

Pioneer Troubadour

Official Publication of the Pioneer District - Winter 2009 - Volume 60 Number 1

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

CHAMPS SOMETHING BIG!!

2008 Fall Convention Battle Creek MI

Sr Reps Resisting-A-Rest



Tenor Bruce LaMarte, lead Tom Connor, bass Phill Haines and bari Steve Warnaar

Chorus Reps Mt Pleasant



MountainTown Singers directed by David Gillingham (yes, that's also Steve Warnaar on the right)

Champs Something Big!!



Tenor Don Terpe, lead Jason Kerschke, bass T R Gerard, and bari Steve Warnaar

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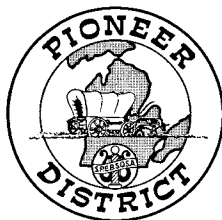
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Winter 2009 Pioneer Troubadour

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2008 Fall Convention



Raleigh Bloch Past President presents Chorus Rep award to Director David Gillingham

Chorus Competition Mt Pleasant International Reps

by Michael Baribeau
Troubadour Editor
Great Lakes Chorus Webmaster

Online Photo Album of Chorus Competition

<http://PioneerDistrict.org/Troubadour/online/2008/10/picschorus>

October 17th-19th 2008 McCamly Plaza Hotel and the WK Kellogg Auditorium Battle Creek MI.

I've often wondered about the chicken and the egg question if whether having a small

chorus can create a scoring disadvantage or if scoring disadvantages can create small choruses. But then comes along the Mount Pleasant Chapter's MountainTown Singers directed by David Gillingham with only 24 on the risers, about half their number as last year, and yet winning for the 2nd consecutive year, as Pioneer District International Chorus Representatives. They scored a 906 with an 89 point lead from the next closest chorus. They scored even higher than last year although the smaller chorus was still within the scoring range of their larger group's short 4 year history.

There was a total of 15 choruses competing including one out of district.

MountainTown Singers of Mount Pleasant Chapter County directed by David Gillingham won as 2008 Pioneer District International Chorus Representatives and Plateau 1 Champion scoring 906

Guardians of Harmony of Macomb County directed by Glen Hipple scored 817.

*Valleyaires Chorus of South Bend-Mishawaka IN competing out of District for International Preliminary's qualifying score only and scoring 809.

Gentlemen Songsters of Detroit-Oakland directed by Steve Sutherland won Pioneer District Plateau 2 Champion scoring 785.

Holland Windmill Chorus of Holland directed by Kirk Wood won Plateau 3 Champion scoring 784.

Town & Country Chorus of Hillsdale directed by Don Slamka scored 782.

Great Lakes Chorus of Grand Rapids directed by Curt Struyk scored 766.

Lakeshore Chorus of Grosse Pointe directed by Steve Pauling scored 751.

Kalamazoo Barbershop Chorus of Kalamazoo directed by David Woolf scored 718.

Cherry Capital Chorus of Traverse City directed by Marty Chirgwin scored 706.

Lighthouse Chorus of Michiana Metro directed by Gene Hanover scored 704.

Capitol City Chordsmen directed by Steve Warnaar of Lansing scored 700.

Cereal City Chorus of Battle Creek directed by Rob Halsey scored 687.

Sun Parlour Chorus of Windsor directed by Dan Bezairé Pioneer District Plateau 4 Champion scoring 659.

Renaissance Chorus of Wayne directed by Scott Casey scored 655

Mic testers were the open volunteer Joe Barbershop Chorus directed by Ed Fritzen, Singing Judge of Northeast District



Directors singing for their scores



WK Kellogg Auditorium



WK Kellogg Auditorium & large tv screens



Judges' Tables



MountainTown Singers of Mt Pleasant



Guardians of Harmony of Macomb County



**Valleyaires Chorus of
South Bend-Mishawaka IN*



Gentlemen Songsters of Detroit-Oakland



Holland Windmill Chorus of Holland



*Town & Country Chorus of Hillsdale
 photo by Anthony Dugal Photography*



*Great Lakes Chorus of Grand Rapids
 photos by Lynn Weaver*



*Lakeshore Chorus of Grosse Pointe
 photos by Karen Schaefer*



*Kalamazoo Barbershop Chorus
of Kalamazoo*



*Cherry Capital Chorus of Traverse City
photo by Anthony Dugal Photography*



Lighthouse Chorus of Michiana Metro



Capitol City Chordsmen of Lansing



Cereal City Chorus of Battle Creek



Sun Parlour Chorus of Windsor



Renaissance Chorus of Wayne



Mic testers open volunteer Joe Barbershop Chorus



Resisting-A-Rest tenor Bruce LaMarte, lead Tom Connor

Seniors Competition Resisting-A-Rest International Reps

Online Photo Album of Seniors Quartet Competition

<http://pioneerdistrict.org/troubadour/online/2008/10/picsprelim>

Winning the 2008 Pioneer District International Senior Representatives was Resisting-A-Rest of Grosse Pointe, Hillsdale, Mt. Pleasant, and Lansing Chapters with tenor Bruce LaMarte, lead Tom Connor, bari Steve Warnaar, and bass Phill Haines scoring 899 points. There was a total of 5 quartets competing in the Senior's with Resisting-A-Rest winning with a large 115 point lead. This is the 2nd year in a row this fledgling quartet will be representing Pioneer at the Senior's International, the Barbershop Harmony Society's Midwinter Convention. This Fall District Convention they beat their own last year's score by 36 point. At the BHS 2008 Midwinter Convention in San Antonio, Texas they took Silver missing 1st Place by 49 points so one has to wonder, could it be them grabbing the Gold in the 2009 Midwinter Convention in Pasadena, California January 27th - February 1st?

*A couple weeks after this competition there was this announcement by Director Contest & Judging Ron Eubank, "Please join me in congratulating the members of Showtime! They have been invited to compete in the International Seniors Quartet Competition at our upcoming midwinter convention.

Jim Johnson, Tom Weidner, Wayne Hodgson and Allan Smith will be traveling to Pasadena, CA, to compete against 24 other senior quartets at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium on Friday, January 30, 2009."

Showtime was selected by Barbershop Harmony Society wild card process to also be competing in Pasadena detailed in this notice to Showtime by BHS Music Administrative Assistant Becca Box, "Congratulations! Based on your score, you are eligible to compete as a "wild card" quartet at the International Seniors Quartet Competition. Each of our 16 districts have chosen their representative and the next nine quartets with the highest score are being invited to complete our slate of 25 quartets."

Resisting-A-Rest of Grosse Pointe, Hillsdale, Mt. Pleasant, and Lansing won as 2008 Pioneer District International Senior Representatives scoring 899

Showtime of Grand Rapids (wild card drawn for Midwinter Convention) scored 784

Four To Go of Flint, Macomb County, and Pontiac-Waterford scored 726

Happy Our of Mt. Pleasant and Traverse City scored 724

Four Decades of of Wayne scored 633

*Editor's Correction. In the Summer 2008 print edition of the Troubadour and the online unabridged version, Resisting-A-Rest was announced as having won as 2008 District Senior Quartet International Reps but was actually for the Spring Convention's District Senior Quartet Championship. However, as noted in this article they did still win as the 2008 International Reps at the Fall Convention.



Resisting-A-Rest 2008 Pioneer District International Senior Representatives



Showtime of Grand Rapids (wild card drawn for Midwinter Convention)



Four To Go of Flint, Macomb County, and Pontiac-Waterford



Happy Our of Mt. Pleasant and Traverse City



Four Decades of of Wayne

District Quartet Competition Something Big!! 2008 Champs!

2 Online Photo Albums of District Quartet
Competition Prelims and Finals

[http://pioneerdistrict.org/troubadour/
online/2008/10/picsprelim](http://pioneerdistrict.org/troubadour/online/2008/10/picsprelim)

[http://pioneerdistrict.org/troubadour/
online/2008/10/picsfinals](http://pioneerdistrict.org/troubadour/online/2008/10/picsfinals)

Fall Conventions include a quartet competition that has a special place in the hearts of quartets and audiences. Held each year, it can only be won once by a quartet, forever recognising them as District Champions. This year's 2008 Pioneer District Quartet Champion is Something Big!! of Lansing, Mt Pleasant, and Motor City Metro Chapters with tenor Don Terpe, lead Jason Kerschke, bari Steve Warnaar, and bass T R Gerard. As with previous years' close scores this competition was no exception with Something Big!! scoring 1646 points just ahead of Interstate Chord Company by 4 points. And wow were they smokin'! In fact there was an urgent investigation backstage trying to locate the smell of smoke. But there was much relief when it was determined that it was coming from a nearby neighbor burning leaves and the smell was being sucked into the auditorium ventilation system. Autumn time in Michigan. Windsor Chapter's Doran McTaggart showed why he was recently awarded the BHS 2008 International MC by entertaining the audience during those several minutes with his good nature, charming humor, and apparently endless supply of jokes.

Burning leaves weren't the only snag. The Moxi quartet had to be moved to the end of the competition lineup when all but their lead were trapped in a road construction traffic jam on i-94... backed up 2 miles before their planned detour exit.

On stage Something Big!! were presented with the District Quartet Champs trophy by the 2007 winners Chordiology who had it refurbished.

Jim Ryan, President of the District's Quartet Champions Association (QCA) announced on the PioNet newsgroup, "As is the practice

of the QCA, a member of the quartet (Something Big!!) is invited to serve on the QCA Steering Committee during their year as reigning Champions. We wish them a very exciting year. I encourage the Pioneer District Choruses to invite our new champions to Guest nights and performances as well as include them in your Annual shows."

This year's District Seniors Quartet Int' Reps and the District Quartet Champs not only have in common winning their respective competitions but that they also share the same bariton, Steve Warnaar. New to barber-shopping Steve has hit the ground running, a member of 2 quartets, interim director for the Lansing's Capitol City Chordsmen, member of the 2008 Int Chorus Reps Mt Pleasant MountTown Singers, and at this convention was inducted as a member of the QCA as are the rest of his fellow Resisting-A-Rest quartet members.

After the Friday night Prelims was the donations supported QCA Show. The chorus consisting of QCA members was directed by retired 2003 Int' Gold Medalist Power Play member Jack Slamka and by Grand Rapids Director and 2008 Int' Rep Wildcard member Curt Struyk. Performing QCA quartets were 1998 Pioneer District Champions Upstage Sound, 2003 Champs Infinity, 2007 Champs Chordiology guest starring MC Doran McTaggart from Windsor Chapter, Resisting-A-Rest 2008 Pioneer District Senior Quartet Champions, plus the 2004 Champs and 2008 International Reps Wildcard.

There were 17 quartets competing this Fall, 3 of which only competed in the International Senior Reps portion. The lineup also included the 3 unusual entry names of Iaintimology, Billchuckology, and Frankjeffology listed to compete "Friday night only for unpublished score with evaluations". This was the result of an experiment by 2007 Quartet Champs Chordiology called Contest Chordologist to encourage quartet formation and participation in competition. They posted an announcement on the PioNet newsgroup offering up to two of their members to sing with district members unable to assemble their own complete quartet. They based their learning and performance technique on the one developed by the 'extreme quartetting' of the Harmony Brigades. They all learned their music from learning tracks and scores and didn't have any real rehearsal time together until their warmup the day of competition. The participants performed admirably, enjoyed their opportunity to sing on the District competition stage, as well as

the judges were excited to be part of this novel experiment.

The Contest Chordologist experiment wasn't the first example of extreme quartetting on the Pioneer District competition stage. At the Spring 2005 Convention the Brigadeers first competed in Pioneer District. Each member was from different states and had met at Harmony Brigade Rallies. Using the music and same Harmony Brigade extreme quartetting format they worked hard on the Brigade learning tracks. They also didn't rehearse together for competition till the warmup at the District Convention. In 2005 they took 5th place and scored 1527 points. They didn't compete in Pioneer again until this Fall Convention coming in 4th place scoring 1576 points.

Competing without rehearsing with your quartet?! Extreme quartetting indeed!

Something Big!! of Lansing, Mt Pleasant, and Motor City Metro won as 2008 Pioneer District Quartet Champions with score totals from Prelim and Finals of 1646.

Interstate Chord Company of Michiana Metro, South Bend-Mishawaka IN scored 1642, missing 1st Place by only 5 points.

Moxxy of Motor City Metro scored 1624

Brigadeers of Frank Thorne, Central Carolina, Iroquois Valley, and Rocky Mountain scored 1576

Singing With Dad of Macomb County scored 1558

Showtime of Grand Rapids scored 1553

Small Town Sound of Kalamazoo won Pioneer District Novice Quartet Champion scoring 1503

Shades of Grey of Grand Rapids scored 1474

Semi-Finalists included Integrity, Border Boyz, and Four Decades.

Friday Night only unpublished scores quartets were Iaintimology, Billchuckology, and Frankjeffology.

Mic testers were the Semi-Finalist Quartet Integrity.

(Continued next pages)



Something Big!! 2008 Pioneer District Quartet Champions



Interstate Chord Company of Michiana Metro, South Bend-Mishawaka IN



Moxxy of Motor City Metro



Brigadeers of Frank Thorne, Central Carolina, Iroquois Valley, and Rocky Mountain



Singing With Dad of Macomb County



Showtime of Grand Rapids



Small Town Sound of Kalamazoo



Shades of Grey of Grand Rapids



Integrity of Hillsdale



Border Boyz of Hillsdale



Four Decades of Wayne



Judges



Iaintimology Contest Chordiology



Billchuckology Contest Chordiology



Frankjeffology Contest Chordiology



Chordiology audio software class



Pick up quartet and QCA Chorus



2007 Champs Chordiology and Doran McTaggart



1998 Champs Upstage Sound



2003 Champs Infinity



2004 Champs Wildcard

Audience Favorites by popular vote results;

Fav ten- Bruce Lamarte Resisting-A- Rest
Fav lead- TC Conner Resisting-A- Rest
Fav bari- Steve Warnaar Resisting-A- Rest
Fav bass- Phil Haines Resisting-A- Rest
Fav uptune- Good Luck Charm - Moxxy
Fav swing- Birth of the Blues - Brigadeers
Fav ballad- Something Big!! - What'll I Do
Fav outfit- Border Boyz

Chapters hosted 5 Hospitality rooms including the Detroit-Oakland Chapter and District's on the McCamly's penthouse floor

So why is it called the Fall 'Convention' and not the Fall 'Contest'? According to Chordiology's Chordiology.com blog entry, Coaching Wayne Chapter, Round Two by Paul Ellinger, "Why do I say 'convention' instead of 'contest'? Because your time on the stage

for the 'contest' only lasts 6 minutes, but your time at 'convention' lasts an entire weekend with people singing with one another, exchanging handshakes and stories, and basically having a great time reveling in camaraderie."

2009 Spring 'Convention' is in Traverse city, watch here for more information and come join the fun!



Thank You Pioneer Something BIG!!

T.R. Gerard
Something BIG!!
2008 Pioneer District Champs

Hello Pioneer!! Something BIG!! is still in orbit and may not land anytime soon. I woke up Sunday morning and looked at the desk in our hotel room and saw the trophy (beautifully refurbished thanks to Chordiology) and knew it wasn't a dream. All I can say to everyone is thank you! We owe so much too so many that I don't know where to begin.

I'll start with Chordiology. Great guys all, tons of encouragement, always positive, classy, and did I mention a great quartet? No district champ has ever done more in our district than our immediate past champs. Saturday night, they shepherded us through a maze of hospitality suites in two hotels. We never had to think of anything but singing. Chordiology declined numerous invitations to sing so they could get us to as many rooms as possible. I am proud to be able to call Paul, Cliff, Dave, and Rob friends.

I'd like to thank all our coaches and directors; Jeff Guegon, Larry Parker, Jessica Thompson,

Jeff Woodruff and the great Doc Gillingham for all they taught me. Jamie Carey and Donnie Slamka spent many many hours with us and gave us the encouragement, technique, and confidence to be better than we thought we could ever be. Al Fisk has always been a friend and coached us, even if we made him fall off the couch at Harmony Round-up a few years back on the last note of Lullaby In Ragtime. Al always handled the many requests to move us around when we were singing in multiple quartets and choruses. Thanks again Al.

Our coaching at Harmony University this year was outstanding. Joe Connelly took what we had and turned it into something bigger and better than it was. Rich Knight was especially helpful in getting us to SELL the song, EVERY time. We had a blast too.

How do you thank all the guys who sang with you both on the risers and in quartets? The Chord-agains was the first quartet I ever sang with. Reese Olger, Stan Williams, and Frank Richards took a chance on me and gave me opportunities to perform all over the Lansing Area (LA). I stole all of Stan's best jokes by the way.....both of them!

Don Horton, (yes, the infamous Don Horton) called me one September evening and said he'd been talking to Art Cardy and would I like to sing in contest with Doc Oliver and Sufficient Grounds? I said, "Don, did Artie and Doc really say they wanted to sing in contest in two weeks time?" Don assured me they had, so I was in. I later learned he used the same tactic with Art and Doc. Anyway, we competed several times, had lots of fun, and along the way, I was learning what barbershop was all about.

I was lucky enough to sing with the Lansing Chapter, Motor City Metro (Bachelorz of Harmony), and the Mountain Town Singers. I have met so many great people, stood on the risers next to some great singers and to you all, I want to say "thank you".

I want to mention the quartets we've come to know over the years and have always encouraged us. To the members of Border Crossing, Fermata Nowhere, Party of Four, Moxxy, the Patch Chords, and Resisting A Rest, I say, "thanks".

Did I tell you I sing with the best guys in the world? Seven years ago, Jason Kerschke and I would duet "The Masquerade Is Over" after chorus rehearsal when we first joined the society. We wanted to be in a quartet so bad. Believe it or not, Don Terpe used to be a bass, and a good one too. We stood next to each other in God's country (that's right, the bass section). He switched to tenor and I asked him join me in Sufficient Grounds. Steve Waarnar showed up at a guest night and joined the chorus the next week. I asked him join me in the Chord-agains after hearing how great a bari he was (and is). Something BIG!! first sang together as a quartet at a Christmas party in 2003 and felt that is was the start something big, and it was.

I am so overwhelmed with all this. This means so much to me. Thanks again to all of you. It's great to be a part of this society, and it's great to be a member of Something BIG!!





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

Int Seniors 2009 Mid- winter Con Resisting-A-Rest Wins Silver!

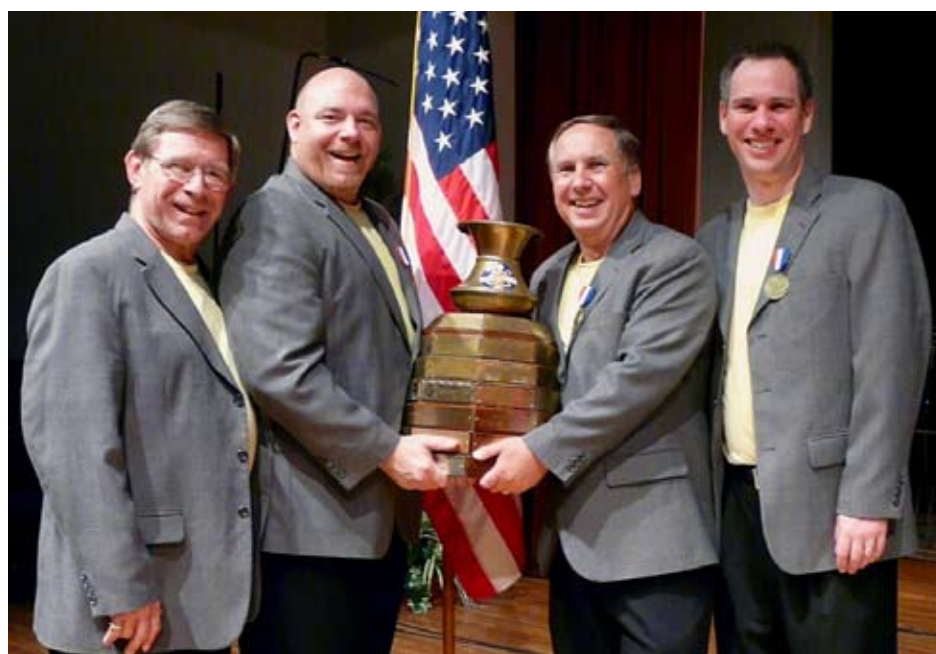
Congratulations to Pioneer District Senior Reps Resisting-A-Rest for wining Silver with

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.

Al Smith
Showtime
GreatLakesChorus.org/Showtime

Showtime had a fantastic time competing at the Midwinter Seniors International Convention as a BHS wild card 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.



David Walker, Roger Walker, Dave Anderson and Rick Anderson

2008 Bush League Champs Singing With Dad!

Erv Erickson, Chairman
Bush League 2008

On Saturday morning August 23, 2008, ten quartets took the stage at the Evangelical Free Church in Gaylord, to compete for the traveling Bush League Trophy.

Glen Hipple covered the Music category, filling in for Al Fisk. Al had to trade his place on the panel for a hospital bed following emergency surgery on Friday morning.

Ken Fisher covered the Singing category, Roger Lewis covered the Presentation category and Ron Eubank was the Contest Administrator. Jim Ryan was also on board as a judge candidate for the position of Contest Administrator.

By tradition, the top three scoring quartets from the morning competition are asked to sing on the evening Show. For the first time in Bush League history, three quartets tied for the third position. Accordingly, five quartets sang on the evening Show and were well received by the Gaylord audience. The three quartets in alpha order were: "Northbound Sound", "Havin' A Blast" and "The No Rehearsal Band".

Second place went to the "Border Boyz".

As stated above, "Singing With Dad's", David Walker, Roger Walker, Rick Anderson and Dave Anderson, walked away with the traveling Trophy. The Trophy, shown with the quartet in the picture above, was presented to the winners by "Showtime", the Bush League 2007 Champs.

The judges changed hats at lunchtime and came back as coaches. They were joined by Tom Conner, Phil Haines, Bruce LaMarte and Steve Warnaar, the "Resisting A Rest" quartet, for an afternoon of coaching the ten competing quartets.

The Evangelical Free Church proved again to be an excellent facility for the contest, coaching sessions and the evening "Reflections on the Water" show.

In light of the positive comments we received from the judges, coaches and quartets, the Bush League Committee is looking forward to hosting Bush League 2009. Watch the Pioneer Calendar. Due to scheduling change at the Church, we may be able to move back to early September for this event.

Think "BUSH LEAGUE 2009"!!



PIO Spring Convention Traverse City April 17-19

by Ron Eubank
Director Contest & Judging
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Contest Administrator
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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.

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 de-

positing 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"



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 BAR-

BERSHOP 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!

COTS Chapter Officer Training School

January 3-4, 2009



Faculty photo by Paul Howe



Swearing in of Officers photo by Paul Howe



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



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



"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



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: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ E-mail: _____

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

Evening Phone: () _____ - _____

1-Bed _____ 2-Beds _____

Preference for Smoking _____ Non-Smoking _____

Please indicate if you are physically challenged or need special requirements:

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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2623 Russet Drive
Kalamazoo, MI USA 49008
(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
46210 Copper Lock Ln.
Macomb, MI 48044

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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



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for All Occasions*

Singing With Dad

Contract Dave (Rick's dad) at (586) 286-4860
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

