

TROUBADOUR

As many of you know, the District has been without a VP for Public Relations and Marketing ever since **Paul Ellinger** switched to Membership last year. I am pleased to announce that **James O'Dell** has agreed to fill that role for us, effectively immediately. Please join me in welcoming James to this exciting new role with the Pioneer District. (James is also the Lead of META-4, 4th place finishers at the last District contest and a member of Huron Valley.)

As you also know, in the past year a lot of Pioneer Barbershoppers have become supporters of the Harmony Foundation by becoming members of the Ambassador of Song program, making a monthly donation to help fund youth programs. The Harmony Foundation greatly appreciates the increased support from our District, and they have put those funds to good use.

The annual Youth Chorus Festival at the Mid-Winter Convention continues to grow, and it could not happen without the financial support that the Foundation provides. The Harmony Foundation is always looking for new sponsors of the event, and in the past couple years, districts from around the Society have stepped up to join the list of sponsors. At the Spring Convention in Battle Creek, the Pioneer Board of Directors voted to add Pioneer's name to the list of sponsors. This requires a financial contribution of at least \$10,000. Knowing the importance of this program, we hope that all Pioneer chapters will help us reach that goal.

We are asking that all chapters do what they can to help us reach our goal of \$10,000. With that in mind, at the House of Delegates meeting at the Fall Convention in October, we would like to have a Parade of Checks, where each chapter presents its contribution.

I hope that all of our chapters will participate, and help us become sponsors of the Youth Chorus Festival. The 2013 Festival in Orlando promises to be the biggest yet, with estimates running as high as thirty participating choruses. It will take a huge financial commitment from the Harmony Foundation. This is our chance to help make that happen.

Here in Pioneer there are a number of big events coming up in the next month, including the annual Grand Rapids Corn Roast, and Roger Lewis' BBBB. These informal events are a great way to stay in touch with your Barbershop brothers and I hope to see many of you at one of them.

I have managed to visit quite a few chapters in the past year, and plan to continue that in the next few months. If you have something special going on at one of your chapter meetings, please let me know. I want to make the most of these visits.

Finally, Operation Harold Hill is picking up steam throughout the BHS as a great way to grow your chapter. Supercharging Your Chapter, developed by our own Paul Ellinger, is becoming the key piece of that OHH. I know that many of you have already attended a SYC event, and that there are several more events scheduled through the District in the coming months. I hope that, by the time we meet in Battle Creek on October, all of our chapters will have had representatives who have seen an SYC presentation.

Doug Weaver

President, Pioneer District

If you want to "Keep the Whole World Singing," it's time to let the world know!

TROUBADOUR

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PIONEER DISTRICT INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONS

CHORUS CHAMPIONS
 1953 GREAT LAKES CHORUS (GRAND RAPIDS)



QUARTET CHAMPIONS

1944 HARMONY HALLS 1966 AUTO TOWNERS: 1971 GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT: 2003 POWER PLAY

TROUBADOUR PUBLISHING INFORMATION

The *Troubadour* is a quarterly publication by the authority of the Pioneer District Association of Chapters of the Barbershop Harmony Society. All articles and photos not by-lined are by the editor (or are unknown/anonymous) and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of members or officers of the District. Space will be made available for opposing views relevant to any issue. Nothing will be published that is in violation of the Society's Code of Ethics.

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DISTRICT OFFICERS' CORNER

Competitors and Convention Registration

by Ron Eubank, Director of Contest and Judging

In this issue of *Troubadour*, I'd like to emphasize a problem that was just discussed at Portland – non-registration of competitors. Registering your group for conventions ahead of time can save you from being really hurt.

During International Prelims this spring there were problems in two districts (not ours) with competitors not being registered. Results were changed and all reports revised when the violations were discovered after the convention weekend.

The rules are clearly stated:

I.A.7. Each quartet member shall hold a registration for the convention at which the contest is held.

I.B.8. Each and every member of a competing chorus, including the director, shall hold a registration for the convention at which the contest is held.

Part of the documentation I receive when quartets enter the contest is whether their Society dues are paid up. If not, and the problem doesn't clear up as convention weekend approaches, I contact the group and remind them all dues must be paid to compete.

Choruses are different because there is not a definitive file of who will be on the risers come contest time.

Convention registration is much harder to check, and this leads to discovering a problem after the contest is over. One of the ways we try to check ahead is to demand groups show their registration badge before going on stage. I'm not sure the backstage crew and helpers always check completely and they probably shouldn't be in the policing business anyway. They are there for a different purpose.

So the best way to handle all this is to get your group (chorus or quartet) registered for the convention weekend ahead of time. We produce a file of those registered and we'll do the checking ahead as much as possible.

By the way, you could pay for your DVD when you register your group and then everything is taken care of before the weekend even starts. If you don't compete you can always get a refund. This is easiest for everybody.

Harmony Foundation

by Brian Dunckel, Immediate Past President
Director of Financial Development
Harmony Foundation Regional Representative

Members of the Pioneer District

As most of you know, last year, each chapter in the District was visited by a Board

member and was also given a brief Harmony Foundation presentation. The response was typical of Pioneer - we leaped from almost 3% of our members contributing to the Foundation, to over 13%! Prior to that, we were on the bottom of the list of contributors. The thrust of those presentations was to enroll members in the Ambassadors of Song program, a program where Society members can be involved and recognized for their contributions to our charitable arm, at a pretty modest level of only \$10 per month. I'm sure we can all think of some pretty painless ways to find that \$10 per month to help preserve the future of our beloved Society! A couple fewer beverages at Starbucks, brown bagging it for lunch a time or two a month, now that warm weather is here, hand washing your car at home rather than going to the carwash, are just a few obvious ones that pop into my mind. You can no doubt find some that will work for you.

Those of you who were at the Spring Convention had the opportunity to see just how some of those donations made a difference in the lives of young men who participated in the NO BORDERS YOUTH CHORUS that performed at Carnegie Hall last December. You may also view the video at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Ii4KKFoS9g> Of particular interest are the comments from the participants that come in the last minute of the video - if those don't inspire you to do more for our Society, I don't know what will!

Our contributions to the Harmony Foundation enable EVERY Youth Chorus Festival participant at our Mid-Winter Convention to receive a scholarship, which covers their registration, housing and some meals. Closer to home our contributions also helped fund the Got Harmony Youth Day Camp in the Flint area, the Mt Pleasant Harmony Explosion Camp, and also returned thousands of dollars to the District and our chapters through the Donor's Choice Program. If you select this option, up to 30% of your contribution to the HF can be returned to the district and/or the chapters of your choice.

If you were among those who began giving to our charitable mission as barbershoppers last year, I thank you, but more importantly, I urge you to renew your pledge or even consider increasing your contribution, TO OUR FUTURE, the Harmony Foundation in 2012!

The Ambassadors of Song program is the "entry level" program the Society has for giving. There are several other levels of giving as well- if one of those is within your ability to give, I certainly urge you to do so. You will find no doubt, like my wife and I have, that it is SO REWARDING!

I urge you to drop me a line if you are interested in information about those other programs, or call our Harmony Foundation Director of Development, **Sean Devine** at 866-706-8021 extension 3048. You can, of course, also do those things online at <http://www.harmonyfoundation.org>

On behalf of the THOUSANDS of young people who cannot speak to you for themselves, thank you!

2012 International Convention

Thank You From Our Portland Competitors

Thanks from Ebb N' Flow

by Craig Johnson

EBB N' FLOW would like to thank all *Troubadour* readers (and everyone else!) for their tremendous support of our quartet over the last several months. Our trip to Portland was exciting from the very beginning, as we prepared for months leading up to the Collegiate and Quarterfinals contests. We had an action-packed June, starting off in Windsor, Ontario, heading to Flint for a harmony camp, and finishing out with coaching sessions in Ohio.

A special thanks goes to those closest to us, who didn't see us much in the month of June. Even more thanks go out to our families and friends who watched our performances from Portland in person, and for those who watched (or listened) to us via the webcast. Without their support and level-headedness in the weeks leading up to international, we would have been nervous wrecks before going on stage. It took a huge financial investment for our families and friends to share their support while we were out West, and we are blessed that they had the opportunity to make it all happen.



Once in Portland, we were able to have **T.R. Gerard** in the warm-up room before the Collegiate contest. Having him pumping us up was one of many reasons we propelled to a tenth place finish. Although our scores were lower than the Spring, the thrill of being on the International stage, and having jumped nine places in ranking from the previous year, was enough not to be discouraged after Tuesday night. Wednesday was a long day, as we were able to gawk at some of the top competing quartets in the morning, relax, then get ready for our evening set. Admittedly not as jubilant in the warm-up room, we were still able to sing well and score two points higher than we did on Tuesday night.

From that point forward, we were able to sightsee, mix, and mingle, and just enjoy the rest of the week filled with singing and camaraderie. This led us all the way to Saturday night, where we were fortunate enough to have THROWBACK (Sean Devine's new quartet!) warm up the stage for us at the Chorditorium in the Hilton Hotel! We were thrilled to sing one last time in Portland, and for a very appreciative barber-shop crowd. A great round of thank you's go out to the GREAT LAKES CHORUS. They were unbelievably supportive of us before Portland, and their genuine congratulations throughout the week really kept our energy levels up. Thank you, to all of you! These guys were a tremendous representative for us in Portland.

As for the future, we have a pretty relaxed schedule leading up to the Fall. Garrett and Ben will start graduate school at Michigan State, Craig will start his final semester at

Central Michigan, and Nate will (hopefully) move into his own classroom for the first time! Our CD is finalized and merely needs to be put to the copier, so we will keep you all posted on that. We have performances lined up in the Lansing area (LCC radio and Harmony Boot Camp) to finish out July, and a busy October with back-to-back-to-back weekends in Windsor, Battle Creek and Mount Pleasant. Make sure you "Like" us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/enfquartet) or follow us on Twitter (www.twitter.com/ebbnflowquartet), as you'll be able to get more instant updates as they come along.

One final round of thanks goes to those individual persons and chapters who helped us financially in our journey. Without your financial support, the week would have been 100% not possible. Our sincerest thank you's go out to all of you for making this dream of ours a reality. We are so proud to be part of this wonderful Pioneer District. Thank you so much for these great opportunities. We hope you've enjoyed watching and listening as much as we have enjoyed performing.

Nate, Garrett, Ben and Craig

Thanks from Great Lakes Chorus

by Doug Weaver

The Grand Rapids chapter had an incredible experience in Portland, and we want to thank the Pioneer District, and especially the Windsor chapter, for all of the support we received leading up to the convention.



We requested to sing first, mainly because many of our guys had never been to an International, let alone compete, so we felt that we wanted to have the opportunity to see all the rest of the choruses. As a result, we were able to see all the medal winning choruses. The gold medal was won by the AMBASSADORS OF HARMONY, with an incredible set. Their ballad was a **David Wright** arrangement of a classical Chopin piece called "No Other Love," and their uptune was an amazing song called "Step in Time." If you haven't seen these, check YouTube. Incredible performances.

The GREAT LAKES CHORUS, led by director **Aaron Bouwman**, went on stage with 34 singers. Among them were **John Bloomquist**, who now resides in Arizona and sings with the SPIRIT OF PHOENIX, and Pioneer's own Paul Ellinger. Also on the risers for his 14th International competition was **Jack Schneider**, who joined the GLC in 1954.

For many of us, this convention was a dream come true. We would have liked to score a little higher, but we were pleased with the response from the audience. For all the work that leads up to the competition, it is amazing how quickly the time on stage goes. Worth all the effort? Oh, yes.

The VoiceMales

by Ryan Collins

THE VOICEMALES did not qualify for the Collegiate Quartet competition. “The last day of competition was good enough to knock us out of the running. We wish EBB N’ FLOW the best of luck in Portland! We know they will do us proud!

Thank you all for your support. We had fun while it all lasted!

Dylan, Ryan, Derek, and Hondo



THE VOICEMALES—Dylan Broome (Br) Ryan Collins (L) Derek Herman (Bs) Hondo Cervantes (T)

PRE-CONVENTION INTERVIEW WITH EBB N’ FLOW

June 15, 2012

John Cowlshaw interviewed **Craig Johnson**, Bass of EBB N’ FLOW, by cell phone, as he drove home to Lake City to spend some time with his family. Note: This interview was pre-published in the Pontiac-Waterford *Smoke Signals*, July 1, 2012.

Troub: You guys are so talented, you could be singing any genre. What’s so special about Barbershop?

Craig: Garrett and I grew up with barbershop, so we were bitten from a very young age. Nate and Ben are both vocal performance majors. So they have a very good choral background. The combination makes barbershop an intriguing style for us.

T: What are your majors?

C: Garrett just graduated with a major in music composition, and he will be going to Michigan State to pursue that in graduate studies. My major is communication with hopes to go to graduate school in university or college administration. Ben’s was voice performance and Nate’s was both voice and percussion for education. Nate is subbing in Grand Rapids right now and looking for a permanent job. Ben will attend law school at Michigan State in the fall.

T: How did the quartet form? Did you replace **Dave Bechard**?

C: Yes, Dave left for South Dakota with his new wife for new jobs in late August, a very whirlwind move for both them and the quartet. But because I was close friends with Dave, I had subbed for him in EBB N’ FLOW when he was doing student-teaching outside Mt Pleasant. Garrett and I had known each other from the MOUNTAIN-TOWN SINGERS, and so it was an easy transition. But Ben was not the original baritone either; the original wasn’t as committed to the quartet, and so when Garrett and Dave heard Ben in an opera, it was a natural time to bring him in. They sang a couple tags, and Ben was hooked.

T: Where did the name EBB N' FLOW come from?

C: Finding a name can be harder than finding three other guys. But that happened before my time. You'll have to ask Garrett. [Garrett: During a coaching visit by **Mike Slamka**, he used the phrase "ebb n' flow" to describe singing smoothly, and Dave and I just looked at each other and smiled; it felt right.]

T: You're the first Pioneer quartet to meet the minimum score of 76 since POWER PLAY. Why do you think it's been so hard for our district quartets to do that?

C: That's a really good question. I think, honestly, a lot of it has to do with longevity. If you look back over the last decade, there aren't a lot of the district champions still singing together. POWER PLAY was together for 15 years. Also, they set the bar so high, that if quartets weren't performing to that level, that might have led to a lot of the disbanding. I don't think there's one specific thing. I know that a lot of the reason for our success is just singing together and really having that desire, not only to get better, not just with score three times a year, but also performing and just spreading the word about barbershop. I think that has gotten lost a little bit. Quartets can come out to competition, but are they singing at schools, are they singing at nursing homes, are they singing on shows, and being that quartet that the rest of the district can get on board with?

T: Pioneer district is smaller, too. We're comparing ourselves with districts with many more choruses and quartets.

C: Oh absolutely. My dad sang with the Cadillac INTERLAKES CHORUS, but that chapter, Boyne City, and some others don't exist any more. There's not a lot of barbershop in Michigan now.

T: Where do you get your arrangements?

C: We've picked up a lot from other quartets. Our big quartet idol is O C TIMES; we sing a lot of their arrangements. And we picked up a RINGMASTERS tune, cuz they're right in our range and sing some really cool arrangements. Garrett has arranged a couple different songs that we have sung or are working on.

T: Do you guys use learning tracks?

C: Yes, since a lot of our songs have been recorded, we just go off that. For songs with no available tracks, Garrett puts them into Finale for us.

T: In Portland you're going to be competing twice, rather early in the College quartet competition Tuesday [9:08 EDT], and fairly late in the open competition the next day. Is that an advantage?

C: It really depends. We're all very comfortable with where our spot [in the College contest] is. Heading into that contest, there aren't a lot of quartets with scores above us that sing before us. So we kind of see it as our chance to do well. In the Fall District contest, we sang first. It'll be nice not to have to lead off the whole thing. We're excited to sing where we're at.

T: What are your song choices for Portland?

C: For the College contest, we're going to sing "I Can't Give You Anything But Love," a RINGMASTERS arrangement. Our second song is "Love Me," an old Elvis tune.

T: Same two at International?

C: That remains to be decided. We've had to list six songs for the International contest, but we really haven't discussed it much as a group, what we want to sing on Wednesday, but that's because the Tuesday contest is really important to us. Really we just want to show well, because we're within distance of maybe bringing back a medal. And not necessarily, (laughing) on Wednesday. We'd need about ten more points.

T: In Fall, 2010, the quartet scored 70.3, and this Spring, 76.4. What are the reasons for the improvement?

C: I think a lot of it has to do with just singing together and really listening to the people that we idolize a lot. One thing that Garrett has said is that when he heard PRESTIGE sing, in person, seven feet away from them, at MountainTown Harmony Explosion Camp two years ago, he really got it, that it's not about singing loud, not overdoing it, but being comfortable in your range and just trying to match and blend as much as possible. For Garrett, PRESTIGE really changed the way that he looks at manufacturing quartets. I was in a couple earlier quartets that didn't do well in College District contests. For me, it's that drive to constantly do better. I know that we've gotten a lot of help and support from our chapter and the District. So when we scored the way we did in the Fall, we knew that we could strive to be even better. A constant desire to get more coaching, more people listening to us. All of that has contributed to our getting better.

T: A different sort of question. Is each of you singing his natural voice part? Or do any of you dream of trying out another voice part?

C: That's another interesting question. Paul Ellinger approached us about doing "Ology" quartets in the Fall. So the other three have all signed up. But each in a different part. Ben our Baritone wants to sing Bass, Garrett our Lead wants to sing Tenor, and Nate our Tenor wants to sing Lead. I'm comfortable in the Bass range. I don't think I could sing Lead or Baritone, but I have sung Tenor in a couple pickup quartets. So we're all pretty flexible, actually, as far as our parts are concerned.

T: You were at HOBY (Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership) summer camp at Northwood University this month, another example of your commitment to educating youth. What was that like?

C: I was on a panel of five, I talked about my college experience, encouraging students to get involved in what they're passionate about, but at the same time being comfortable to explore other options. It was more about preparing these high school sophomores for the college experience than about my quartet experience. But we also sang a few songs.

T: Will it be THE GROWLERS or EBB N' FLOW that returns to Bush League?

C: (Laughing) That's a really good question. We've talked about different quartet things

to do, and the other guys really want to sing other voice parts. But that's a ways down the road.

T: You sang at International last year in Kansas City.

C: I think we scored in the high 60s, and were, I think, about 19th out of 21.

T: How does the quartet make decisions, for example, when offered a gig?

C: The first thing is availability. We've had to turn down a couple gigs, cuz we're at a point in our lives where a lot of our friends are getting married or having kids. Quick text or phone call. The next thing is money. We're in different parts of the state, and Nate is just doing substitute teaching.

T: But the time is going to come in the near future when you're going to get more offers than you can handle.

C: Yah, that would be kind of a cool thing. Honestly, if the time is right, and it's worth our trip, whether it's just a service learning thing, or performing for a chapter show, we're going to try our best to go to places. We love singing, we love spreading the word, and we love performing for big and small barbershop crowds and non-barbershop crowds. Really any offer, we really truly consider, cuz we're just in love with the style, and with the message that comes along with it.

T: You were in Bowling Green, Ohio, last week for coaching?

C: Yes, it was kind of a long (five-day) weekend. We were in Windsor Friday for the Send-Off show. Then we were home for a day Saturday. Then we went to Ohio on Sunday. Finished our CD on Tuesday. And then we had a performance at Canadian Lakes on Wednesday.

T: Wow! Who was your coach in Bowling Green?

C: A professor at Bowling Green University named **Doug Wayland**. Three of the four PRESTIGE guys are voice majors, and he is their professor. They recommended him. We met with him before Spring contest, and he really opened us up, so that we're really singing so much better.

T: What are you working on now? What do you see as your limitations, your challenges?

C: We are just really trying hard to compete for a medal in Portland. So we've been working our butts off since Spring contest. We had scored 73.4 in the Fall, so we were thinking anywhere between a 74 and a 75 would be just awesome, awesome. And then suddenly we qualify on score. That was really an eye-opening thing. Like, the blood, sweat and tears that we had put in over six months had really made a difference. So I think we have developed the attitude that if we can score the same or even a tenth of a point better, we're going to be content with that. As long as we're improving, and we can see, score-wise, that we're improving, that's awesome. We recognize that this is our last College contest. And we really want to bring something back to the District. Because the District hasn't seen it since POWER PLAY. And RESISTING-A-REST, at Midwinter. This is our chance to make an impact and bring something back to the District.

T: Why your last College contest?

C: College is a broad term; the actual rule is based on age – 15 to 25. Garrett and Nate will both be turning 25 before next International. This is it, as far as the College contest goes.

T: One last question: what are your rehearsals like?

C: During the school year, before things got so busy, and because only three of us were in Mt. Pleasant, the three of us would trio, twice or three times a week, maybe an hour at a time. That really helped us to develop that sound, that solid foundation, with those bottom three parts. Now is a funky time. We just performed five times in the last week. We really haven't had a "practice" in a long time.

T: When you DO have a practice, how do you warm up? Vowel matching? And so forth?

C: It's not very long, but we start with vowel matching thru the scale, locking each chord, then go thru a chord progression, and finish with a tag, or two or three. And then go into our songs.

T: Well, your families must be very proud. Will they be able to be in Portland?

C: Yes, most of them are. Whoever can't be, that's the beauty of the webcast. They've been super-supportive of us.

T: Well thank you SO much. You've been so open and communicative. And it sure is true that everybody in Pioneer District is supportive of you and love you no matter how it turns out, but we're hopeful for the College Quartet contest!

Portland International Convention Pioneer District at Portland

Collegiate Competition

EBB N' FLOW came in 10th out of 19 July 3 with a score of 73.1. Although not what they had hoped, they showed they are a class act by posting on their Facebook site: "Can't complain about tying for tenth place at international. Nine places better than last year...and we're singing tomorrow!!!"

Quartet Competition

Perhaps with some pressure off, EBB N' FLOW came roaring back ... with a 75.9 in the International Quartet quarterfinals, with the same two songs scoring significantly higher than the previous day.

Quarterfinal results for other quartets that we saw at Kalamazoo in April:

INSTANT CLASSIC 80.1

CHAMELEON 77.7

UP ALL NIGHT 76.4

ANTHEM 74.5

None reached the semifinals which required a score above 80.4.

Chorus Competition

Grand Rapids GREAT LAKES CHORUS sang well, scored 72.6, and placed 27th of 28. In their last appearance at International in 2001, they scored 73.6.

Winning chorus was AMBASSADORS OF HARMONY from St Charles MO, at 96.8. They won handily, and also had the most men on stage – 145.

The Portland results and score sheets are available at:

<http://www.barbershop.org/portland-international-main.html>

In general comments about the convention were favorable. The competition was excellent. Results were posted very quickly. Webcast had some problems early on with accessibility, but the audio and video were fine. One complaint voiced on the Harmonet from **Helen Giallombardo**: “Dare I say that Portland is a HORRIBLE airline market? Even from Chicago, the airfares were pushing \$500 for nonstops. One of the smart things we could do as organizations is to figure out the best airline markets for people being able to afford to attend (or at least "driveability")?!”

Chuck Murray, an eagle-eyed barbershopper, noted Mike Slamka, former co-director of Macomb County Chorus, and Lead of CROSSROADS, singing Lead with the AMBASSADORS OF HARMONY. “Also, did you see the relatively young **Aaron Pollard**, son of Craig, also singing with the Ambassadors? He also sang in DOMINANT PREP, the Bronze medalist college quartet.”

BHS Quartet Finals WebCast Party, July 7

Ten Big Chiefs from Pontiac-Waterford gathered at **Jeff Doig’s** home for the BHS Quartet Finals from Portland, Saturday night – Johnson, Holm, McFadyen, Frye, Perry, Doig, Lynn, W. Oberstadt, DeNio, and Cowlshaw. The audio and visual on Jeff’s large-screen TV were excellent, though there were occasional streaming issues.



WebCast party at Jeff Doig’s home.

After some long-winded pre-contest formalities that ran from 9:00 to 10:40, the competition finally got started.

WHEELHOUSE led off as the Mic-Testers, a great start, maybe a little weak in their Lead. MUSICAL ISLAND BOYS from New Zealand sang two rather odd songs, but sang them well. After A MIGHTY WIND there followed RINGMASTERS and FOREFRONT. We would have picked either of those two for Gold. (Of course, that was based on Saturday’s score alone in which FOREFRONT sang a very fine 88.4 %.)

The remaining quartets - MASTERPIECE, MEN IN BLACK, TNS, MAIN STREET, THROWBACK, and VIA VOICE - all sounded about equal to our ears.

Our new Gold Medal quartet is RINGMASTERS. This young foursome is our first winner from Sweden. They sang wonderfully, a little kooky, lots of creative energy. Listen to them sing "Love Me and the World is Mine" from their post-competition awards ceremony performance Saturday night at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r02Ind3cw7E> and you will be proud to honor them as our new Gold Medalists. There is also a great five-minute story on RINGMASTERS on PRI (Public Radio International) posted at <http://www.theworld.org/2012/07/ringmasters/> with lots of audio clips, the story of their first contact with barbershop (it was a quartet on *The Simpsons*), their history in the last six years, and their appreciation for the barbershop culture.

The other medalists were:

- (2) MUSICAL ISLAND BOYS
- (3) A MIGHTY WIND (Hmm, were they really blending well enough?)
- (4) MASTERPIECE (with Gotcha!'s Bari, **Alan Gordon**, standing a step behind the other three, and between the Bass and Lead – odd configuration)
- (5) MAIN STREET – with the irrepressible **Tony De Rosa** on Lead.

A new quartet, THROWBACK, with Sean Devine from OC TIMES at Lead, finished 6th.

The green room chatter, with **Brian Philbin**, **Debbie Connolly**, and **Bob Hartley** was about as silly as ever.

This year's Chorus champs, AMBASSADORS OF HARMONY, sang two songs wonderfully – "No Other Love," sung straight, and "Step in Time," which was accompanied by a lot of gymnastic maneuvering, including apparent flips by **Fred Farrell**, the older and gravitationally-challenged tenor of CROSSROADS.

Last year's Gold medalist quartet, OLD SCHOOL, sang three songs, as smooth as glass, continuing their tradition of honoring historic Barbershop quartets.

We closed up shop at 1:00 am. Thanks to the chapter for picking up the \$45 tab.

Reports - Chapters and Quartets

Bidin' Our Time

(aka NATURAL E)

Had a fun gig May 4 for fifty ladies at the Royal Park Hotel in Rochester. It was an 80th birthday party. **Freddie McFadyen**

re-wrote the lyrics of **Joe Liles'** round, "When the Saints Come Marchin' In." **Roger Holm** entered, singing the bass line as "Cake is coming, cake is coming," then **Dick**



Johnson added the Bari line, Freddie the Tenor line, and finally **Mike Frye** arrived, adding the Lead melody and carrying the cake.

D.O.C. Gentlemen Songsters

by John Cowlshaw

D.O.C. held its annual picnic July 16 at Boulan Park in Troy. The 90-degree temperature did not prevent about sixty people from joining together for brats and hamburgers, baked beans, and many salads and deserts.

‘Shoppers and their spouses, kids, and friends were present from host D.O.C. and their guest chapters – Pontiac-Waterford, Grosse Pointe, Huron Valley, and Macomb.



The GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS sing at the picnic.

The one “organized” quartet present was BIDIN’ OUR TIME, which sang their signature song plus “That Old Gang of Mine.” Another five quartets and one octet presented their numbers. The ten BIG CHIEF choristers sang “Saints Come Marchin” and “Cabaret.” The twenty-five GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS sang their “Take Me Out to the Ballgame” medley, and “Silhouettes.”

A highlight of the evening was an enthusiastic thank you from a young baseball team whose game had been opened with BIDIN’ OUR TIME singing “Take Me Out to the Ball Game.”

The evening concluded with MC **Dave Montera** leading the attendees in “Keep the Whole World Singing.”

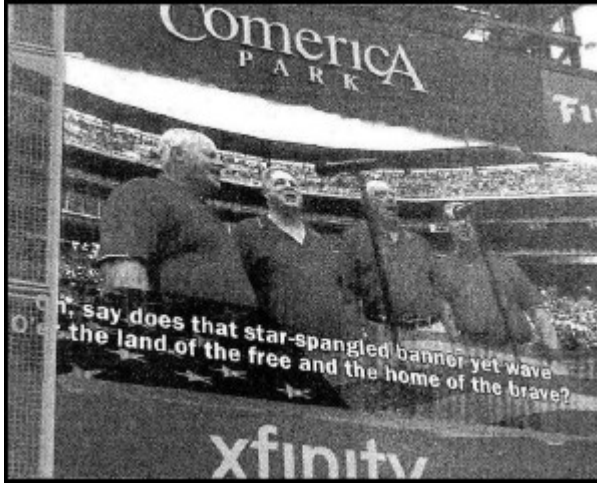


Ball team thanking BIDIN’ OUR TIME

Other photos are at <http://tinyurl.com/6u2fv67> which requires free Snapfish registration, or <http://detroitoakland.org/happenings/happenings.htm> directly.

Forum Shoppers

District all-attorney barbershop quartet, THE FORUM SHOPPERS, sang the National Anthem at the July 5 Tigers game with the Minnesota twins at Comerica Park.



Pictured on the scoreboard projector are (L-R) Euel Kinsey of McKeen and Associates; David Montera of David J. Montera PC; William Giovan of Charfoos, Giovan and Birach; and attorney Ray Sturdy.

Grand Rapids Great Lakes Chorus

by Doug Weaver

On Saturday, May 12, the Grand Rapids chapter presented its annual Great Lakes Invitational shows in the beautiful East Grand Rapids Performing Arts Center. The theme of the show was “A Century of Music,” and the chorus sang songs ranging from “Take Me Out to the Ballgame” to **Billy Joel’s** “For the Longest Time.”

Chapter quartets SHADES OF GREY and SHOWTIME also took part, as did FOUR SHORE, a high school quartet from Mona Shores High School in Muskegon.

The featured quartet was perennial Pioneer favorite, the FOUR MAN FISHIN’ TACKLE CHOIR, and they were a big hit, as always. The evening show even gave the audience a chance to see the FMFTC’s new bass, as **Neil Nugent** will be spending more time in sunnier climes during the winter. **Don Slamka**, tenor of POWER PLAY, will be filling in for Neil, and he sang a few songs with the quartet that night. For a couple numbers the quartet became a quintet, as both Neil and Don were on stage at the same time.

The GREAT LAKES CHORUS is proud that its GLI is one of the longest running annual shows in the Pioneer District, and look forward to many more.

Photos of their May 12 “Century of Music” show are at <http://greatlakeschorus.org/pics/2012/120512glcgli/phpshow.php?newGD&slides&o>

Photos on their Facebook site include about 200 of their experience in Portland at the Convention. <http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.299623783470098.63394.205699112862566&type=1>

Their recording of the National Anthem is at <http://greatlakeschorus.org/audio/starspangledbanner2012glc.mp3>

Great Lakes Harmony Brigade

by Tom Blackstone

Chuck Murray, **Ray Sturdy**, **Charlie Perry** and I were the Pontiac-Waterford BIG CHIEF members who attended the 3rd Annual GREAT LAKES HARMONY BRIGADE this June 1 weekend in Okemos, MI.



It is the 2nd time for Charlie and the 3rd time for Chuck, Ray and myself, who were awarded Certificates as Charter Members. We had about some 90 attendees with many coming from out of state (MD, TX, IA, FL, OK, MN, WV, IN, IL, OH, PA, AZ to name a few; Brigade is truly a multi-state event. Even Canada was very well represented. Our Show performance Saturday night included all 90 on the risers and the sound was awesome. Later we were treated to performances by ANTHEM and RESISTING A REST as our guest quartets for the evening, and that truly was a treat. Even META-4 was on deck to perform their trademark Eagles song, "Seven Bridges Road". (All 4 members were Brigade attendees this year.) Chuck, Ray and Tom are committed to attending the Indiana Brigade in November. Since seven of the eleven songs we already know from this GLHB program, we have five months to learn four more songs. This overlap feature on all Brigades is one reason why many Brigadiers choose to attend three, four, or five Brigades a year. Very little work after the first one.

by William Stutts, Jr

June 1-2 was the GREAT LAKES HARMONY BRIGADE in Okemos, MI. The Brigade got out of the gate with having 30-40 guys singing for two high school choir classes and four senior community centers. The singouts were headed by Huron Valley's assistant director, **William Stutts, Jr.** Also participating from Huron Valley were **Paul Teska, Jim Windak, Tim Johnson, and Greg Humbel.** After that everyone came back to the rally hotel to quartet in as many combinations as possible in preparation for the quartet contest. About 28 quartets were formed and it was a fun evening. Paul Teska and Tim Johnson made the Top Ten for the Saturday night competition and William Stutts Jr was asked to fill in on baritone for Paul Teska's Top Ten quartet since the original baritone had to leave.

The Saturday night show was great. Eighty-five guys on the risers singing eleven wonderful songs with a big sound. William Stutts, Jr directed three of the songs "Blue Velvet," "A Fool Such as I," and "Moonlight Brings Memories." After the chorus performed, it was time for the quartets. There were three step-out quartets formed by the

guys in the Brigade. HVH's William Stutts Jr. sang baritone on "Chances Are" in the second quartet and his quartet, META-4, did a rollicking rendition of "Seven Bridges Road."

Then came the wonderful performances by the featured quartets, RESISTING-A-REST and ANTHEM. They brought the house down with some great singing.

The Top Ten contest did yield some hardware for the Huron Valley chapter. Paul Teska and William Stutts Jr both received a (Bronze) 3rd place finish in the quartet contest. Way to go! Also, William Stutts Jr was awarded a very special award at GLHB. He received "The Guy We Came to Sing With" award.

Once everything was done, there was pizza and more singing until you couldn't sing anymore!!!

Put Brigade on your Bucket list

by Greg Humbel

I had the pleasure of hearing the GREAT LAKES HARMONY BRIGADE concert last summer but was always too busy with job and then chorus administration and district projects to actually sing in it. I decided late last year that quarteting was a personal goal for 2012. Brigade was the Answer.

Learning eleven songs cold in five months and singing them in a quartet was an experience I will cherish forever. Going into the weekend, the fear of the unknown bothered me. That lasted about an hour and then I was having a blast.

The audience was the other 86 prepared guys waiting to follow you on stage. Talk about peer pressure, a training ground for quarteting and the possibility of finding guys that could make up my new quartet.

The Saturday evening show allowed us to have the experience in a chorus setting. Think about it 90 guys you have never sung with before, practice for an hour and a half, and put on a show that would knock your socks off. I caught myself getting emotional because my chorus could do this too with a certain amount of commitment. It is really not that difficult, you just have to practice daily, at work, in your car and whenever you can.

Want to push yourself? Here you go!

Photos: About a hundred photos from this year's GREAT LAKES HARMONY BRIGADE are now online at the GLHB Facebook. <http://tinyurl.com/7xp868o>

by Ray Sturdy

So far at least three Great Lakes Brigadiers, Ray Sturdy, Chuck Murray, and **Tom Smeltzer**, have signed up for the newly forming NORTHERN PINES BRIGADE to be

Held in Minneapolis February 22-24. They've got a pretty good website where they've listed the candidate songs. Who's afraid of a little snow!

<http://www.harmonybrigade.org/nphb/>

Hillsdale Town and Country Chorus - MALT SHOW MEMORIES

by Roger Brook

On May 19, the TOWN AND COUNTRY CHORUS, under the direction of Don Slamka, presented their spring show, including an afternoon matinee and an evening performance.

Breaking from tradition by not using risers, a malt shop set was constructed on stage (see the following article by **Kent Cushman**). "The set that they have built for this performance is outstanding!" said **Ruth Sanders**, building manager at the Sage Center for the Arts [at Hillsdale College]. "It is a 50s Soda Shop theme and it is so eye popping and colorful. I've seen many sets built here at Markel (Stage) and this is one of the best." (from the Hillsdale Daily News, Tuesday May 22, 2012).

Starting fifteen minutes before show time, chapter members, dressed in their best impersonation of the 1950's, began wondering on-stage, getting sodas and sundaes from the soda bar and quietly chatting with their friends. At show time, the house lights went down and the chorus launched into their opening song "COME GO WITH ME" (arrangement by **Tom Gentry**), originally recorded by the American doo-wop vocal group THE DEL-VIKINGS in 1956. This was followed by additional songs from the 1950's and 1960's, including:

- HELLO MARY LOU (arrangement by David Wright) originally performed by **Ricky Nelson** in 1961
- ALL I HAVE TO DO IS DREAM (arrangement by Tom Gentry) made famous by the EVERLY BROTHERS in 1958
- WHO PUT THE BOMP (arrangement by **Scott Turnbull**) a Doo-wop style hit song from 1961 recorded by **Barry Mann**
- IN MY ROOM (arrangement by Tom Gentry) first recorded by the BEACH BOYS in 1963
- BYE BYE LOVE (arrangement by SPEDSQSA, Inc.) first recorded by The Everly Brothers in 1957
- UNCHAINED MELODY (arrangement by **Jay Giallombardo**), a popular song that was first used as the theme song for the prison film "Unchained" in 1955

Chapter quartets provided additional songs, including OH-MI performing "409" (recorded by The Beach Boys in 1962) and the SAUCERS performing "ONLY YOU" (recorded by THE PLATTERS in 1955).

Banter between chorus members occurred between songs, usually leading to "Dave, is that song on the juke box?" When we got to the end, the question was: "Dave, do you have anything by the Beach Boys?" After an affirmative response, he was told: "Well then, play them all!" This led to the closing song, the "BEACH BOYS MEDLEY" (arrangement by **Steve Delehanty**) that includes "WOULDN'T IT BE NICE,"

“BARBARA ANN,” “SURFER GIRL,” “CALIFORNIA GIRLS,” “FUN FUN FUN,” and “I GET AROUND.”

Following intermission, the quartet SINGERS LOCAL #4 provided an opening set for the 2011 Collegiate International Champions PRESTIGE. Think about inviting PRESTIGE to your show. Our audience was abuzz with the energy and enthusiasm displayed by this group of students from Bowling Green University.

In another break from tradition, the show closed with a chorus and guest quartets’ rendition of “GOD BLESS AMERICA” in honor of our troops and veterans.

Did you miss our show this year? Look for information on our show for 2013, again in mid-May, which will also be a theme show presenting a variety of other songs from the 1950's and 1960's.

by Kent Cushman

Our May 19th "Malt Shop Memories" show by the Hillsdale TOWN & COUNTRY CHORUS, under the direction of Don Slamka, was performed at the Sage Center for the Performing Arts on the beautiful campus of Hillsdale College. The show is nothing but memories now, but we were able to preserve the memories of the stage set we built by snapping a few photos. I thought you might like to see the detail we put into the stage set.



The 1950's era "Malt Shop" design was completed about six weeks prior to show time and blueprints were approved by the chorus board of directors. Three days before the show, our barbershoppers came ready with screw guns and gloves and put the set together and painted it in two nine-hour shifts, all laughing and joking the whole time. The set included a soda fountain counter complete with circular stools, "Guys & Girls" restroom doors, a jukebox, both large and small "booth" areas for seating as well as matching tables and chairs of the 1950's

style. The flooring was stepped in height to give maximum viewing access to the costumed singers-actors. Wall decorations and props were added by our dress rehearsal night and we even had one of the wives make "fake" but realistic-looking malts and ice

cream sundaes made out of plaster of Paris. They looked so real, it made you hungry just looking at them. After the show was over, the whole set came apart in about an hour and was stored away to be recycled into next years set. The guys in costume really looked fantastic and we all had so much fun!



Huron Valley Harmonizers

by William Stutts, Jr

On June 5, HURON VALLEY HARMONIZERS hosted a multi-chapter meeting by inviting the Wayne and Monroe North Chapters. We got together to sing a few of each chorus's songs and then sang common songs together. There was even a Brigade section during the evening, as six men from Huron Valley, two from Wayne, and one from Monroe North had participated in the GREAT LAKES HARMONY BRIGADE.

The gentlemen were paired in random quartets and given random songs to sing, just like they would at Brigade. After that, they participated in learning the tag to "I'm Gonna Live Till I Die."

Then it was time for pizza!!!!!! It was a great time and Huron Valley Harmonizers highly recommends that we have more joint-chapter get-togethers. It is great to see what other chapters are doing, to see old friends, and to make new ones.

Limited Edition

by John Cowlshaw

LIMITED EDITION, with **Freddie McFadyen** subbing at Tenor for the vacationing **Tom Blackstone**, sang twenty songs at the Cassady Family Reunion, July 8, an annual affair at the Clawson City Park.

Not an easy gig. It was outside, the 80 or so family members were dispersed around the area, and occasional aircraft flew overhead to land at the Oakland Troy Airport.

But those who gathered in front of the quartet seemed to enjoy it immensely. An easy rapport between the quartet and the audience included lots of laughter and applause, kids coming up to join them on “God Bless America” or recalling “Can You Feel the Love,” jokes by Freddie, reminiscences by John who used to live in the area, and oldsters singing along on “Nellie” and “Aura Lee” and “Cabaret” and “Lida Rose.”



The gig was a referral from **Zaven Melkonian**, whose quartet, METRO CHORDS, did the gig last year. NORTHBOUND SOUND also did it in previous years.



LIMITED EDITION reviewed a few Christmas songs, donned its Santa hats, and trooped over to Rochester Hills July 20 for a backyard “Christmas in July” celebration. It was host **Scott Heyniger’s** excuse for gathering about 45 neighbors, relatives, and friends for an evening of fun under perfect weather conditions. He had put up holiday lights, inflated a Santa Claus, and mounted a large outdoor screen for showing a Christmas film later in the evening after the quartet’s entertainment. They sang “Chestnuts Roasting” for the adults, “Little Toy Trains” for the many kids sitting in front, and then led the crowd in “Jingle Bells.” The quartet opened

with “It’s a Good Day,” and wrapped it up with “All of Me,” a Disney package of “Can You Feel” and “Kiss the Girl,” “I Don’t Mind Being All Alone,” “Come Fly With Me,” Chances Are,” and “When It Comes to Lovin’ The Girls.” They also sang “Happy Birthday” to ten-year-old Shane. Thanks to the Rochester chapter for this referral.

MountainTown Singers

by Dale Hanson

Just returned from the MountainTown Singers last rehearsal before The Cheboygan Opera House Show . . . WOW . . . the Chorus is really singing well and their part of the show is ready to go!

EBB 'N FLOW, the Pioneer District quartet champions are ready for the show. THE VOICEMALES, the second place College Quartet, are singing well. The current District

Novice quartet champs MOUNTAINTOWN CONNECTION is ready to do their part. And would you believe it? Some wonderful chords from our past BLUE RIBBON COALITION will be returning to the stage!

Olde Thyme Harmony Quartet

by Don Horton

OTHQ performed for over an hour on Saturday June 16 at the Shiawassee County Relay for Life. What a lot of FUN touching lives in our SPECIAL way with the BARBERSHOP STYLE. There were lots of survivors there honoring Loved Ones and sharing GOOD TIMES with other survivors. Pictured are just a couple of the groups we sang for, Men, Women and Children of ALL ages. They loved songs like “Zippity Doo Dah,” “Java Jive,” “Darkness on the Delta,” “Mr. Bassman,” “Maggie,” “McNamara's Band,” “Old Rugged Cross,” “Let Me Call You Sweetheart,” and many more.



OTHQ at Relay for Life

What a Blessing for OTHQ to be able to participate.

Thursday night we had a GREAT coaching session with **Cindy Hansen**, what a JOY she is to work with. Hopefully you will soon see some of the ideas she has given us to spruce up our performances.

It was a FUN night of sharing the stage with other Pioneer District quartets at the Belleville competition.

Friday, July 6, OTHQ performed with the CAPITOL CITY CHORDSMEN at the Lugnuts Game. We had the pleasure of singing with **Van Reid** and also with **Rick Mills** who filled in at LEAD as we sang “Let Me Call You Sweetheart” to his mother **Donna Mills** on her 81st birthday while enjoying the game with family. OTHQ also sang her “Happy Birthday.” OTHQ also was honored to sing “Rock A Bye Baby” to five-month-old **Emma Rose**. We also entertained people in nearly every section of the ball park. We worked hard on two or three prospective members to join the CAPITOL CITY CHORDSMEN. Maybe we will see them at a meeting soon.

Patch Chords

by *The Lansing Woodshedder*

One of the more impressive attendees at Cancer Survivors Day was **Shrek**. Here, he auditions for our chorus with the PATCH CHORDS. We told him he passed the auditions and could sing any part he wants!



The PATCH CHORDS with Shrek



BIG CHIEF CHORUS on their way to Fish Hatchery Park

Pontiac-Waterford Big Chief Chorus

by Dick Johnson

The BIG CHIEF CHORUS sang June 23 at Log Cabin Days Festival put on by the Waterford Township Historical Society at Fish Hatchery Park.

Log Cabin Days performance was good from start to finish. It included a good chorus turnout (though just Marshall, DeNio, and Johnson as Baris) plus we were able to arrange for five quartets to sing. The chorus sang twelve songs, and the five quartets sang another nine, so we gave the many folks gathered a good show! It was good to see the support from chapter wives (including **Joan Cheyne**, she's a real trouper) and Sweet Ads that were present plus I was particularly interested in three of the audience... a guy who mouthed many of our songs and another who was smiling during our whole performance (they each now have one of our chorus invitation cards). The third was a teenaged girl who was most attentive during the performance. She said she "just loves Barbershop music" and commented that she enjoys singing a cappella. I think I got her hooked up with the Sweet Ads. Any way, she reminds me of my granddaughters.

by John Cowlshaw

It was a great High School Night at the BIG CHIEF CHORUS rehearsal, May 29, 2012. **Jack Teuber** and **Eric Domke** arranged for **Maryanne Lambrecht** to bring her students from Milford High School, and Julie Kohring popped in from Durant Alternative High. LIMITED EDITION and BIDIN' OUR TIME have connected with both schools. **Ted Prueter** prepared the guest booklets.

John Cowlshaw led the group of thirty-eight Chieftains and the dozen high schoolers thru ERF warm-ups – Energizing, Relaxing, and Focusing. Dick Johnson followed with the openers – “The Old Songs” and “Down Our Way.” Freddie McFadyen directed “The Welcome Song” and “Heart of my Heart.” Director **Tom Blue** led us in “When the Saints Go Marchin’ In,” a song the boys had practiced, several pole cats, and part of our



BIG CHIEF CHORUS and high schoolers

repertoire – “Midnight Rose,” and “Cabaret.”



THE PERFECT FIFTH quintet



LIMITED EDITION with high school men’s chorus

Then LIMITED EDITION joined with the Men’s Chorus, Maryanne’s fledgling group, to sing “It’s a Good Day.”

A new version of THE PERFECT FIFTH quintet texted Maryanne that it was a longer trip to Waterford than they had realized, but

they arrived in time to sing three songs, including “Coney Island Baby.” These guys do a cappella proud, either with traditional harmony or with a percussive style. It helps that two of them have perfect pitch. Four are juniors and one a senior. Someday, they will be able to develop the heft that the Chieftains have.

Rochester and Macomb Chapters

by Don Lewis

The combined choruses joined together in late May to provide entertainment for the many folks gathered at the annual Rochester fireworks program at Borden Park. Besides having a lot of fun, it gave us a great opportunity to talk with potential members and to publicize our upcoming show. You may notice, in one of our pictures, a group that did not really have many potential new members, but how could you not want to

stop and sing to these lovely ladies. We did talk with a couple good prospects, but also ran into former member **Tom Huntley**, whom we hope, with strong encouragement from his wife, will become active again.

Since our two chapters are meeting together each Thursday evening at 7:00pm until show date October 13, be sure and call ahead if you plan on visiting, to check whether we will be at the Rochester or Mt. Clemens location. Call a member in either chorus or send an email to lewisd30@sbcglobal.net

Here are some pictures from Borden Park.



Wayne Chapter's HarmonyTown Chorus

by Frank Adams

Wayne Chapter's HARMONYTOWN CHORUS and IMPULSE sang a few songs, Saturday, June 16 at the City of Canton's Liberty Fest. They sang on the international stage for about a half hour and then strolled in the custom car area, singing some 50's and 60's music.

Windsor Sun Parlour Chorus

by William Strong

We are having a delightful summer in the home of the SUN PARLOUR CHORUS. Our

chapter is fully engaged in “Operation Harold Hill” thanks to **Ted Pageau** and **Roger Reid**. Our chorus is working hard to make ourselves sound better thanks to some new techniques introduced to us by Paul Ellinger. Paul’s got to be the busiest guy I know.

Our chorus director **Dan Bezaire** hosted his annual director’s party in July and we were well entertained by our 2010 District Champions **RIGHT ON Q**. Oh yes, did you know that Dan is now our new Executive VP for Pioneer? Thanks Dan for all the good work you do.

On a nostalgic note, one of our members, **Roy McCann**, found in his garage (Roy never throws anything out) a copy of a Chapter Guest book going back to 1961. This was when the Windsor Chapter met on Friday nights and we always met in downtown Windsor at one of the hotels. Our beloved late **Paul Eberwein** hosted a show on our local radio station called “Harmony Lane”. One half hour of Barbershop music heard coast to coast from Windsor at 7:00 p.m. and then it was to our chapter meeting at 7:30. Our doors were always open to guests and visiting barbershoppers and they came in droves. We had chapter visitations from the likes of Redford, Wayne, Pontiac, Milford, Grosse Point, Down River, and Monroe to name few. Amazing the names that are recalled, **Howard Tubbs**, **Mike Arnone**, **Carl Restivo**, the **Seely** brothers, **Drayton** and **Justus** to name a few. This was a book you couldn’t put down. And quartets, **THE DETROIT TAGGERS**, **THE PROGRESSIVES**, **THE 4 FITS**, (I think they were trying to wear out their welcome because it seems they were here once every couple of months), **THE MOTOR CITY SLICKERS** and more. Every Friday night in Windsor was a blast and there was such great singing and fellowship. This was taking place some fifty years ago when times were simpler but none the less we did have more inter-chapter activity and this was positive for our district. Maybe we can learn something from those days. Perhaps this will invoke memories for those of you who can’t remember the lyrics of a song we learned just yesterday but have clear recollections of years gone by.

REPORTS - EVENTS

Alaska Cruise - July

by Doug Weaver

Two hundred and twenty-five barbershoppers and friends spent a week in Alaska in July, led by 2006 International Quartet Champions **VOCAL SPECTRUM** and **Rich Knight**, lead of the legendary quartet the **GAS HOUSE GANG**. Several Pioneer barbershoppers were among the passengers. Pioneer District EVP Dan Bezaire of Windsor, Pioneer District President Doug Weaver, **Al Smith**, **Alan Coombs** and **Brad Nielsen** of Grand Rapids, and **Bill McAndrew** of Holland were all part of the cruise.

The group did a show in the ship’s theater one night, in front of an enthusiastic audience of over 500 people. Rich Knight directed a mixed chorus of over 100 singers, singing several polecats, as well as “Drivin’ Me Crazy,” “Lost in the Stars,” “When You Were Sweet Sixteen,” and “Lida Rose/Will I Ever Tell You.” The music was sent out to the singers two months in advance, and the chorus put the show together with three

rehearsals on board the ship. In addition, Pioneer quartet SHOWTIME, with **Hugo Feugen** from the AMBASSADORS OF HARMONY filling in on tenor, sang “Paper Moon” on the show. The second half of the show was all VOCAL SPECTRUM, and they were spectacular. A lot of people saw their first barbershop show that night, and came away very impressed. The quartet sold a lot of CDs, many of them to people who had never heard of VOCAL SPECTRUM before that show.

There was a “Sing with the Champs” event during the week, and Al Smith sang “Heart of My Heart,” Dan Bezaire did “When I Lift Up My Head,” and Alan Coombs tackled “South Rampart Street Parade” with VOCAL SPECTRUM. In all, thirty singers had a chance to sing with the quartet at that event, but VOCAL SPECTRUM sang with other singers throughout the week. Barbershoppers took over the Star Bar for the cruise, and every night the bar was full of singers.

The whole week went so well that VOCAL SPECTRUM is already talking about the possibility of another cruise in a couple years, possibly out of the Southern California to the Mexican Riviera.



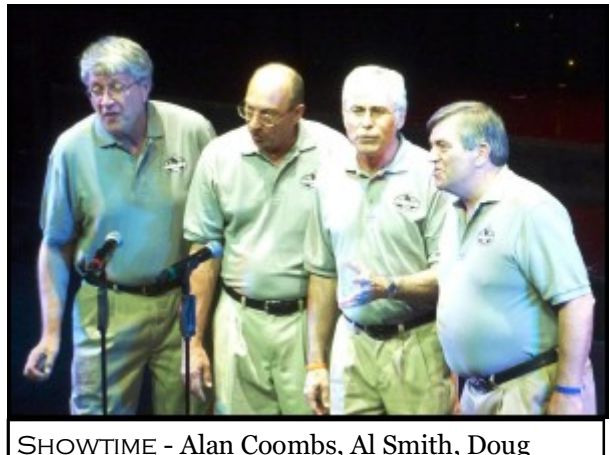
Alan Coombs singing with VOCAL SPECTRUM



Dan Bezaire singing with VOCAL SPECTRUM



Al Smith singing with VOCAL SPECTRUM



SHOWTIME - Alan Coombs, Al Smith, Doug Weaver, and Hugo Feugen from AOH

Battle of the Barbershop Quartets, July 5, Horizon Park on Belleville Lake

by Anonymous

The event was billed as a battle. Four quartets entered the competition - IMPULSE, META-4, OLDE THYME HARMONY QUARTET, and 4 AM. But it was really just a chance to celebrate good singing; when it was all over, each quartet received a 1st Place certificate, so all four could brag about it in the "PioNet Press."

Don Horton started off, "By audience applause OTHQ was awarded a First Place Certificate." "Not so fast," responded **Jason Fox**, Lead of 4 AM. Don is a great guy and has the pride that one has to have when one sings lead. ... But, the truth be told, 4 AM came away the winners. 4 AM was on fire, and not because of the heat! We had the audience in our hands with smooth ballads, toe-tapping tempo songs, and memorable oldies. I also used to live in Belleville, so I knew most of the people in the audience. IMPULSE garnered many votes because they were just up the road from the Wayne Chapter. META-4 got several votes too because the Huron Valley Chapter is practically across the Wayne-Washtenaw County line, but had a disadvantage with a substitute tenor. OTHQ just couldn't shake the home town advantages the rest of us had regardless of how many props they brought with them. I think it is fair to say that for all the quartets that participated, we all had fun. Wouldn't be nice to see more events like this in the Pioneer District?

"Whoa, Wait a Minute" wrote **Frank Adams** of IMPULSE. "I'd really like to set things straight. Apparently, when they stopped for some liquid refreshments they must have all had a few too many liquid refreshments, and got their brains a little cob-webbed. Our quartet, IMPULSE, clearly had the advantage by being the first quartet to perform and we set the bar so high that none of them were able to match it. Consequently, we came out as the first place winners. I have attached a copy of the certificate we received as proof. It has also been posted on our quartet's page on our chapter's website: http://www.wesingbarbershop.com/index_files/Page482.htm. I hope this clears things up and they will finally admit defeat. All this aside, all our competitors are great guys and I think we all had a great time. I agree with Jason that we need more fun things like this in the district. It brings guys together and gives us a chance to hear each other and get acquainted. IMPULSE is from the Wayne Chapter and is led by **Dave Peiffer**, with **Allen Holmes**, tenor; **Charles Nalbandian**, bari and me, Frank Adams, bass.

A second competition is being planned for early August next year.

Dead Creek Picnic, June 26

by John Cowlshaw

The Flint ARROWHEAD CHORUS has been holding Dead Creek get-togethers for thirty-some years. When mosquitoes and a change of ownership of the Frankenmuth saloon eliminated that venue, the event moved to the Harvey Kern Pavilion in Heritage Park on the Cass River.

Over a hundred people gathered Tuesday, June 26 under ideal weather to listen to barbershop, see old friends, and enjoy bratwurst, baked beans, sauerkraut, and beverages. The Bavarian Belle Paddleboat passed by in the background on the Cass River. Four choruses - Flint, Pontiac-Waterford, Saginaw Bay, and Huron Valley – arrived as well as some individuals from D.O.C., Grosse Pointe, and Lansing.

Ron Gillies MC'd the event. He asked for a show of hands of how many attendees had been barbershop members for 30 years, for 40 years, for 50 years. A few hands stayed up at 60 years.

The festivities opened with the host chapter singing their welcoming song, "Only a batch of sauerkraut." It includes the five-second rule – spilled sauerkraut is safe to eat if scooped up within five seconds.

Flint's GENERATION GAP led the singing of the National Anthem. Then came the parade of groups – four choruses and thirteen quartets.

The six attendees from the HARBOR SOUNDS of Bay City/Saginaw, sang "I Don't Know Why I Love You like I Do." Next was the Huron Valley chorus, led by Director **Rob Pettigrew** and Assistant Director William Stutts, Jr. Nine guys from the chorus made their way north thru the traffic jams of US-23 for their first visit, obviously delighted with the experience. Their railroad medley was one of their songs. The Pontiac-Waterford BIG CHIEF CHORUS bussed in. Director Tom Blue led the twenty-four men thru two songs, "Saints Go Marching" and "Cabaret." The Flint chorus concluded the evening's chorus presentations with the singing of "The Old Piano Roll Blues" and "Night Time in Dixieland" under the direction of **David Longroy**.

From Pontiac-Waterford, LIMITED EDITION led off the quartets, singing "God Bless the USA" and its first public performance of a **Benny Bell** song, arranged by the quartet, entitled, "The Tattooed Lady in the Circus." LOCAL COLOR sang Shenandoah. The MISFITS sang a song to relax us. BIDIN' OUR TIME introduced themselves with their clip of the song of the same name, followed by "That Old Gang of Mine." This senior quartet has a combined Barbershop membership of 158 years. Besides GENERATION GAP, Flint quartets included NORTHERN EDITION, the MSU-bound guys from Flint called EASILY AMUSED (not Easily Aroused, they pointed out), YESTERDAY'S MEMORIES, and THE FLINTONES. Huron Valley mounted a quartet called WHAT FOUR. Half of OLDE THYME HARMONY QUARTET was present, **Jacob Welty** joining **Doc Heaton** and other Flint guys in the quartet called WHO, and Don Horton joining other Flintsters in CALL US WHAT YOU WANT.

A highlight of the evening was the District's past champion, RIGHT ON Q, who introduced their sixth baritone, **Rick Anderson**.

Shortly after 9:00 **John Voss** led the assembled audience in the singing of "Keep the Whole World Singing."

As formal singing ended, singers grouped around the area to sing some more songs



Lining up for food

before departing, some by snazzy cars, some by bus. A picture-perfect evening and some good photos were taken. **Herb Judd's** are available on Picasa at <http://tinyurl.com/d43w3of>

Thanks to John Voss for organizing the event and for helping to initiate it, to **Dave Lonsbury** for serving as chef, to **Jack Stevens**, and **Dave Flattley** for their help as bartenders, and to techie David Longroy for the amplification system.

Don Horton added:
 What a beautiful sight to see the River Boat cruising down the River at the Park. Due to duplication of events with Dead Creek & **Don Funk's** Birthday party on the same night, Lansing had only a small turnout this year. We had half of OLDE THYME HARMONY QUARTET and half of UNMATCHED so were able to muster up a few songs.



Organizer John Voss cooking, with Dave Worley

There were approximate 120 people in attendance again this year (always a good turnout). Emcee Ron had a count-off to find the oldest (number of years) of Society Membership WON by **Fred Kienitz** of the Flint Chapter who has 67 or 68 years membership. Fred can't keep track anymore.



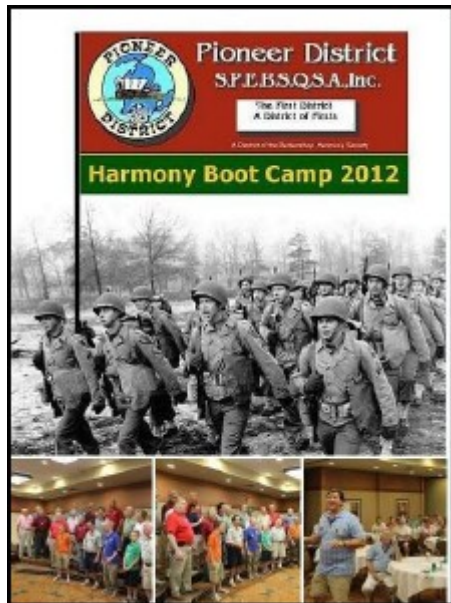
MC Ron Gillies

Most quartets sang two songs but entries kept coming in and Ron had to request that each quartet limit itself to one song and we still ran out of time. Thanks to the Flint Chapter for hosting such a fine event. ALWAYS FUN!! and lots of SINGING.

I was amazed that very few Pole Cat songs were sung and also there were not more than two songs repeated by any of the groups that SANG (maybe none).

Harmony Boot Camp 2012, July 21, 2012

From the Pioneer District Facebook site - <http://www.facebook.com/pioneerdistrict> - which includes 123 photos by Michael Baribeau



The QCA and the Pioneer District offered Harmony Boot Camp! This adjustment to last year's Quartet Boot Camp was open to all Pioneer District singers that wanted to improve their skills. Held at the Okemos Conference Center near Lansing MI for only \$10.00 for the day! All received learning tracks to the two latest OlogyCat songs - "I Believe in Music" and "Railroad Rag." There was a 2.5 hour chorus rehearsal of this 2012 Harmony Boot Camp Chorus with Director Don Slamka, Assistant Director **Pete Westers**, and Main Coach **Mark Kettner**. Classes and clinics included Elements Of Great Presentation by Mark Kettner, Target Vowels And Diphthongs by **Jamie Carey**, It's All About The Breathing by **Tom Ennis**, Be A Better Tenor by Don Slamka, Be A Better Lead by Jamie Carey, Be A Better Baritone by Tom Ennis, Be A Better Bass by Mark Kettner, Market Your Chorus/Quartet

Online by **Michael Baribeau**. Eleven quartets arrived for coaching and that evening each sang two songs. The coaches have all been District and/or Senior Champs. Many had been International Quartet Reps, two medalists, two have been judges and all volunteered to give up their Saturday to come and make a difference. The coaches were **Carl Dahlke, Cliff Dake, Al Fisk, Jim Johnson, Roger Lewis, Mike O'Donnell, Joel Prather, Mark Spear, Matt Tipton, and Kirk Wood**. The evening ended with Pioneer District's 2012 International Quartet Representatives EBB N' FLOW performing.

by Al Fisk

I had the privilege of working with six awesome quartets today at the Harmony Boot Camp in Okemos. I also enjoyed having a dozen guys drop in for my judge scoring class. Good stuff! Thanks to Roger, Mike, and Pete for setting this up.

Being newly retired (whoo-hoo), I'm getting several requests to coach. I'm honored and look forward to giving back.

BTW, if your chapter wants a change of pace, I am willing to take my judge class on the road. (I've been to Rochester and Lansing in the past.) I give a behind the scenes peek at the judging world. Then we practice scoring several choruses and quartets. (Judges are people, too...) ROTFLOL God bless.

Al Fisk, Music Judge, alfisk@comcast.net

Harmony Explosion 2012 – July 26-28

by Joe McDonald

It was difficult to determine whose life was impacted more at MountainTown

Harmony Explosion, the campers, or everyone around them. The 2012 version of the three-day camp was absolutely amazing. Imagine 40 young singers walking around a college campus chanting “BAWBERSHAWPPPP!”



The camp was held July 26-28 in Mt. Pleasant, on the campus of Central Michigan University. The musical portion of the event was centered in the School Of Music’s rehearsal rooms and the stunning Staples Family Concert Hall. The students were housed and fed in a nearby student residential complex.

The camp clinicians were the legendary **Joe Cerutti** and the talented and inexhaustible **Ms. Erin Odell**. Cerutti is the musical director of the ALEXANDRIA HARMONIZERS and the PRIDE OF BALTIMORE SAI chorus. Odell is the director of the GREATER



RICHMOND SAI chorus and has directed a BHS chorus as well. They were supported by two outstanding quartets. The ladies quartet was SHADES OF JADE, Region 5 champs. They are all in their twenties, they have a tangible energy around them and the young lady campers fell in love with them at camp. The men’s quartet was DOMINANT PREP. They are the current Central States District Collegiate Quartet Champs and a bronze medal winner in the Collegiate Quartet contest in Portland. These guys are in their early twenties or late teens with twenty

years combined singing barbershop. They were amazing with the campers but they think they got the best end of the deal at camp. Camp was a life-changing experience for them by their own admission.

And the campers, oh the campers, what an energetic and passionate group of kids. There were 21 young men and 18 young women that arrived on Thursday morning ready to perform. They were prepared with their music and anxious to understand why barbershop is barbershop...and they learned a lot. They spent the next three days polishing songs, learning about vocal techniques, installing choreography, playing Ninja or demonstrating “Stupid Human Tricks” and they had a blast. Here are a few quotes from camper evaluation forms:

“Probably the most outstanding experience of my young life. Wow, what a weekend!” J.D., Houghton Lake

“I love this camp so much! It makes me feel like I have family here and I barely know these people. I love the environment and how everyone is so welcoming.” E.M., Hillsdale

“This camp wasn’t what I expected, but in a very good way. It has been so much fun. I have so many new friends and have learned so much in music, and I really love barbershop!” C.R., Hillsdale

“This camp has introduced me to the world of barbershop and I absolutely love it! The people involved are incredible.” J. K., Okemos



Dominant Prep

The camp culminated with an amazing show on Saturday evening and a wonderful afterglow event. Photographs of the show were captured by Michael Baribeau and can be viewed on the Pioneer or MountainTown Harmony Explosion Facebook pages.

The Mt. Pleasant Chapter would like to thank everyone that supports this endeavor. To all of the chapters that sponsored campers, to the individuals that sent in scholarship funds and marketed the camp over the last several months, to the clinicians and quartets that worked for a pittance, to CMU for meeting our every need and finally to the camp committee and staff that worked tirelessly to assure that this camp would be successful. Planning for MountainTown Harmony Explosion 2013 is underway.

More of Michael Baribeau’s photos available at <http://tinyurl.com/bprej3e>



SHADES OF JADE

For a story on Ohio’s version of Harmony Explosion, check out <http://tinyurl.com/bovkr1b> "What we're trying to get them to do is think about singing, not just as a high school activity, but as a lifelong, adult activity where they can exercise a true interest in vocal music."

by Greg Humbel

That’s Baaa Ba Shop (the recurring theme shouted out many times during the evening). The group was larger than last year but should be still bigger. The show was incredible and it was obvious that both the

boys and the girls came prepared to sing. Some Really

The boys sang their hearts out and what a sound. They could represent us well at Mid-Winter. I mentioned the quality to someone and they said they were singing in the 80 percent area.

I got some thoughts from a few attendees:

Dylan Broome, Clinton Township, was bitten by the bug as a quartet member in *The Music Man*. "I'm just so proud of every one, Love you all."

Thad Shewan, Hillsdale, "I had fun and the food was tasty."

Colton Burge, Cement City, "This was my first time singing Barbershop and it was one of the best times in my life"

Katie Davis, Hillsdale, "Totally Awesome!"

Jenny Krzanowski, Okemos, "Barbershop!"

Lindsey Foust, Hillsdale, "So Much Fun"

What's in the water in Hillsdale? Seven girls and four boys attended.

Supercharging Your Chapter! – July 14 and three more

by Joe McDonald

Paul Ellinger offered four different sessions of his *Supercharging Your Chapter!* at the International Convention in Portland to rave reviews.

He and I are getting daily calls about Supercharging Your Chapter! Events will be happening in Ohio, Indiana, the Carolinas and the Portland OR area to name just some of the locations. But, you don't have to travel to one of those exotic (hee hee) locations to attend a workshop that will improve your chapter's outlook and performance. There are three more Events scheduled right here in good ol' Pioneer - Aug 25 (Ann Arbor - Huron Valley), Sept 8 (Lansing), and Sept 29 (Holland).

http://www.pioneerdistrict.org/District_Events/SuperchargeYourChapter/Supercharge.htm

Supercharging is the buzz in Society leadership circles and I'm here to tell you that in 2013 it will be what every chapter that wants to prosper will be doing. Supercharging may become the focus of Society's education efforts in 2013. **Paul Wietlisbach** attended the July 14 Event. He is the Director of Education for the Society and he was coming to see the full Supercharging presentation.

Let's be ahead of the curve here in Pioneer guys. Talk to your membership and sign them up for one of the three Events and do it today! You must register to do so at <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dC1uRUhHMHBwVkVOakNYNG1wYkxzcvE6MO#gid=0>

It's all about sharing and helping one another sing at a higher level, encouraging one another in making a difference in the lives of others, and working together to grow!

July 14 in Grosse Pointe was the first of the sessions. Here's a report on that first one.

Numbers are often used to measure success. They are used to compare against a standard or to tally the count of people involved. Numbers are useful, but not always the

only measure of success.

The number of people involved in this past Saturday's Supercharging Your Chapter! workshop was commendable, just over 30. While these numbers fell a little short of what was hoped for, the aura in the room was most impressive. Five hours is a long time to remain actively engaged in any type of event. There was an ebb and flow to the day to be sure. Like any educational event, there are some segments that are tedious, but necessary. Those moments were few and far between during Paul Ellinger's presentation.

Attendees were quick to grasp the seven concepts demonstrated and experienced during the "Wavebox Singing" portion of the workshop that kicked off the day. The theory of "What to Think" versus the traditional "What to Do" commonly offered by directors allowed the participants an opportunity to determine for themselves how to meet the objective stated by the leader out front. A significant portion of the time, the right choices were made by the chorus of attendees which allowed rapid progress and a sense of real accomplishment. Implementation of the seven concepts would serve any chorus well, as a means to an end, which would be singing at a high level, or as a base from which to build and proceed to singing at an exceptionally high level.

The second half of the workshop focused on growing the membership of a chapter. "Turbo Growth" was developed by Ellinger to help individuals understand that "Effort" equals "Growth" and that the effort must come from a critical mass of the organization, not just from the current "membership guy" or a handful of people. It was agreed upon that barbershop does not have a product problem, but rather a perception of a product problem within its membership. Ellinger challenged the participants with any number of examples of delighted audiences, large and small, that were moved by the "live" performance of barbershop music.

Ellinger went on to explain a process of inviting individuals to personally experience the Fun, Camaraderie and Singing that must be a part of every chapter meeting. The lynchpin phrase of the entire program was introduced next. "So...where do you like to do your singing?" He explained and demonstrated that the cadence and voice inflection used when using the phrase is as critical as using these exact words. Ellinger went on to offer examples of the common responses from audience members that were questioned and how to respond to those responses and that the duration of this exchange is critical. Ellinger established that the most effective methods of growing membership are the ones that are more active and more personal to those that are to be reached. He talked about "Cattle Calls" from the show stage and the passing out of printed materials as approaches that may not be as effective as a chapter would like. The attendees were allowed time to role-play these one-on-one encounters and encouraged to dedicate five minutes of every chapter meeting to allow opportunities for every chapter member to practice these exchanges and become comfortable with the process.

One additional concept was integrated into the "Turbo Growth" segment. The concept of "Purpose," or more correctly "Altruistic Purpose" was explained. Barbershop chapters that have an "Altruistic Purpose" experience consistent attendance and enthusiastic participation from their membership. Ellinger further explained that meeting basic

human needs for shelter, food, health and love is “Purpose” by his definition. “Goals” are separate from “Purpose” and are another component of a solid chapter but the two should not be confused, he said.

The workshop concluded with the traditional singing of “Keep the Whole World Singing”. It was apparent that the “Wavebox Singing” concepts developed in the opening segment had “stuck”. The thirty-plus man chorus performed the barbershop standard with joy and from a “Proud Regal” stance.

The workshop was followed by an “afterglow” where over half of the attendees enjoyed a meal together and song or two. They had had a wonderful experience and reluctantly parted for home.

It had been a successful day. A new “Mindset” was in the air. A number of barbershoppers were now prepared to “Sing Better” and “To Grow” their respective chapters. The day was a success by any measure!

Windsor Send-Off Show June 8

by Bill Strong

Another successful Send-Off show hosted by our Windsor Chapter is now history. A great night of barbershopping was experienced by our members, their friends and of course members from many chapters in the Pioneer District. One of the highlights of the evening for a lot of people is the singing of both of our two National Anthems. If this doesn’t get your patriotism engaged you might need to see your friendly cardiologist. We then heard this mass chorus under the direction of various directors perform some great old chestnuts. This was followed by choruses from Windsor, Detroit Oakland County, and Grosse Pointe.



Mass chorus sings at Windsor Send-off

Of course, the reason most people come out to our Send-Off Show is to hear our champions and they were not disappointed. Our Chorus representatives from Grand Rapids, the GREAT LAKES CHORUS, will do us proud in Portland in July. Then we heard from Showtime, our Senior reps, who will represent us at the Mid Winter next year. EBB N’ FLOW will do something we have not experienced before in that they will be our Quartet representatives as well as our collegiate reps. Oh, to be young again.

Our chapter puts this show together under the leadership of none other than **Doran McTaggart**, and he’s been doing it for 36 years. Its no small job but nobody does it better than he. But of course, he gets to put the polish on the whole performance by MCing the entire evening. I know our chapter and the district as well as the singers participating in Portland are grateful for his good work.

We would like to see greater attendance from our Pioneer chapters, keeping in mind that all profits from this show go to our participating competitors. Heck, we don't even have to pay Doran. With that in mind mark your calendars for next year. It's always the 2nd Friday in June. That would be June 7, 2013. You can't use the weather as an excuse.

Young Women and Young Men in Harmony, Got Harmony? Day Camp

June 23 at Davison High School, in Davison, MI

by Chuck Murray

Chuck Murray and Doc Mann (and friend) attended the Saturday evening benefit show for the "Young Women in Harmony" at the Davison High School Auditorium. However, the "Border Lakes Region 2" event started earlier in the morning, with "Got Harmony? Day Camp," and ran all day long! It was a combination of Young Men in Harmony with Young Women in Harmony, with individual choruses of each, as well as a giant, combined chorus. There were about 75 boys and girls involved in this Day Camp. The boys and girls learned several new songs, and had the "road ready" by the evening performance, thanks to their coaches and directors!

The YMIH chorus sang "I'm Sitting on Top of the World" and "The Longest Time" under the direction of **Nate Masterson**, Tenor of EBB N' FLOW. **Doug Lynn** and a couple other members of the Flint Arrowhead Chorus also sang with the YMIH chorus.

The YWIH chorus sang "What a Wonderful World" and "Razzle Dazzle" under direction of **Diane Catellane**.

The YMIH and YWIH choruses then combined to sing "Lida Rose/Will I Ever Tell You" under the direction of **Linda Liddicoatt** and Nate Masterson.

There were several guest quartets, including ARTISTICALLY INCLINED, MUSICAL MEMORIES, DOUBLE DATE, EBB N' FLOW, and NOVELTY SHOP. EBB N' FLOW sang several songs including their contest set for the 2012 BHS International Contest.

ARTISTICALLY INCLINED is a brand new young women's quartet consisting of **Jenavieve McMurray** (Bass), **Andrea Kruger** (Bari), **Melanie Bott** (Tenor), and **Brittini Woods** (Lead). Jenavieve, Andrea, and Melanie are all college students, attending Eastern Michigan University, Washtenaw Community College, and Adrian College, respectively. With encouragement from **Lynne Pierce** and other chorus members, this foursome decided to form a quartet and registered this past June.

DOUBLE DATE is an entertaining, mixed quartet from Marysville. They are comprised of two couples who sing a variety of 40's -50's -60's songs, including barbershop style. They are occasionally accompanied by their Bass on his guitar. This group has been on this YWIH event for two years now.

Historic Photos, #1



THE FOUR SKINS - Doc Heaton (T), Fitch Tooley (Br), Kice McCoy (L), Devere Middleton (Bs)

This photo was taken in 1949 when the quartet was hosting the Bush League contest in Boyne City, MI. The Bush League Contest began in Boyne City in 1947 and was the brain child of Boyne City Chapter SNOWBELT CHORUS founder **Loton Willson**.

Hylon J “Doc” Heaton Jr, an MSU-educated (1940) veterinarian living in Boyne City, was his brother-in-law. He came in on the ground floor, singing in the chorus and also in this quartet. He was active from the 1945 to 2002 in the SNOWBELT CHORUS. He died last May at the age of 98.

Fitch Tooley owned a grocery store in Boyne City. **Kice McCoy** was his butcher. **Devere Middleton** was a tree-trimmer for Rural Electric Associates in Michigan. The quartet actually cut a record in 1949.

The Bush League winners in 1949 were the BOYNE MOUNTAIN AIRES, with **Ross Renwick**, **Loton Willson**, **G. Williams**, and **J. Strang**.

The contest moved to Petoskey (1993) and Gaylord (1996). Eleven Bush League champions have gone on to be Pioneer District champions, ten have gone on to represent Pioneer at International, and one, THE AUTO TOWNERS went on to become International Champions.

The photo is supplied by his son, present-day Flint and Saginaw barbershopper Hylon J “Doc” Heaton, III. He writes, “Confined to a home in Saginaw this past year, he loved to be entertained by barbershop quartets. I brought a quartet up to his funeral and know he was watching and singing along. Enjoy the photo. I know he would be thrilled to know that even after his passing he was still bringing barbershop harmony to those he loved through his photos.”

[**Footnote: Steve Sutherland** is trying to update and maintain the photo history section of the Pioneer web site. “I need pictures and corrections.

http://www.pioneerdistrict.org/honor_roll/honorfrm.htm

If everyone could check the various categories and see if you happen to have a photograph that we're missing it would be great to have it. Some categories are missing quite a few. For example the Bush League champs from earlier years have many holes. On the other hand, I'm only missing FLIPSIDE on the District Senior Quartet Champs list.]

SPOTLIGHT ON A CHAPTER – ALPENA

by John Cowlshaw

Alpena received its charter on May 11, 1974 at their charter show in Alpena High’s beautiful auditorium. There were thirty-six new men in the chapter. (THE VAGABONDS, International Silver Medalists, 1976, were the highlight of the evening.) By that fall the LUMBERMAN CHORUS was competing at District.

For the geographically challenged, Alpena is on Thunder Bay, at the tip of the index finger of the Michigan mitten.

I talked with **Earl Elowsky**, the President of the Alpena, HURON SHORE CHORUS. At times it has had thirty members, but it has fallen on harder times lately, as members have died, moved, or quit. There are now seven members listed on the BHS chapter rolls. Attendance at the Thursday evening meetings is about ten – two Tenors, three Leads, two Baritones, and one or two Basses, a double quartet. They meet at the Alpena High School during the winter, some driving from Hillman and Lachine and Rogers City. In the summer their practices alternate between two venues. One week they meet at Alpena Pines Retirement Village where residents can come listen to them. The next week they meet at St Ignatius Catholic Church in Rogers City.



The Alpena Chorus. Standing l to r: Robert Centala, William Martin, Gerald Stema, Gene Modrzyzyski, Larry Syrett, Kenneth Kingsley, Larry Karsten, Duane Snoddy. Kneeling: Earl Elowsky, Director Ted Johnson. Not pictured: Clifford Anderson

The director of the chorus is **Ted Johnson**. He has led the chorus for about twenty-five years.

What is a typical rehearsal like? First, a fifteen-minute warm-up. Then **Ken Kingsley** leads them in a tag. Director Ted works them hard on their repertoire until about 9:15, with a short break. The evening ends with some quarteting. The chorus is currently working on:

“Yes Indeed”

“That Railroad Rag”

“This is All I Ask”

“I Only Have Eyes for You”

“Do You Know What it Means to Miss New Orleans”

“God Bless the USA”

With this repertoire and some polecats and patriotic numbers they can handle an hour performance.

There are two annual events. Friday evening Summer Concert Series at the Lakeside

Park Band Shell. The HURON SHORES CHORUS will be singing there on August 24. There is picnicking beforehand. Then the chorus and one or two quartets will sing. Seven miles north of Rogers City is the 40 Mile Point Lighthouse. The chorus will sing at their October festival.

Last September the MOTOR CITY SINGERS rented a school bus and delivered twenty-some singers to their show. Ted Johnson's recent surgery limited his directing so MOTOR CITY SINGERS members helped share the load. They combined on polecats, and each group sang from their respective repertoire. Without MOTOR CITY SINGERS presence, they won't have enough members to stage a show this year.

In the past members have driven to District conventions and attended COTS, though not recently.

Good wishes to Alpena; may more northern Michiganders learn the fun of barbershop-ping.

[As a side note about the number of small town chapters, when **Bob Walker** died in 1980, it was noted that "he had been active in the organizing of new chapters such as Niles, Sturgis, Marcellus, Three Rivers, Benton Harbor, Big Rapids, Ionia, Belding, Greenville, Ithaca, Alma, Cadillac, Traverse City, Beulah, Manistee, Ludington, Hart, Whitehall, Mackinaw City, Sault Ste. Marie, Alpena, Reed City and Petoskey." (From **Bob McDermott's** A History of the Pioneer District)]

Media

American Harmony

That great 2009 documentary, *American Harmony*, is now available on Netflix Instant Watch streaming and on iTunes (rental/purchase, including HD). Please get the word out. Watch it, rate it, get your friends to watch it! <http://tinyurl.com/7plvm4x>

"Fifty barbershop quartets, including MAX Q and VOCAL SPECTRUM - compete to win the coveted first-place title in the International Championships of Barbershop Singing. This fascinating documentary focuses on four contenders as it offers a glimpse of their eccentric world."

Viewer reviews are running at 98% on *Rotten Tomatoes*, the film site.

Audacity

version 2.0 has been released. It is a full version based upon the 1.3.14 beta. <http://audacity.sourceforge.net/>

Ted Blank from the ATLANTIC HARMONY BRIGADE put together a tutorial video on how to use Audacity. The link is found below...hopefully it will help those who want to use the free product. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IEPRISxkHRE&feature=youtu.be>

I Never Can Say Goodbye

The lyrics were composed by **Stephen Rafe** and originated as a poem in memory of his two sons. **Jeremy Johnson** wrote the beautiful music and arranged it for barbershop harmony. The poem has been read at a 9/11 Memorial Service in New York City and, since then, at funerals and memorial services. **Simon Rylander** has produced exceptional learning media for this arrangement. Appropriate for barbershop competition, this song can be sung at ALL memorial events including Memorial Day, Flag Day, and Veteran's Day.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hVdTOuNNbKU&feature=youtu.be>

If Not For Jim

by "Carl," bbshopcarl@yahoo.com

I bought this book for my Kindle this morning and read it straight through. I heartily recommend it for all barbershoppers. **Ken Hatton** has captured **Jim Miller** THE MAN in a delightful way, and has told Jim's story in a "no-holds-barred" fashion. He reveals the surprising beginnings of the THOUROUGHBREDS and allows the reader to enjoy many accounts of Jim's life "in his own words." It is a well-organized and well-written account and I hope everyone will check it out. It is only \$8.49 on Amazon when downloaded.

<http://www.amazon.com/Not-Jim-A-Story-Excellence-ebook/dp/Boo8E317PW>

Inside A cappella

by Wayne Oberstadt

There is a new YouTube channel that posts information on the a cappella genre of music in a VERY high-energy form.

Evyne and **Peter Hollens** run the site. <http://www.youtube.com/InsideAcappella>

Recent postings include:

Deke Sharon (The Sing-Off)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cDCeqmOY_Xc&feature=plcp

Troy Horn (Urban Method)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H-avJOCbDAw&feature=plcp>

SingOff China (in Chinese)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iZXmZp8u49Y&feature=plcp>

Preservation Magazine

June, 2012 contains articles on GALA LADS, The Tin Man, INTERSTATE RIVALS and more. Download online from the Society webpage and take a leisurely scroll through the pages of barbershop history!

<http://www.barbershop.org/history/preservation.html>

TalkingShop Podcast

James Pennington (Lexington, KY) and fellow barbershopper **Josh O'Brien** are the hosts of Talking Shop, a new barbershop music podcast.

“The show is committed to discussing barbershop music in contexts that concern both the close-knit barbershop community and the rest of the world at large. We'll talk music, contests, concerts, albums and anything else we can relate back to barbershop harmony. We'll also regularly feature interviews - something which I personally pride myself in as a journalist back in the "real world" - though the first episode is devoid of this feature.

Their first episode, "The Dream of the 90s is Alive in Portland," previewed the BHS international convention.

The web site is: <http://thetalkingshopshow.wordpress.com/>

Under the Streetlamp

This barbershop-friendly quartet sang at the Royal Oak Music Theater, July 12. They are good enough for PBS to have used them in fund-raisers. You can hear them do “In the Still of the Night” by clicking on the link at the bottom left corner of their site: <http://underthestreetlamp.com/music/>

Upcoming Events

Bush League is coming! August 17-18

BBBB in the Barn, Friday, August 24, 2012

(Barbershop-Beer-Beans-BBQ)

QUARTET FUN NIGHT!

at the Lewis Ranch --20125 12 Mile Road, Battle Creek

6:00-ish Arrival; 7:00 Dinner; 8:00 Singing

Lots of fun quartet singing/contests!

Everyone gets to sing in at least one quartet!

All competing quartets sing one song.

1. Randomly picked quartets (Assigned randomly by Roger) All ages
2. Randomly picked Senior quartets. Age 55 and older
3. Performance by all registered quartets in attendance.

Judges -- the best that money can buy!

Stag event – only \$7.00 – cheap!

Please let me know how many are coming from your chapter. Hate it when we run out of beer. Also, bring a lawn chair if you have room for it.

Phone: 269-965-5714, email rjlewiscmc@aol.com

Grand Rapids Great Lakes Chorus 39th Annual Corn Roast, Tues, August 28, 7 pm

Hosted by the GREAT LAKES CHORUS and the Baker Family.
 MEN'S Night out!! (Sorry Ladies). Come join us in song - "Rain or Shine"! \$5 for Corn, Dogs, Chips and Beverages

Pick up quartet show starts at dusk, w/ door prizes throughout the night. Registered Quartets are invited and extremely encouraged to come. Brigade guys, this is a good time to reconnect with your follow GLHB brethren.

Bring your lawn chair or blanket and can of bug spray for extra protection. We sing until the tags, creek, or keg runs dry. (About Midnight normally).

John Baker's 2765 Bauer Rd, Jenison MI 49428

Hillsdale, Power Play Homecoming Tour, August 30

by Roger Brook

Come and hear our 2003 Gold Medal quartet in concert, at Hillsdale College on Thursday, August 30 at 7:00 pm, with special appearances by selected family members and songs with the Hillsdale TOWN AND COUNTRY CHORUS.



Show Location:

Markel Auditorium in the Sage Center for the Arts
 Hillsdale College
 81 E. College St.
 Hillsdale, MI

For more information: <http://townandcountrychorus.com/html/powerPlay2012.htm>

Harrisville Harmony Weekend 50th anniversary, Aug 31-Sep1

by Craig Pollard

Harrisville Harmony Weekend will celebrate its 50th year this Labor Day weekend. Friday night there will be a gathering at the Greenbush Golf course for food and singing. Saturday from 5-7pm at the harbor will be a picnic and the show will follow at 7 p.m. We have excellent groups this year with RELATIVELY SPEAKING making a guest appearance. Also Central States 4th place international College medalists DOMINANT PREP. Our own International senior champs RESISTING-A-REST will sing and our headliners from Florida, POWER PLAY, will return. Sunday will feature a 1p.m. parade down Main Street with **John Wearing** and **Gloria Pollard** as the Grand marshals. They have been attending for the 50 years. Looks to be a great time for all.

For details check out Facebook or the Harrisville Arts council web site.

<http://www.harrisvilleartscouncil.com/>

BPQA/Pioneers Fall Festival – Chicago, Sep 5-8

by Tom Noble, President, BQPA/Pioneers

The next festival of the Barbershop Quartet Preservation Association is scheduled for September 5 through 8, the weekend after Labor Day, in the Chicago area.

Why should you be interested? Because our get-togethers are nothing more or less than three or four days of do-it-yourself quartet singing, in the old style. While we do have a "luck-of-the-draw" quartet contest on the Friday evening, almost all of the remaining time is occupied by informal quartet singing. Find three other parts and belt one! (Or finesse one, if you prefer ballads.) Find three other singers and teach `em a tag! Or get together with someone who'll teach a tag to you! Woodshedders are welcome, but that's not all we do; we sing old songs, tags, familiar arrangements – you name it. In quartets, that form, and melt away, and re-form, on and on. From morning `til the wee hours.

Oh, yeah: there's golf on Thursday and Friday mornings. Sing a song on every tee. But ya gotta sign-up ahead of time, to be sure we've got enough tee times.

You can find details on the BQPA/Pioneers website: www.bqpa.com . Check out the "Events" page.

Specifically, we'll be at the Best Western Hillside, 4400 Frontage Road, Hillside, Illinois 60162. Their phone number is 708-544-9300, and their email address is www.chicagohillsidehotel.com

Huron Valley Wine Tasting and Music October 6, 7-9 p.m.

Sing a little... Taste a Little and learn about the wine you're sampling.

Wine Tasting at the Spotted Dog Winery in Downtown Saline
108 E. Michigan Ave, Saline, MI 48176

This is a chance to try a variety of incredible local wines, with the HURON VALLEY HARMONIZERS providing harmonious music to accompany your vinological explorations. The Spotted Dog has been generous enough to donate a portion of the proceeds from the evening's sales to support the Harmonizers.

Tickets will be available online beginning in August, or by calling our Harmony Hotline at (734) 445-1925 to reserve your spot... Limited number of tickets available

Rochester & Macomb Annual Barbershop Show, Saturday, October 13

by Don Lewis

Mike Hartrick and Matt Tipton will be directing the combined chorus of Rochester and Macomb chapters again this year on October 13, 2012 at 7:00pm. This 37th annual Rochester Barbershop Show, entitled ♪"You Make Me Feel So Young"♪ features many great songs from the "Rat Pack" era and many laughs with the comedy quartet, The HOT AIR BUFFOONS, in their only Michigan appearance this year.

Macomb's own RIGHT ON Q will also be performing with their new Bari, Rick Anderson.

Our show date is scheduled for two weeks earlier this year and has been moved to the larger Rochester Hills auditorium at Stoney Creek High School, 575 E. Tienken Rd. There will be room for all.

Adults \$20, Senior/Students \$17

To get your seats early, you can now buy tickets on-line through seatyoursself.com.

<http://www.seatyoursself.biz/heartofthehillsschorus>

Go to the link on either the Rochester or Macomb website

www.heartoftheHillsChorus.org or www.guardiansofharmony.org

Instantly pick the best available seats from the on-screen seating display, and pay with a credit card. Confirmation will be sent to your email address, which you then print out as your ticket. How easy is that? Instructions for pay-by-check are also included.

For questions, contact Walt at walmart@yahoo.com.

Pioneer Fall Convention – Oct 19-21

by Ron Eubank

Hey you! Yeah, I'm talkin' to you! Can you believe it?! It's time to start to begin to commence to talk/enter/make- plans for participating in our upcoming Fall Convention at Battle Creek.

As usual, there's a lot of cool stuff from classes, to Joe Barbershop, to the contests determining our reps to the Int'l Seniors (Orlando in January) and Int'l Chorus (Toronto in July), as well as our District Quartet Champions.

I've set up the contest manager site so you can now enter the Fall Contest in Battle Creek (October 19-21). When you get ready to enter (have your song information handy too) go to the "member log-in" area of the BHS website, sign in and select the "contest entry" tab. Then select contest entry in the drop-down list and you're into it! Follow the instructions -- most of it is pretty user-friendly but just hang in there if you have a problem -- and get your group entered. There are complete instructions on the Pioneer web-site and the Society web-site, if you are so inclined. If you enter correctly, when complete, I will receive (you will too) an automatic e-mail stating such.

That's when I send you a confirmation. If you don't get a confirmation from me within a few days, please contact me.

Remember that with your help we can fix anything so do your best -- we'll deal with it. Sooner is better; the usual two week prior to contest deadline is Saturday, October 6.

Ology Quartets – Oct 19-21

by Chordiology

Ology Quartets will be singing OlogyCats again this Fall at the Pioneer District convention. Last year the openings were filled in less than 24 hours. As a sneak preview we will let you know that EBB 'N' FLOW members will be singing in Ology Quartets, so watch for your chance to sing with our current District Champions and International Quartet competitors along with other esteemed Quartet Champion Association members!



Chordiology

OlogyCats are songs selected by CHORDIOLOGY from the BHS song base. If you or your chapter purchase the sheet music, you can download your part track from CHORDIOLOGY who have very generously paid the fees for that learning track. Note: you can only download one track - the one for your particular part). As **Paul Howe** explained, the idea behind this is to expand on the Pole Cat repertoire, with fresher, newer songs.

Mt. Pleasant MountainTown Singers – October 27 – 7 p.m.

The chorus presents its fall show, Saturday, October 27, at Central Michigan University's Plachta Auditorium. Joining the MOUNTAINTOWN SINGERS chorus will be featured quartets OC TIMES and EBB N' FLOW. Ticket sales online at <http://centralboxoffice.cmich.edu>. Chorus sites at <http://www.mountaintownsingers.org> and <http://www.facebook.com/mtsingers>

BHS International



New CEO/Executive Director of the Barbershop Harmony Society

Twenty-three-year BHS member **Martin "Marty" Monson** was named to the post after an extensive search process conducted by the Barbershop Harmony Society's Board of Directors and the search firm Genovese, Vanderhoof & Associates. Nearly 60 candidates, many with extensive musical and association management experience, were considered for the position.

Marty is currently president and owner of Visual Communication Advisors, a strategic planning consulting firm. Prior to that, he was vice president of business development for Glowpoint, a telecommunications and teleconferencing company.

Marty has been president of the Hilltop, Minn. Chapter (LOL) of the Barbershop Harmony Society for the past five years. His leadership has helped to significantly grow membership and transform the Hilltop chapter (and its GREAT NORTHERN UNION chorus) into one of the Society's most dynamic organizations. An article about this transformation appears in the [November/December 2009 issue](#) of *The Harmonizer*.

You can hear his Keynote address at Harmony University online at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ABFtRXrZmhI&feature=em-uploademail>

No Borders Youth Chorus is now forming

From the Harmonet, by Scott Kahler

Registration is now open for the 2012 NO BORDERS YOUTH CHORUS performance at Carnegie Hall. The performance this year will be on December 26 with special guests, VOCAL SPECTRUM and OC TIMES! The 2012 Chorus will be directed by Joseph Cerutti and is open to all male singers age 30 and younger at the time of the performance.

Registration is expected to fill up quickly and we have a firm limit of 150 performers. Submission of audition tapes is open from August 1st – September 9th. For details, please visit the No Borders Music Consort website at <http://www.nbmconsort.org/>

2013 Toronto International convention

Now available on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/2013Toronto>

Transitions

Bob Mulvihill

by Doug Pearson

Sadly, we've lost our friend and long-time chapter member **Bob Mulvihill** to the great chorus in the sky. Someone once wrote that most of us go to our graves with our music still inside us, but I don't think you can really say that about Bob. His life, as I knew it, resonated to a musical timbre, a strong, vibrant cadence. I doubt if he left any of his music behind.

Through his many years of vocal support, Bob's basso profundo persona strengthened our chapter both on and off the stage. And, too, his uniquely signature laughter carried a contagious symphony of sound that could fill a hundred rooms with some to spare. As a quartet singer, I loved to see Bob with his smiling face in the audience, most recently at our March Show Afterglow along with Roxie. His spontaneous laugh always provided fuel for our PATCH CHORDS performances.

To Bob, the whole world was a stage. In addition to barbershopping, countless audiences were entertained by his compelling performance of *Ulysses Grant*. And he and Roxie lit the stage for years throughout the area during performances in the renowned *Social Security Scandals*.

Off the stage, Bob was a willing contributor. He thrived in the fine art of conversation. He would happily engage you in friendly banter on virtually any subject. Always with a smile. Always with a laugh.

Since Bob was a product of the stage, I don't think he'd mind if I lifted a few words from Hamlet as a final goodbye: "Good night, sweet prince. And flights of angels sing thee to thy rest."

A memorial service for Bob Mulvihill was held Saturday, July 28 at First United Methodist of Jackson.

Jim Hall

by James Hall

It has been just two years since **Jim Hall** perished on the way to the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota when the small plane he was traveling in crashed in Lake Michigan. The copilot and two passengers (the patient and his wife) also died. All were from mid-Michigan.

This June, his son, **James Hall**, presided over a Great Music Giveaway, when he gave away around sixty of his dad's barbershop CDs and cassettes at the Lansing chapter meeting.



James Hall and his dad, Jim Hall

Dr. James K. Hall ("Jim" or "Doc Hall" to many), was a 33-year barbershopper. He was very faithful to his home Gratiot County (Alma, MI) chapter acting at various times as President, Music V.P., Assistant Director, etc. He sold hundreds of tickets to their annual show and brought 42 men into barbershopping. He also was an avid quartet man and loved introducing our hobby to school children. He was a dual member with the Lansing chapter for many years, being active with Lansing in the late 1990's and earned a Chorus Championship with Lansing when Jamie Carey was directing them. He was still a dual member when he passed away.

James encouraged participation in the Harmony Foundation's "Keep a Melody Ringing" fund of the Harmony Foundation "in memory of someone who has passed away, or in honor of someone still with us." As an example, Lansing chapter member **Reese Olger** has been recognized with his name on a special plaque at BHS headquarters in Nashville when members of our chapter and other barbershop friends and family

members donated a total of \$1000 in his name. I hope to reach that level at some point for my father too.

Troubadour Business

We are looking for articles, photos, performances, and ads for the *Troubadour*. (Fall Issue – November 15, 2012; deadline for submission – November 1)

Advertise in the new Troubadour

What a great way to get the word out for your next Chapter Show or event, and even your quartet! How about showing the Pioneer District that your company/organization supports the Pioneer District and Barbershop Harmony Society. Prices quoted are for ads ready to print.

Business card sized ads will run in a slide show on the main index 'front' page. The business card slide show runs in a new random sequence each time you open a new window to the site. Each image lasts a few seconds unless the mouse is moved over it freezing the image and when clicked on the user can view whatever source the client provides such as a file, website, or email address (some business card designs might best be retooled for online viewing).

Larger print ads will be displayed online as static images on the main index 'front' page and when clicked on the user can view whatever source the client provides. Although the larger print ads are only business card size online they have the advantage of being static images and so remain on the screen continuously.

All images and files are to be supplied by the client and emailed at least two weeks before publication date to *Troubadour* Co-editor Greg Humbel at ghumbel@comcast.net.

Please make check payable to "Pioneer District" and mail to...

Greg Humbel
2011 Frieze
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
(313) 815-6212

Ad sizes available:

Full page \$100

2/3 page \$75

1/2 page \$65

1/3 page \$50

Quartet size card \$13

Rates quoted are for scanner ready copy or properly formatted electronic files.

Troubadour Sites and Addresses

http://www.pioneerdistrict.org/troubadour/print/Troubadour_Menu.htm

Pioneer District Facebook site

<http://www.facebook.com/pioneerdistrict>

Want to visit a Pioneer District Chapter? Good Luck!

In a test trial of the chapter data on the BHS web site (www.barbershop.org), an email was sent out to the email contact of each chapter. Only 12 of the 29 chapter reps responded within two weeks. Ten of the web site addresses were also defunct and needed to be re-identified by a new search. We need to do better than that.

Photo credits

The following people have contributed photos to this issue of the Troubadour: Michael Baribeau, **Ken Cushman**, John Cowlshaw, **Kathy Doig**, Earl Elowsky, James Hall, Herb Judd, **Don Lewis**, OTHQ, THE PATCH CHORDS, **Bob Stephenson**, Doug Weaver, and various Web sites.

Letters to the Editors

Looks very good! Thanks for doing this.
Tom Blue, Pontiac-Waterford

Congratulations to all the editors – what a great edition of the Troub!!
Al Bonney, Traverse City

Congratulations on the new Troubadour, colorful and full of news!
Art Lane, Holland

Great job to all who spent their free time returning the "Troub" to the Pioneer!
John Seemann, Frank Thorne

Spectacular job. Way to go!
Ray Sturdy, Pontiac-Waterford, D.O.C.

DISTRICT CALENDAR

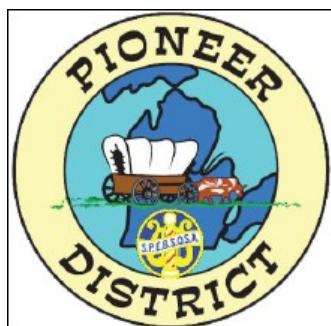
2012 CALENDAR

- Aug 17-18, Bush League Quartet Contest, Gaylord
- Aug 24 , BBBB in the Barn, Battle Creek
- Aug 25, Supercharging Your Chapter, Huron Valley
- Aug 28, Grand Rapids Corn Roast 5 p.m.
- Aug 30, Power Play Homecoming Tour, Hillsdale
- Aug 31-Sep 1 Harrisville
- Sep 8, Supercharging Your Chapter, Lansing
- Sep 22, Sa Kalamazoo Chapter Show
- Sep 22, Sa Gratiot County's Annual Show, "Boy, Oh Boyer"
- Sep 29, Supercharging Your Chapter, Holland
- Oct 6, Huron Valley Harmonizers' Wine Tasting, Saline
- Oct 13, Rochester Chapter Show
- Oct 19-21, Fall Convention, Battle Creek, McCamly Hotel / W K Kellogg
- Oct 27, Sa MountainTown Singers Annual Show (with OC Times)
- Nov 3, Sa Pontiac-Waterford Chapter Show (with 4MFTC)

2013 CALENDAR

- Jan 8-13, Mid-Winter Convention, Orlando
- Feb 16, D.O.C Shows (matinee and evening)
- Mar 9, Capitol City Chordsmen's Wharton Show
- April 19-21, Spring Convention, Traverse City
- Jun 30 – Jul 7, International Convention, Toronto, CAN
- Oct 18-20, Fall Convention, Kalamazoo, Radisson

Upcoming Conventions



Oct 19-21 Battle Creek



January 8 - 13, 2013



June 30 - July 7, 2013