoo) entered so they are the champs . . . so far . . .

ENTER: Go to the ebiz part of the Society website (select member log in on the home page), sign in and select "CJ-20" then "Contest Entry" at the top of the page. Follow the directions and your group is in (I HOPE!). If you need directions, there is a CJ-20 User's Manual on the Pioneer website on the C&J page. If you have questions or don't understand something please contact me and I'll help.

SOUND CHECK QUARTET HELP: We will need a sound check quartet (not mike testers for Friday evening) for calibrating the sound system at 3:30 PM Friday, April 17 in the ballroom. Please consider whether your quartet can help us out and send me a note to volunteer.

JOE BARBERSHOP CHORUS: The JBC will be directed by our special guest MR. BILL BIFFLE, current PRESIDENT of the BHS. Please plan to support this activity -- it'll be great -- more info to come. If your chorus doesn't want to

do the JBC let me know.

JOE BARBERSHOP CHORUS: The JBC will be directed by our special guest MR. BILL BIFFLE, current PRESIDENT of the BHS. Please plan to support this activity -- it'll be great -- more info to come. If your chorus doesn't want to do the JBC let me know.

I'm hearing from some of you (members of both choruses and quartets) that you are not entering the spring contest yet because you don't know which songs you will sing . . .

Do not wait to enter because you believe you have to know exactly which songs. You can enter more songs than you will sing and decide whenever you want. You do not need to identify exactly which songs or what sequence you will sing.

The purpose of the rule and the entry process is to verify that you have clearance to sing the songs you identify. If you want, you can enter the contest and enter the songs later (but before the April 3 deadline) or enter some songs now and complete the entry later when you get clearance for the others you may be concerned about.

The point to be made is don't wait! There is nothing to be gained by waiting and you may screw up and get left out for no good reason.

Hope this helps. Also, there are step-by-step instructions on the PIO website under C&J tab about how to enter, if you need some.

And finally, please contact me if you have questions and can't find answers -- at least then I know something is happening with

your group and we'll get through it together.

Big Screen Get Your Message Out

by Gregory P. Humbel

It Time to be thinking about the Big Screen For the Spring Convention In Traverse City, All the Information will be on the Pioneer Website in a few days.

This is a great time to get your Message out in front of the crowd.

Click on the NEXT CONVENTION, then Big Screen

Have a Question, Give me a call!

1-313-972-2800
1-313-815-6212 (cell)
ghumbel@comcast.net

Spring Con Something New Singing Valetine Contest!

by Brian Dunckel
President Pioneer District

As you know, for the past few years we have offered classes at our conventions to increase attendees enjoyment. That will continue (and expand) in Traverse City with TWO of the judging panel teaching classes on Friday. We are also going to ADD SOMETHING NEW to the convention- a Singing Valentine Quartet Contest! The purpose is two fold in nature; one to offer something new and for fun to our convention attendees, and two, to promote new quartet activity. We know that some of members will be disappointed by the timing of the event, or some of the rules that have been created for this event. Obviously, we will evaluate it at the conclusion of the convention to see what changes could/should be made for future years.

Chapters, get behind your quartets, encourage them to enter, and then help them WIN the inaugural Pioneer District Singing Valentine Quartet Contest!

So here's what it will be, and what you can expect:

The SV Contest will be held on Saturday Afternoon, April 18, one hour after the chorus contest ends. Room location will be announced at a later date

RULES FOR PARTICIPATION

*The SV quartet shall NOT be a registered quartet-there already is a contest open to them. We want this to get newer quartets up in front of the audience. The quartet shall NOT consist of more than two registered quartet members.

*The SV quartet MUST HAVE participated in their chapters Singing Valentines program this year

* Each SV quartet contest participant MUST purchase an all events ticket to the convention.

PERFORMANCE

*The SV quartet shall sing to a Valentine recipient of their choice (they provide that person) and perform their "SV gig" just like they did when delivering them (including giving candy, flower, card, whatever was done)

JUDGING/VOTING

*The audience will cast votes for the best performance (their choice as winner) by depositing money into that quartets container at the back of the room. The quartet that COLLECTS THE MOST MONEY (has the most votes) will win the contest.

*All money collected will be designated for the Pioneer Youth Fund Rockin' Barbershop event that we plan to have this summer

WINNERS RECEIVE

*The SV Quartet Champion will be offered the opportunity to sing their package on the Saturday night show

* The SV Quartet Champion will receive certificates noting their win, and four half price convention coupons for the Fall 09 Convention to be held in Kalamazoo

TO ENTER; All entries must be received by April 12. Send your quartet name, the names of all quartet members, please also indicate if any members are registered quartet members, your chapter(s), and the chapter you participated in Singing Valentines with to:

Brian Dunckel,
5872 Green Rd
Haslett, MI 48840

or email msudunk@aol.com

The drawing for the order of performance will be held on April 13 and published immediately to the Pionet and Cpres groups.

Help make Pioneer history- be a part of what we hope could become an annual event!

"Dare to Make a Difference"



Bernie, Marilyn, Lee, Len, Dottie, Joy, Terry, Fred, Karen, Ron, Rose, Joyce Rogers, Bud, Phyllis, Gary, and Joanne Blake photos by Gary Branch

Snowbird Picnic

Shades Of Grey Entertain Florida

by Gary 'Twig' Branch
 Shades Of Grey
GreatLakesChorus.org/SOG
 Barbershop Breakfast Club
GreatLakesChorus.org/BBC

Feb 19th 2009 Noon at the Marlyn and Ber-

nie Poelman Community Building Punta Gorda, Charlotte, Florida we had a small turnout this year with several missing on account of illness, surgery, etc. Terry Huyge and friend Joy were there from Bradenton, Dottie Talsma from Ft. Meyers, Len and Lee Pachula from Wachula (Lee is a sister-in-law to Bob Jeltema, two of our friends (non barbershoppers) from Grand Rapids, Fred and Karen Barr from Englewood, Ron and Rose Thomet, Gary and Phyllis Branch, Bud Kraft and Bernie and Marlyn Poelman were there. Missing were Jean and Jack Schneider, illness, Ken and Nancy Harr, knee surgery, Dave Knapp, car trouble, Evelyn Copeland and friend Tony, prior commitment, Alverne Sidor, Red Hat Convention.

We discussed about not having the picnic next year but decided it would be a great loss if we didn't continue the tradition. Our Michigan's Grand Rapids Chapter quartet Shades of Grey entertained the group and later included Terry and Bernie in some pick-up quartetting.

SOG lead Bud directed everyone in some sing-along-songs and we enjoyed a great pot luck picnic lunch. Bud has been snow-birding with Phyllis and I and has been a great addition with his cooking, washing dishes, and general assistance.

Shades of Grey Florida singouts included a sweetheart lunch, a couples retreat, a 60th. Anniversary, a Valentine's Dance. We also participated in Singing Valentine's with the Ponta Gorda Chapter, of which I am a dual member. We sang from 12:00 noon until 8:30 that night. We have since sang at the picnic, at a block party which we were the entertainment, at the Ponta Gorda Installation Dinner, at numerous restaurants, on the golf course and every place people would stop and listen.



BHS 2009 First Priority Stop Membership Decline

Letter from Your Society President

by Bill Biffle
 BHS President
 Gentlemen, your Society needs your help. It is obvious that if we are going to survive as a Society and if barbershop harmony is to

continue to enrich the lives of men all over the world, we must identify, confront, and solve - once and for all - the issues causing the membership decline that we are experiencing. As your president, I'm making this my first priority for 2009 and beyond.

Our staff and Society committees are hard at work on this problem - and they're making good progress toward an eventual solution. But I want to see what we - you and I - can do to help them succeed even sooner. To that end, I'm asking the Society Board to authorize the creation of a task force to create an overall membership growth strategy - a strategy against which every decision we make as members, as a board, as district and chapter leaders, as musicians, as volunteers,

and as paid staff can be judged - a strategy against which every program can be assessed, every communication can be compared, every marketing effort can be examined. The task force will examine the factors that are contributing to our decline (market conditions), assess the current state of our chapters and their product (what we're selling), scrutinize our marketing efforts (how we're selling it) and recommend what more we can do to turn our membership decline around.

I know that we have over 27,000 committed, experienced, knowledgeable, creative, and smart barbershoppers out there- a few of whom should be involved in this process. Should you? Do you know of someone else who should? If so, let me know who you - or they - are and tell me why you or they should be involved in this vital, transforma-

tional project.

I intend to have this task force hard at work by the end of February and receive their report before the end of the year. So send me your ideas and your suggested task force members as soon as possible at bbiffle@barbershop.org.

We are privileged to be members of the greatest fraternal musical organization in the history of the world - an experience that has enriched our lives immeasurably. Let's make sure that our grandchildren's grandchildren will have that chance, too.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this. If we work "together in harmony", we are sure to succeed!



Society Associate

BHS Status For Women

The Barbershop Harmony Society is proud to announce a brand-new classification for women who desire "insider" status with one of the largest singing organizations in the world. The "Associate" program, while not "membership", grants official status to members of Sweet Adelines International, Harmony Incorporated, as well as wives, widows, relatives, girlfriends, female directors, and friends of the Barbershop Harmony Society. Please note that the Associate program is only extended to females. You can join online now using a credit card with the

Society Associate Online Registration form, or by calling the Barbershop Harmony Society at 800.876.SING(7464).

At half the price of Society dues, Associates receive:

Member pricing on all events, music and merchandise A new lapel pin & kit unique to Associates Limited Ebiz access, Access to password-protected content at www.barbershop.org Higher inclusion in Society communications and marketing, Subscription to the Harmonizer magazine, Networking opportunities with other associates and members Vested interest in the Barbershop Harmony Society, Recognition for recruiting new members into the Barbershop Harmony Society.



Harmony Brigade An eXtreme Quartetter's Paradise

Where do fervent quartetters dream of going? No doubt the first place that comes to mind is the paradise lighted in that arch of blinding light, cordoned off with the ribbon of Olympic medals, where thunderous affirming cheers ripple up to a raised stage, in the center of a vast stadium, lined with an international contingent of delighted aficionados, friends, family and life long heroes! Not that I've been there (yet) mind you ... but I can dream...can't I?

Then too, somewhere else over that rainbow, just north of its opposite end (where

"the lobby- the temple of our hobby" can be found) is another version of Quartetter's Utopia. This middle ground is where fortunately all avid quartetters occasionally get to visit: It's that profound, intimate, almost sacred place where, privately, they can be surrounded only by pure sound, and the feeling of being together on the a great wavelength in conversation with friends with whom they particularly enjoy singing.

These savory glimpses of Nirvana, keeps us quartetting. That's also why, nearly 500 avid (maybe even rabid) independent quartetmen from around the Society and as far as Germany and Sweden (actively in quartets or not) find the "eXtreme Quartetting"

Harmony Brigade Rallies (annually held in North Carolina, Indiana, at Harmony University and in the Mid-Atlantic District) so appealing and compelling.

Imagine getting together with 125, diligent, self disciplined, discerning quartetters, who

really know their music inside, and out and where everyone (in equal voice parts) comes ready, willing and able to spend all weekend mixing it up in hundreds of good quartet combinations! Imagine a place to find lots of ambitious guys outside of your chapter (but no too far away from you) with whom you can share and build a large and very diverse repertory of champion quality songs. Sound like the Eden?

"eXtreme Quartetting" Harmony Brigades aren't intended as places of education (though they challenge and cause one to become a better quarteter), They are not specifically focused on competition (though some part of the rally involves an adjudicated contest). They are not meant to attract chorus singers or directors (though there is a relatively minor portion of the event conducted as a chorus and Society certified Directors are involved). And though these rallies are not meant for public consumption, an "instant" and an extraordinary show is ultimately staged for the public by this mer-

ry band of pick-up singers, to celebrate the conclusion of their weekend wonderland.

Where do quartetters dream of being? Many who dream of a rewarding playground and retreat to sing with other highly motivated quartetters are finding it at one of the four Harmony Brigades. As one Brigader put it, "It's sort of like Disneyland for serious quartet heads." For more info go to:

North Carolina Harmony Brigade: Jan. 16, 2009 (Application Deadline- Sept 7.)

Harmony University Harmony Brigade Aug T.B.A. 2009

Atlantic Harmony Brigade: Aug 21, 2009 (Application Deadline Feb 1,)

Indiana Harmony Brigade Rally: Nov 13 2009 (Application Deadline Aug.1)

Or visit: www.harmonybrigade.org



Singing Valetine .com Online In Time

by Barbershop Harmony Society

SingingValentines.com is a convenient, central site for locating barbershop quartets and chapters that deliver Singing Valentines throughout North America. A short registration process adds your Singing Valentines business to our listing, and makes it easy for

customers to connect with you to purchase an unforgettable gift of song. SingingValentines.com is a free service of the Barbershop Harmony Society for use by its chapters and quartets, and other barbershop group in North America.

by Todd Wilson
 Director of Marketing
 Barbershop Harmony Society

We did lose our web developer at the end of the year with no notice and before the site was re-launched. The previous site was taken offline as it was hacked.

Not to worry. An outside firm was brought in last week (the firm that employs SWD webmaster Joel Rea) to bring this site live. It would have gone live on Monday but some server issues were encountered over the weekend. I'm told we should have something up and running later in the day today.

We appreciate your patience and apologize for any inconvenience this delay may have caused our chapters.

by Joel Rea
joel.ellis.rea@gmail.com

Hi! I'm the SWD Webmaster, and was commissioned at the last minute to take over for the former Society Webmaster to bring the Singing Valentines site up-to-date. I've now gotten the Registration functionality up and running (though it could still use some improvement) with all-new architecture that should be much more secure. I plan to secure it even further. At any rate, you can go ahead and register now.

singingvalentines.com <-- note: NO "www.!" (We'll implement that later in the DNS.)

New look, new technology (MUCH more secure)!

Yet to do: Better ease-of-use and error-checking on the Registration form (e.g. right now it's possible to say that you're delivering Singing Valentines in August). Resources page for downloading logos, radio spots, etc. Public Singing Valentines Locator function to allow the general public to find registered Singing Valentines groups (the main reason for the existence of the site).

Note: most (nearly 90%) of the prior data was destroyed by a hacker, and what little remained was really old, so we decided to wipe it and start over from scratch. If you registered before, just register again as new.

Chapters In Action



Detroit-Oakland Chapter

Fabulous 50's

Tom Uicker, Ticket Chairman
Detroit-Oakland Chapter
T_Uicker@hotmail.com
(248) 559-7082

Are you getting tired of winter? Are you upset because the ground-hog just predicted six more weeks of this stuff?? Put your cares behind you and get ready for some fun as Detroit-Oakland Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society brings you Music from the FABULOUS FIFTIES! Not only will you enjoy our Gentlemen Songsters Chorus with four chapter quartets, but also we are featuring TWO terrific comedy quartets--STORM FRONT (2008 International Finalist) and CHORDIOLOGY (2007 District Champs).

www.harmonize.com/doc/show/flyer09.pdf

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2009, at 7:59 p.m.
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2009, at 7:29 p.m.
SCHMIDT AUDITORIUM — CLARENCEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL, LIVONIA, MI
TICKETS: \$18.00 each, All Reserved Seating, Plenty of seats available each night.

For ticket orders: Make check payable to: Detroit-Oakland Chapter, SPEBSQSA Inc. Please include stamped, self-addressed envelope and mail to:
Thomas Uicker; 29257 Southgate Dr; Southfield MI 48076



Grand Rapids Chapter Shades Of Grey Singout

by Gary 'Twig' Branch
Shades Of Grey
GreatLakesChorus.org/SOG

During the summer our Shades of Grey

members Gary Branch, Fred Barr, Lynwood Kraft, and Ronald Thomet had talked about visiting our shut-ins, friends around Western Michigan that we have known and sung with for many years. Well, we finally did it! Last November we dropped in on several of these people and we all had a great time.

We met at SOG bass Fred's house, had coffee and discussed the day. We contacted our shut-in friends and determined the order we would visit them.

We started off with Ray Grutter. Ray sang with our Grand Rapids Great Lakes Chorus for many years. He also sang with the Furniture City Chord Company for over 15 years. He has been laid up with back and leg problems for several years and is tied to an electric cart so not getting out much. We sang a couple of songs for him. He even sang bass with us and we talked over old times. We got there early because we knew that we wouldn't be able to just sing and go. His wife Judy came in and we had to get a hug and see some family pictures before we left. We left only after promising that we would be back soon.

Next we went to see Bea Phillips. Her husband Don sang with the chorus and in the

Golden Oldies quartet with me and in the Gaslighters quartet with Fred, Bud and I. He passed away a few years ago. Bea had problems with sugar and lost both legs above the knee. Being confined to a wheel chair, she is homebound most of the time. We sang to her and she showed off some of her family photos and we reminisced together.

From there we visited Clarice Strong. Her husband Don sang in the chorus for many years. She fell last winter and entered the first stages of Alzimers finding it difficult to walk. Don has since left the chorus and stays home to take care of her. He wasn't there when we arrived so we serenaded Clarice alone instead. She was so sorry that Don missed us and asked we please come again.

Next on the list was Jack & Jean Schneider. Jack is an active member of our chorus. His wife Jean was diagnosed with brain cancer a couple of months ago. She had just completed the last of the radiation and Chemotherapy. She was lying on the couch when we came in and before long, sat up, asked for her cap to cover her head and smiled, truly enjoying the songs and visit. They will wait a while before having an MRI to see the results of the therapy. They're planning on visiting their son in Florida this winter.

After a bit of lunch, we visited Alverne Sidor. Alverne had just gotten home from the hospital after a hip replacement. Her husband, Jack had been the bass in our quartet from the beginning and passed away a year ago. She was a Sweet Adeline and I sang with her and Jack in a mixed quartet in Florida, called Mainely Michigan. Since she was really laid up she enjoyed hearing some of our songs she hadn't heard before. She is looking forward to going to Florida for the winter.

We drove on to Lowell, MI to a rehab center to visit a friend of our tenor Ron and his wife Rose. We found her in a small room alone and we began to sing for her. When we finished the song, a nurse popped in and asked us to hold on. She proceeded to fill the room with other patients and we went on singing for about 40 minutes to everyone's delight.

The last stop of the day was at Clark Home where we visited Paul Robinson, another veteran of the chorus from several years ago.

Paul also was in the early stages of Alzimers. We found him very receptive to us and we sang several songs for him and all of the others that found their way down to his room upon hearing the singing. We took pictures at each stop to record our visit.

This was a filled and very rewarding day in the life of the Shades of Grey and I'm sure that it won't be the last. What a blessing to be able to bring such joy to our old friends!



Ray & Judy Grutter



Ray Grutter of the Great Lakes Chorus and Furniture City Chord Co. quartet



Bea widow of Don Phillip of the GLC, the Golden Oldies, & Gaslighters quartet



Jack & Jean Schneider of the GLC



Alverne of Sweet Adelines, Mainely Michigan quartet and widow of Jack Sidor of the GLC and Shades Of Grey quartet



Clarice wife of Don Strong of the GLC



Paul Robinson of the GLC



Shades of Grey Gary Branch, Lynwood Kraft, Fred Barr, and Ronald Thomet



Wildcard serenade Jack & Jean Schneider

Jack & Jean 50th

Jack & Jean Schneider 50th Wedding Anniversary held at Alpine Township Hall. Jack is a member of the Great Lakes Chorus. Many members of the GLC were in attendance as well as 2008 District International Quartet Representatives Wildcard Wildcard4.com.



Jack & Jean Schneider



Huron Valley Chapter Formula For Fun

by Gregory P Humbel
Huron Valley Harmonizers
hvharmonizers.org

The Harmonizers Annual show Sunday Jan 11. Show at 2 and 6.

by Dave Spizarny
Chordiology
from Chordiology Blog
Chordiology.com

Monday, January 19, 2009
chords & cuisine

formula for fun

Chordiology + Huron Valley Harmonizers +
The Saline Chordsmen + Meta-Four + M.C.
Jim Ryan = GLORIOUS HARMONY

Everyone knows that January in Michigan is cold and snowy. Yet despite global warming, it's colder and snowier than ever. Perhaps that's because I'm 25 years older than I was

when I moved to Michigan, and when you're young, the toleration meter is set differently. It snowed all day Saturday. The plow people put the street's snow in my yard, so the view from my house no longer includes my neighbor's house. A front yard Matterhorn might have been fun when the kids were young, but my kids are beyond the snow fort stage, so the mountain is just a reminder of snow and cold and cold and snow.

When Sunday arrived, I was actually hoping for a snow day – does that mean I'm still young at heart? Sunday brought intermittent sun, and intermittent sun in January in Michigan is evidence of God, so I knew that God wanted the show to go on.

I was the first Chordologist to arrive, and the Huron Valley beavers were as busy as ever. I quickly retired to the nervous room, and it wasn't long before Cliff showed up. We chatted, and soon the other Chordologists were there, although we had to share Rob the entire night. Rob directs Huron Valley, and he also convinced the Saline Chordsman and the Saline Chamber Choir to perform, so he was one of the night's busiest beavers. Speaking of beavers, I'm tired of praising Greg Humble; he's unbelievable. He did have help, as I saw Jim Windak, Jennifer Willox, and Peggy Johnson working the entire night. If you're a Huron Valley Beaver and I didn't mention your name, then it's Rob's fault. [HEY! --rob]

Like always, the show eventually started, and in the middle of Huron Valley's set, a new Pioneer Quartet, Met-a-phor, or is it Meta – 4, sang [It's Meta-Four --rob]. I missed their performance, because I was too busy getting nervous. Later, when I listened to them in the rehearsal room, I thought, these guys have a future. Good voices, good ears, and a good quartet sound – and it's only 8 weeks since they formed. Remember their name, even if I can't spell it.

Our set went fine. This past Friday, we conceived our Ghost Rider replacement, and this past Sunday, we performed it. Hopefully, the crowd enjoyed seeing it as much as we did performing it, although knowing us, I doubt it. It's a keeper. During our set, I goofed up my joke, which made the Chordologists laugh louder than the crowd. I hate those guys.

The two-show cabaret thing predicts a long day, and it was a long day. The Saline groups were great. All barbershoppers love singing, and seeing high school kids geeked on singing is almost as much fun as actually singing. Almost. And it's even more fun for the listeners when the singers are talented, and Rob invited talented singers.

About 1000 hours after our first set, we sang our second set. The gags went well, and I remembered my joke. It's the words of our songs that I forgot. Remember that it's 2009, and I'm a year older, and words are over-rated anyway.

I've called our replacement Baritone, Mark Spear, a super baritone, and that he is. But our own Baritone qualifies too – in fact, SuperDuper Baritone doesn't quite make it. We ended both shows with all the singers, meaning all the Huron Valley guys, all the quartets, and all the Saline kids,

singing "Irish Blessing". Then, unscheduled, SuperDuper Baritone taught everyone a tag, which the crowd ate for dessert. Paraphrasing Paul's post show email - Kudo's to Rob - Director, Organizer, Featured Quartet Guy, Tag-leading Guy, Guy who brought the Chordsmen and the Saline Chamber Choir, Guy who supported the other groups, Guy who kept things on schedule, and Guy who probably did 10 other things that we weren't aware of."

So there you have it - a frigid Sunday in January in Michigan made warmer by Barbershop. And I didn't even tell you about the new ideas that were hatched in the middle of the day. You'll have to come to one of our 2009 shows to see what was birthed at the

2009 Huron Valley Cabaret.

New Year's Resolution: A Great Year For



Chordiology. Oh yeah, after the second show, I went home.



Jackson Chapter Inaugural

by Del Sparks & Jessica Thompson

The Jackson Citizen Patriot, gave us an excellent article with pictures of the first meeting of the Jackson Chapter and pertinent copy. They used a full page spread.

In addition there is an audio slideshow link www.mlive.com/multimedia/jackson/ which also has pictures and portions of an interview. We owe a tremendous "Thank You" to all the members of the surrounding Chapters who came to help us get started.

Bringing Barbershop Back by Georgia Rhodes A Jackson Citizen Patriot

http://www.mlive.com/news/jackson/index.ssf/2009/02/audio_slideshow_bringing_barbe.html

PioneerDistrict.org/Troubadour/online/2009/03/bbsbackjacksonnews.mp3

Paul Howe
 Lansing Capital City Chordsmen
 Woodshedder Weekly Editor

No, not that one! I'll let all the news networks cover that "other" inaugural in Washington D.C. (Guess my press credentials and invitation to the D.C. inauguration got lost in the mail) No, I'm talking about the important one, the inaugural meeting of the new Jackson MI Chapter, The "Cascade Harmonizers." Del Sparks held court for this first meeting at the home of the Jackson Symphony Orchestra - if my memory from the 1950's is correct, the former J.C. Penney's downtown store. A crowd of about sixty well wishers and prospective members gathered to sing several polecat songs and to be entertained by Moxxy, and District Seniors Champions, Resisting-A-Rest.

There were representatives from Huron Valley, Battle Creek, Pontiac, Hillsdale, Wayne and a couple of other chapters. Lansing had fourteen members present.

I think I counted about twenty Jackson area

prospective members, which should be the foundation for a very active, growing chapter.

A close look at the patchwork panorama photo shows the assembled chorus using the orchestra risers. Those are the type of riser every chorus should have! There's plenty of room, even for those of us of, ah, "More substantial proportions."

The Lansing Chorus wish them well as they continue to grow.



Del Sparks photo by Georgia Rhodes



Jessica Thompson photo by Georgia Rhodes



Pickup quartet photo by Georgia Rhodes



Moxy photo by Paul Howe



Resisting-A-Rest photo by Georgia Rhodes



photo by Paul Howe



Lansing Chapter

Blast From The Past

Paul Howe
Lansing Capitol City Chordsmen
Woodshedder Weekly Editor
CapitolCityChordsmen.org

Where were you in 1952 when the Mills Brothers had a hit with Up A Lazy River? Do you wish the song Java Jive would be floating through the speakers of coffee shops today? And would you like to hear more of those popular hits from the 1930's, 40's and 50's in a classy show with lots of great entertainment? Then here's a last chance to come to the Lansing Barbershop Show "Blast From The Past" on March 7 at The Wharton Center on M.S.U.'s campus.

Remember, not only will you get to hear the Capital City Chordsmen and its chapter quartets, but we've also invited special guest "Elvis Presley" to join us on stage. And you'll get to hear 2008 District Quartet Champs Something Big!! and watch the silly puppetry of The Patch Chords. And don't forget our featured quartet The Allies from central Ohio, whose smooth sound and youthful energy made them a Top 10 competitor at International quartet.

Show tickets are \$25 and can be purchased by calling Larry Parker at 517-372-7464 through Tuesday, March 3 and then through The Wharton Center directly at 1-800-WHARTON up to show time. Tickets will also be available at the door. All seats reserved, so call today!

Thanks, James Hall Ticket Chairman, Lansing Chapter





Steve Warnaar awarded by 2006 BOTY Dave Fitzpatrick

BOTY Steve Warnaar

Paul Howe
 Lansing Capitol City Chordsmen
 Woodshedder Weekly Editor

Could there have been any doubt in your mind? Following the resignation of former director Jessica Thompson, Steve stepped in

as acting director and led us through the fall convention.

It's not like Steve wasn't busy enough already at the convention, competing with Senior quartet "Resisting-A-Rest," regular quartet "Something Big!!," as well as a riser singer with the Mt. Pleasant "Mountain Town Singers." That makes three champions out of four tries - not a bad weekend's work!



President's Man of the Year Don Horton

Paul Howe
 Lansing Capitol City Chordsmen
 Woodshedder Weekly Editor

Bill Mason Presents the President's Award to Don Horton

Don received this award for all the hard work he has done as Program VP, Chair of the Director Search committee, and Co-Chair of the visioning committee.



Officers Installed

Paul Howe
 Lansing Capitol City Chordsmen
 Woodshedder Weekly Editor

The inauguration ceremony - oops, sorry, that's next week - The installation ceremony for the 2009 slate of chapter officers was based around chapter harmony and harmo-

nious actions.

- Chapter Officers
 Chapter President Bill Mason
 Membership VP Van Reid
 Program VP Don Horton
 Secretary/Treasurer Larry Parker
 Marketing/PR VP Dave Fitzpatrick
 Music VP Steve Whittaker
 At Large 1 year Al Zeaske

At Large 2 year Darrell Neves
 At Large 3 year Don Terpe

Joe McDonald, Mt. Pleasant Chapter President, Dean of the recent COTS, and Pioneer District Executive Vice President performed the ceremony

Over 50 Barbershoppers and spouses BRAVED the winter weather to enjoyed the Lansing Chapter Annual dinner, Installation of Officers, Presentation of the BOTY and Key Man Awards. Dist. Pres. Joe McDonald did a fine job installing our members. We enjoyed having Joe and his right hand lady Jenny (wife) join us for the evening.

Congratulations to Steve Waarnar (BOTY and Don Horton KEY MAN recipients. In addition, recognition was given to Don Funk and Willeen for presenting each of the ladies with flowers again this year. Don is a Past Chapter President, Past Dist. President, Past International Board Member and member of the Pioneer Dist. Hall of Fame. Don celebrated his 80th Birthday last June 26. Also recognized were G. Lynn Webster

(NEW LANSING DIRECTOR) and his lovely wife Diana (DI)

Paul Howe was also thanked for his dedication and wonderful job on the weekly WOODHSEDDER and for lugging the sound system to and from our chapter events.

My apologizes to Larry Parker & Carol as I neglected to recognize them for the tireless efforts in planning so many chapter and District events such as the Annual Dinner & COTS etc. Over the years Larry's efforts have been so automatic, that too often we just take him for granted. Sorry Larry but THANKS a BUNCH.

Entertainment was supplied by G. Lynn Webster on the key board with his solo rendition of ARE YOU LONESOME TONIGHT (parody) that seems to fit our chapter rather well these days.

About the only line not covered in Lynn's parody was "You know you're getting older when you back goes out more than you do."

Additional entertainment (as if Lynn wasn't enough) by Sufficient Grounds who claim to be 1/2 Dist. Champs. and Something BIG!! who supplied the other 1/2 or (the WHOLE DIST. Champion quartet.

Invocation and Benediction was graciously

given by Darrell Neves and prayer concerns for Kurt Barker (stroke) and Marley Pearson (recent surgery).

Don Horton Emceed and gave an update on the Vision Plan progress etc. He also piggy backed on Dist. Pres. Brian Dunckel's Dare to Make A Difference goal.

Don has challenged each member to begin this week by making a difference in the Lansing Chapter. A few ideas are to be present each week, be on time, warm-up at 7:00 with the chorus, learn notes and words, sell tickets, sell ads etc. etc. A little improvement by each member can make a HUGE improvement in the chapter.



photos by Paul Howe



Director G. Lynn Webster on the key board



Something BIG!!



Amazing Director

by Don Horton, Program VP

Sunday morning Sandy & I had the pleasure of attending the Nazarene church in Owosso. STRONGHOLD quartet sang the morning message. Their first set was GREAT and very inspiring. They did a song called I've Got Joy. Lynn announced his new position as Director of the Lansing Capitol City Chordsmen and he wanted the quartet to do this song for Don and Sandy Horton . When they got done, he asked them to do it one more time and he left out the piano so we could enjoy the more Barbershop sound. What a showman that Mr. G. (G.Lynn Webster). You can be PROUD he is now your director.

After a short break, they came back with only 3 members as their Bari came down sick. Your Director who had been playing the piano stepped in and sang the Bari part as if he was a full fledged member of the quartet. Then they announced they were doing a song which has a Bari solo. The Tenor, switched and did the solo and Mr. G. switched and did the Tenor like he had been doing it ALL his life. The quartet has donated two of their CD'S for us to raffle off on our Tues night February tenth special ladies night. Thanks, Mr. G. for an inspiring morning.



Macomb County Chapter BOTY Michael Jaissle

Dave Anderson
Proud Guardian President
Bass Dad of SWD
www.guardiansofharmony.org

The Macomb County Chapter and the Guardians of Harmony are proud to announce that Mr. Michael Jaissle has been chosen as our Barbershopper of the Year. Mike has gone far above and beyond the call of duty. As Immediate Past President, he could have just sat back and taken a breather in 2008, but instead he chose to jump in with both feet and be our show chairman, as well as heading up several other functions. As some of you know, Mike is a heart transplant recipient and he also is diabetic, but he never let these handicaps slow him

down. His connection with his local VFW has provided us with a good low cost facility for afterglows, Karaoke, and many other functions. Mike is at every meeting, being the one to unlock the doors and then close up at the end of the night. His positive attitude and ready smile have been a shot in the arm to many of us when we were feeling down. Mike's daughter, Carrie Keys, has also been a part of this family team and supported the Guardians in many ways. You have probably noticed this attractive redhead at all of our shows and conventions. Mike, we are proud to have you as a Guardian and you REALLY deserve this. Next time you see Mike, please congratulate him on a job well done...and like the Ever Ready Bunny, he just keeps on going.

Karen Schaefer
Great Lakes Chorus SAI
www.glcsing.org
Guardians of Harmony
www.guardiansofharmony.org

What makes up the Barbershopper of the Year (BOTY)? An unselfish person who gives of his time and of his heart. He stands on the risers, week after week, sings his best, greets his riser buddies with a warm smile, and never says no! Guardians of Harmony

have chosen just that type of person for this coveted award. The recipient for 2009 is.... Mike Jaissle. Mike has been a member of the Society for 21 years. He is married and has 5 daughters and 13 grandchildren. His list of accomplishments are: President of the Chapter: 7 times Program Vice President: 2 times Currently is the Executive Vice President Show Chairman: 6 times Afterglow Chairman: 7 times Leader in Ticket & Ad Sales Host Chapter Chairman for District Conventions in 2006 & 2009 He has been and will be the Friday Night MC at District Convention (2006 & 2009) Writes and Produces the Guardians of Harmony shows and performances He served as the Auditorium & Afterglow Chairman for the Power Play Farewell As a fervent supporter and receiver of the Gift of Life, Mike truly has "Heart" for Barbershop and his chapter. Congratulations, Mike Jaissle!



Floyd McDaniel, Mike Jaissle, and Ed Bax

Karaoke Fun Night

(Event already occurred)

by Greg Humbel

This is a friendly reminder

Please remember to mark your calendar's for the night of

Saturday, February 28th 2009,

and come join the Guardians Of Harmony

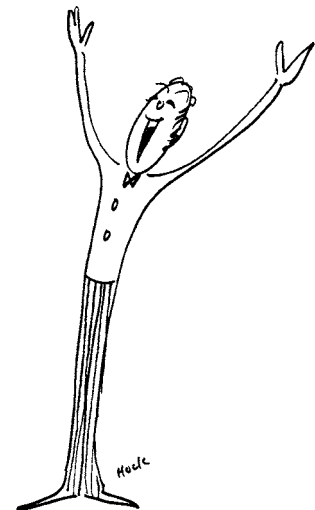
for the

2009 Karaoke Fun Night.

Good Times, Pizza, Salad, Beer, Wine and Soft Drinks Included.

More information on attached flyer.

We Hope to see you there!!





Pontiac- Waterford Chapter Senior Outreach Luncheon

by John Cowlishaw

The Big Chief Chorus finally got its chance to sing at Pontiac's First Presbyterian Church Senior Outreach Luncheon, on Tuesday, Jan 27, to an audience of 78. Fred McFadyen led the chorus of 25 men with energy, crispness, and humor ("Our job is to sing, yours to applaud, and we hope we finish before you do") thru Hi Neighbor, When Good Men Sing, In My Room, Under the Boardwalk, Mary Lou, Aura Lee, Aint Misbehavin, Let the Rest of the World, Shine/Do Lord Medley, Precious Lord, God Bless America, Keep the Whole World Singing, and Irish Parting Prayer. That's 2009 singout #1. 118 to go (to match 2008).

Auburn Hills Senior Center

by Jack Teuber

"Mark your calendars for Thursday, February 12, warm-up at 11:45, as the chorus entertains at the Auburn Hills Senior Center. The Center is located at 1827 N. Squirrel Rd. @ University Drive in Auburn Hills."

Rehearsal Location

by John Cowlishaw

The Board has decided to move our rehearsal location permanently to Waterford Oaks, beginning April 14.

Four Wheel Drive Retires

by John Cowlishaw

Four Wheel Drive has decided to disband, due to a combination of factors, and not without much sadness and residual mutual warmth. It was formed in June, 2002 with Al Monroe (T), Wally Plosky (L), John Cowlishaw (Br), and Zaven Melkonian (Bs). Jim Troeger took over the Lead in October, 2004, and Jeff

Doig in September, 2005. Four Wheel Drive competed twice in District competition and four times at Bush League, reaching third place in 2006. It's been a great ride. Thanks to the Big Chief Chorus for its continual support.

Northbound Sound Hospital Open House

by Chuck Murray

Northbound Sound sang for an Open House at the "new" Doctors' Hospital of Michigan in Pontiac, on Saturday Jan. 24. It used to be

the city-owned North Oakland Medical Center. The quartet's flexibility, coupled with the wide range of song types in its repertoire, exceeded the hospital's expectations. NBS had the audiences smiling, crying, and clapping hands in the aisles! The Mayor of Pontiac, the County Executive, and other dignitaries were there. The Governor was invited, but had a prior commitment. The Big Chief received lots of advertising for Singing Valentines, as the quartet handed out cards. There were about 150 people in the cafeteria, listening to us, and only about

twenty in the lobby listening to the harpist. Barbershop rules!

Several things had to come together to keep this bankrupt hospital open for the community. The City had to agree to sell the hospital to a group of the hospital's doctors, and the doctors needed a bridge loan from the State of Michigan until they could secure financing on their own. These things happened, and the hospital was allowed to continue serving the community. The Open House was a "celebration".

Wiki Barbershop Videos

Listen to barbershop on YouTube (You gotta try this!) Daniel Landman has tried to keep up with all the barbershop that's available on YouTube and publish it for the rest of us. You have to try out his new site:

<http://barbershopvideos.pbwiki.com/>

which is explained below: "Many of you have visited my "Barbershop On YouTube" website

(freewebs.com/barbershoponyoutube) during the past several months. Some of you commented on it to me, speculating that it would be too difficult to maintain the site properly all by myself. Because of the nature of YouTube and similar sites, new videos pop up and old ones are taken down every day. I found that this is true; there's no way for me to make sure that every link on my site leads to a working video, nor can I hope to keep updating the site indefinitely. In light of this, I migrated all the content of Barbershop On YouTube to a new wiki site:

<http://barbershopvideos.pbwiki.com/>

"A wiki is a website in which users collaborate on content. (Wikipedia is the most prominent example.) By joining Barbershop Videos, you will be able to edit the website on your own -- to add or remove links to videos where appropriate, and generally help to maintain the site's quality level. Besides the interactive element, Barbershop Videos has a dramatically improved categorizational structure -- you can browse by quartet or by song, and the search function is phenomenal. Please check it out and tell me what you think! Best, Daniel Landman OK, now go try it out. Click on

<http://barbershopvideos.pbwiki.com/>



Rochester Chapter Become The Next Frontline Director

by Dick Hartrick
 Rochester Chapter President
 Heart of the Hills Chorus

The Rochester Chapter would like to be in contact with anyone interested in becoming the next frontline director of the Heart of the Hills Chorus.

Interested persons should be prepared to deal with:

- the issues surrounding small chapters/choruses
- the rewards associated with being part of the team restoring such a chapter/chorus

Please understand:

- we are currently in a period of discernment, trying to understand who we are and where we'd like to go

- we have a capable interim-director, so will not rush the search process (we are stable at the moment)

- we are not quite ready for the interview process; at this time we are simply seeking names/numbers

- we will immediately acknowledge your interest and contact you as soon as we are prepared to conduct an interview

The Rochester Chapter currently meets in Rochester Hills at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday evenings.

So, if you're a seasoned frontline guy itching to get back in-front of a chorus or someone who went to Director's College a couple of years ago and have never taken the opportunity to step onto the frontline ... this might be the opportunity you've been waiting for!

Persons wishing to be considered should contact me via email dick758@aol.com

Windsor Chapter

Sun Parlour Chorus

See this issue's announcement, "Uncle Sam Night"



**2009 PIONEER DISTRICT
SPRING CONVENTION
April 17-19th
Grand Traverse Resort
Traverse City, MI
CONVENTION REGISTRATION**



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

PLEASE FILL IN NAMES AS YOU WOULD LIKE THEM TO APPEAR ON YOUR BADGE(S)

**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 MARCH 27, 2009

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 Grand Traverse Resort. Also, single event registrations can be purchased at the convention registration desk located in the Headquarters Hotel. Single events tickets are \$15 each. Children 12 and under are admitted FREE! Each member of a competing quartet or chorus MUST be registered for an all-events pass. Failure to do so will disqualify the quartet or chorus from the contest.

**REFUND POLICY:REGISTRATION FEES WILL BE REFUNDED TO PERSONS CANCELING IN
WRITING PRIOR TO THE 11:00am OPENING ON FRIDAY**

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



REQUEST FOR HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

Please fill out this form , then please mail or fax it directly to the hotel of your choice. Both hotels will also accept over the phone reservations.

One form for EACH room must be submitted.

Please indicate your preference:

<u>Hotel:</u>	<u>Single</u>	<u>Double</u>	<u>Suites</u>	<u>Phone/Fax</u>
<u>Grand Traverse Resort(Headquarters Hotel)</u>				
Regular Guestroom	\$79	\$79		800-968-7352/231-534-6670
Tower Guestroom	\$99	\$99		
Holiday Inn Express (2 queens)	\$69.95	\$69.95	NA	231-938-2600/231-938-0945

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

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

Name on card: _____

Card # : _____

Please Circle: 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: _____

Day Phone: () _____ - _____ E-mail: _____

Evening Phone: () _____ - _____ Name of other guest(s) in room: _____

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 March 27, 2009

Gaylord Chapter
Pioneer District – Barbershop Harmony Society
Combined Bush League Contest & Quartet Coaching Weekend
August 21 & 22, 2009 - Gaylord, Michigan

GENERAL INFORMATION

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: This weekend is designed for Quartets from the Pioneer District. Participating Quartets will receive coaching and classes designed to assist and enhance their musical growth and be able to participate in the annual Bush League Contest. Elements of the weekend will be the Friday evening Master's Class conducted by "Chordiology", our 2007 Pioneer District Champs.

Saturday morning, Quartets may compete in the annual Bush League Contest scored by Barbershop Harmony Society "Certified Judges". This is followed in the afternoon by coaching for each Quartet by members of the Judging and Coaching staff. The top 3 scoring Quartets will be asked to participate Saturday evening on the "A Potpourri of Barbershop Harmony" Show.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVE: To raise the singing quality and performing abilities of Quartets throughout the District. The Gaylord Chapter wants to continue the tradition of the Bush League Quartet Contest and Annual Show. By merging the coaching and the contest elements, we can give both novice and established Quartets stage experience, contest experience and a level of Coaching they might not otherwise be able to get all in one weekend.

COST: \$50.00 per Quartet for the Master's Class and Coaching. **THE COST FOR HOTEL ACCOMODATIONS AND MEALS ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE QUARTET.** (There are separate Quartet and Hotel Registration Forms). Quartet members **performing** on the Saturday evening "A Potpourri of Barbershop Harmony" Show are admitted free. All others will be charged the general public rate of \$10.00 per person or \$25.00 per family (parents and children)

EVENT VENUES: The Friday evening Master's Class will be held in the "Mitchell" conference room at the Quality Inn. The Contest on Saturday morning and Coaching on Saturday afternoon will be held at the E-Free Church in Gaylord. Afterglow location is to be determined.

EVENT AGENDA:

Friday, August 21st

1-8 pm Check in at the Quality Inn and greet your fellow Barbershoppers
 6-8 pm Chance to "walk the stage" at the E-Free Church
 8:00pm Master's Class at the Quality Inn "Mitchell" conference room

Saturday, August 22nd

8am to 9:30am Quartets can "walk the stage" and have access to an assigned room to dress and warm up at the E-Free Church.
 10am to 12pm Bush League Quartet Contest at E-Free Church Auditorium.
 12-1pm Free Time
 1-5pm Quartet Coaching **(E-Free Church)**
 5-7:30pm Free Time
 7:30-9:30pm "A Potpourri of Barbershop Harmony" Show (E-Free Church Auditorium)
 10:00pm Afterglow - Location to be determined

Sunday, August 23rd

8-11am Hotel checkout - Have a safe trip home!

BUSH LEAGUE 2009

QUARTET REGISTRATION FORM

Gaylord Chapter – Pioneer District Barbershop Harmony Society – Combined Bush League
Contest & Quartet Coaching Weekend – 8/21 & 22/2009 – Gaylord, MI

Quartet Name _____ **Today's Date** _____

Contact _____

Address _____
Street City ZIP

Phone _____ **e-mail** _____

Tenor _____ Lead _____

Bari _____ Bass _____

WE PLAN TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES:

Fri Master's Class _____ Contest _____ Coaching _____ Sat Afterglow _____

Cost and Instructions:

1. Cost Per Quartet - \$50.00 - Make checks payable to "Harmonie Meisters"
2. Master's Class Friday 8:00PM - Mitchell Room - Quality Inn
3. Coaching will be at E-Free Church following the Contest and lunch break
4. Hotel Reservations – Use separate Hotel Registration Form.
5. Meals – Quartet members are responsible for all meal costs.
6. Quartet members **performing** on the evening "A Potpourri of Barbershop Harmony" Show do not pay to attend the Show.
7. Afterglow – All Quartets are welcome and encouraged to sing at the Afterglow.

TO REGISTER: Complete this form, attach your check made payable to "Harmonie Meisters" and send to: Erv Erickson – PO Box 19 Oden, MI 49764

(PLEASE NOTE: This \$50.00 covers Quartet Registration only. Quartets cover their own housing, meals and transportation costs.)

BUSH LEAGUE 2009

REQUEST FOR HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

QUALITY INN – GAYLORD, MI

August 21 & 22, 2009

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

OR

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

The cost is \$59.95 per night per two bed room plus tax.

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

PLEASE NOTE! The “special” Bush League rate for a two bed room is good thru July 21, 2009. As of July 22, 2009 regular hotel rates apply.

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

Name on Card _____

Card # _____ Expiration Date _____

Please circle: Visa Master Card Discover

Signature _____

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

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

Room Preference: Smoking _____ Non-Smoking _____



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(269)349-6428
PhoTony@aol.com



www.harmonize.com/doc/doc.htm

Gentlemen Songsters Meet:
Monday, 7:30 pm
Starr Presbyterian Church
13 Mile & Crooks Rd.
Royal Oak, MI 48301



Pioneer District Assoc. Chapters - SPEBSQSA
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Macomb, MI 48044

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

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for All Occasions*

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or e-mail: PDSing@comcast.net

CALENDAR: 2009 Events

- January 22-23 Rockin' Barbershop Camp info table in Exhibitor Hall at Michigan Music Conference in Grand Rapids
- February 27-28 Detroit-Oakland Chapter Show
- March 7 Lansing Chapter Show
- April 17-19 (Note different weekend!) District Convention Traverse City
- August 21-22 Bush League Quartet Contest and coaching, Gaylord Chapter
- August 27-29 Rockin' Barbershop Camp Interlochen Center for the Arts
- September 12 Kalamazoo Chapter Show
- October 16-18 District Convention - Kalamazoo
- October 24 Rochester Chapter Show
- November 7 Pontiac-Waterford Chapter Show

Chapter Locations

