

The *Troubadour* Returns



Doug Weaver

In March, Pioneer District President, Doug Weaver, announced that the District's *Troubadour* is returning to publication. "Hello, Pioneer! We have been hearing for a long time that people have greatly missed the *Troubadour*, so we are very excited to have a plan in place to bring it back. **John Cowlshaw**, **Tom Ennis**, and **Greg Humbel** are anxious to get the first *Troubadour* published, and are hoping that every chapter has at least one article included. You can help by submitting articles."

A *Special Convention* issue was published April 20 to publicize the *Troubadour* among Conventioneers.

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

John Cowlshaw has published the Pontiac-Waterford *Smoke Signals* over the last eleven years. Tom Ennis is a past Bulletin Editor of the Year in the Far Western District. Greg Humbel will coordinate the receipt of articles and ads from the 29 chapters of the Pioneer District. Cowlshaw and Ennis will combine forces to make the resulting publication linguistically, and visually beautiful.



Louis Harrington

The *Troubadour* has a long and honorable career. District Secretary, Louis Harrington, began *The Michigan Troubadour* in October, 1949, "believed to be the first district publication in our Society....In the beginning, copies for each member were mailed to each chapter secretary, and were distributed at their chapter meetings. The first editions were typed on mimeograph, and were one-sided only. Surprisingly enough, the first issues contained quite a bit of information for the individual member, and although not as news-filled as today's publication, it was a start in the right direction." From the Complete Written History of the Pioneer District, by **Robert T. McDermott**. <http://www.pioneerdistrict.org/history/PioneerHistory/tablecontents.html>

Past issues of the *Troubadour* are available in the Pioneer District Archives. (<http://pioneerdistrict.org/troubadour/archive.asp>) They include 49 print editions - one from June 1952, and the rest spanning the ten years from February 1999—Winter 2009 - and the thirteen e-Editions published by **Michael Baribeau** in 2008-2009.

TROUBADOUR

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INTERNATIONAL
CHORUS CHAMPION



PIONEER DISTRICT INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONS

CHORUS CHAMPIONS

1953 GREAT LAKES CHORUS (GRAND RAPIDS)

QUARTET CHAMPIONS

1944 HARMONY HALLS: 1961 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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Pioneer District Convention, Battle Creek, April 20-22, 2012

by John Cowlishaw

What a wonderful convention! The venue was grand, the accommodations were excellent, the judging was lucid, the hosting by GUARDIANS OF HARMONY was smooth, and, oh yes, the entertainment was fantastic.

For example, six of the nineteen quartets competed at an International caliber level. That is, all six met the minimum 76% threshold, the only way that the five out-of-district quartets COULD qualify.

The sixth quartet, Pioneer District's EBB N' FLOW, is going to Portland, not only as the Best Pioneer College Quartet, not only as the Best Pioneer District Quartet, but with their 76.4 they would have qualified in ANY district. No Pioneer quartet has reached that "automatic" level since Power Play's 87.2 in 2003, the year they won Gold. EBB N' FLOW sang "A Fool Such as I," "Love Me," "I Can't Give You Anything But Love," and "Don't be a Baby, Baby" to garner their 1833 points total over the two evenings of competition, for a score of 76.4. **Nathan Masterson** (T), **Garrett Gillingham** (L), **Craig Johnson** (Bs), and **Ben Krinke** (Br) are Central Michigan University students.



In all, twelve Pioneer quartets competed in the open competition. THE BLENDY BOYS, with past champions **Steve Warnaar** (Br) and **T R Gerard** (Bs), were joined by **Rob Halsey** (L) and **Kevin Smerdon** (T) to sing "L-O-V-E" and "Always" to the score of 70.9. Third place was taken by CHORDIOLOGY after a 20 point deduction on Friday for "excessive talking" during their "Your right, Paul/Nevertheless" Parody.



In the Senior Quartet contest a new quartet, SECOND ENDING, won the championship, with members **Dean Burrill** (T), **Benjamin Jerzyk** (L), **Randy Campbell** (Br), and **Dorn Burrill** (Bs). Their score was 59.5.

Two other college quartets, from Central Michigan University (THE VOICEMALES) and Michigan State University (ALREADY TAKEN), competed in the district quartet competition. Although they didn't win, THE VOICEMALES scored well enough (70.3)

to hope for a wild card slot. Remarkably, they only formed seven weeks ago when they found a bass, and three of the members had never competed in a quartet competition before.



The VoiceMales—Dylan Broome (Br) Ryan Collins (L)
Derek Herman (Bs) Hondo Cervantes (T)



Second Ending—Dean Burrill (T) Benjamin Jerzyk (L)
Dorn Burrill (Bs) Randy Campbell (Br)

In the chorus competition, the Mt. Pleasant MountainTown Singers took District Chorus Championship honors, singing “Oh, Lady Be Good,” and “Sweet Georgia Brown,” for a score of 899 or 74.9%. Detroit-Oakland took 2nd place with a score of 71.9 (and the most men on stage – 40), and Huron Valley took 3rd with a score of 67.1. Among the thirteen choruses competing, the Plateau winners were Flint (Plateau 3), Huron Valley (Plateau 2), and Mt Pleasant (Plateau 1). Grand Rapids and Hillsdale choruses competed for evaluation score only. A total of 379 men were on stage for the chorus competition.

All Chorus Competition results:

Mt Pleasant 74.9
Detroit-Oakland 71.9
Huron Valley 67.1
Macomb 66.0
Battle Creek 62.8
Lansing 61.2
Flint 60.6
Pontiac-Waterford 60.1
Windsor 57.3
Holland 56.8
Kalamazoo 55.8
Livingston County 54.9
Grosse Point 54.6



District Champion MountainTown Singers from Mt.
Pleasant Chapter

Congratulations to all five out-of district qualifying quartets:

INSTANT CLASSIC from CAR – 79.7
HOT AIR BUFFOONS from JAD – 79.6
CHAMELEON from ONT – 79.0
ANTHEM from CAR – 77
UP ALL NIGHT from MAD – 76.9

Like EBB N' FLOW, INSTANT CLASSIC competed in both the Collegiate and open competitions and will be singing in both events at Portland.

What a delight to have these fine guests competing in our district convention and singing in the Hospitality Suites. As **Ron Eubank**, Pioneer District Director of Contest & Judging, said, "We got a treat because they had scheduling conflicts and couldn't compete at their own district contest."

Who among us will forget... the classically-barbershop style of the outstanding young Indiana quartet, INSTANT CLASSIC from Ball State and Anderson Universities. Or HOT AIR BUFFOONS, the multi-color-costumed quartet who specialize in parodies, singing four of them in Battle Creek. (They will sing anywhere for food!) Or CHAMELEON, the classy quartet from Toronto, with their wry sense of humor. Or ANTHEM who went historical with the world's first barbershop song, "(Mr. Jefferson Lord) Play that Barbershop Chord." Or UP ALL NIGHT who put their considerable heft into their performance of "Junk Food."

All contests were held in the W K Kellogg Auditorium, an eight-minute walk from the hotel. This lovely structure was designed by **Albert Kahn**, and built in 1932 as part of the government's effort to keep local workers employed during the Depression.

Hospitality Suites were held in the McCamly Plaza Hotel by six chapters, Macomb County on the 2nd floor, Lansing and Kalamazoo on the 4th floor, Grand Rapids on the 14th floor, and up in the top 16th floor, Mt Pleasant and Detroit-Oakland. Pop and beer flowed, appetizers were nibbled, quartets circulated, and tags were sung.

Two classes were offered by the judging panel Friday afternoon. Both were from the Harmony University curriculum. **Steve Tramack** taught "Sound Management," focusing on vocal production and some basic ensemble skills. **Barry Towner** taught "Spokesman for Quartet," a thoughtful presentation of the role of the spokesman in a performance.

The JOE BARBERSHOP CHORUS was directed by Steve Tramack who has directed the Nashua, New Hampshire chorus on the international stage several times. Eighty-four men, the most in recent years, provided the chorus mic-testing function with "Heart of My Heart" and "Down Our Way."



Venue—Kellogg Auditorium



Joe Barbershop Chorus warming up

The Macomb County Guardians of Harmony hosted the convention. Masters of Ceremony were Mike Jaissle on Friday night and Doran McTaggart on Saturday night. The choruses were presented Saturday by **Brian Duncel**, Doug Weaver, and **Roger Lewis**, whoever wasn't singing or otherwise busy at the moment.

Roger Lewis and **Paul Ellinger** of the QCA (Pioneer District Quartet Champions Association) presented the *Glenn Van Tassell Member of the Year Award* posthumously to **Marv Burke**, who joins previous winners **Bill Wickstrom**, **John Wearing**, **Al Fisk**, **Denny Gore**, CHORDIOLOGY, and Roger Lewis. "It is awarded to the QCA member who supports and promotes quartetting and is considered to be a legend in the Pioneer District or the Society. Marv Burke was one of the founding members of the Association and worked selflessly and tirelessly for the QCA and to promote quartets in general. He was Bass of the 1965 champions, THE FOUR FITS. He and the other Four Fits were barbershop dads to many including me. He truly knew the difference between winning a championship and being a true champion." (Paul Ellinger)



Matt Pius, Grosse Pointe chapter president, accepted the Glenn Van Tassell award on behalf of Marv Burke



The Glenn Van Tassell award

Following the Quartet Semi-Final Contest Friday night the Grand Rapids GREAT LAKES CHORUS put on a fund-raising show that included the two songs that they will be performing in Portland – "Where the Southern Roses Grow" and "Side by Side."

Sunday morning's worship service was arranged by **David Anderson** and **David Walker** of SINGING WITH DAD.

This was the first convention under Doug Weaver's presidency, and he has a right to be proud. A great big thank you to the guys who administered the convention – **Jerry Ditto**, Roger Lewis, **Jeff Woodworth**, **Don Kill**, Ron Eubank, **Robb Smith**, Brian Duncel, and Paul Ellinger. Ron Eubank summed it up, "Thank you to competitors and attendees alike! We in Pioneer got to host and see a really great weekend of singing! See you all again in Battle Creek, October 19-21!"

The chorus and quartet scores and results are all online at the Pioneer district site, <http://www.pioneerdistrict.org/contestsummary/contmenu.htm> , thanks to Steve Sutherland.

Photos by Michael Baribeau are on the Pioneer District Facebook site <http://www.facebook.com/pioneerdistrict>

Where are they now?

Of the quartets listed below who competed five and ten years ago, only FOUR MAN FISHIN' TACKLE CHOIR, CHORDIOLOGY, and PARTY OF FOUR aka THE PARTY remain active.

Five years ago, in Traverse City

FERMATA NOWHERE
WILDCARD
FOUR MAN FISHIN' TACKLE CHOIR
RUSH HOUR
KEYNOTES
SOMETHING BIG!!
MOXXY
AFTER INTERMISSION

Ten years ago, in Lansing

POWER PLAY
PHILATOGA TOWNSHIP
WJBC
CROSSFIRE
FOUR MAN FISHIN' TACKLE CHOIR
FERMATA NOWHERE
CHORDIOLOGY
HARMONY TRANSFER
PARTY OF FOUR
BORDER CROSSING
METRO CHORD AUTHORITY
FORTUNE SMILES
TODAY'S SPECIAL

UPCOMING EVENTS

Hillsdale Show, May 19 (from their website)

The TOWN AND COUNTRY CHORUS of Hillsdale will be holding their spring show on Saturday, May 19. The theme is *Malt Shop Memories* and features our favorite music from the 1950's - music by the **Everly Brothers**, the **Del-Vikings**, **Ricky Nelson**, the **Righteous Brothers**, and the **Beach Boys**. Feature quartets are PRESTIGE (2011 International Barbershop Collegiate Quartet Champions) and SINGERS LOCAL #4.

There will be two performances: 3:00 pm and 7:30 pm. The venue is Markel Auditorium in the Sage Center at Hillsdale College. An afterglow will immediately follow the 7:30 pm performance. Ticket prices are \$14.00 adults / \$7.00 for school age for the performances (all seats reserved) and \$10.00 per person for the afterglow. More information at: <http://townandcountrychorus.com/>

GREAT LAKES HARMONY BRIGADE, June 2

If you are not in the 3rd GLHB, at least you can consider attending the Brigade Show on June 2 7:30 PM at the Okemos High School, 2800 Jolly Rd., Okemos, MI, 48864.



Guest quartets will be EBB 'N FLOW & THE HARMONY HOUNDS. The 100-man Brigade Chorus will be singing their eleven new songs. Ticket prices are \$15 each and can be ordered on-line at: <http://www.harmonybrigade.org/glhb/> (\$10 for groups of 10 or more). GLHB President **Mike O'Donnell** writes, "Why not make a night of it and plan to bring a bunch of you to see the show and to come to the quartet finals after the show. We will have pizza, beer & pop for those wanting to come see what a Brigade weekend is all about. Please let me know if

you intend to stay for the finals so we order enough for everyone. There is a small charge for the afterglow."

Windsor Pioneer District Send Off Show June 8

June 8, 2012, 6:30 PM

St. Nikola Macedonian Community Centre and Banquet Halls at 5225 Howard Avenue La Salle Windsor, ON N9A 6Z6, Canada. South of Hwy #3 bypass

The hall website <http://www.macedonianccw.com/>

(From the Windsor web site)

We hope to see everyone out again this year to our 36th Annual District Send-Off Show. Join about 250 barbershoppers, sit back, and enjoy the exciting sounds of barbershop a cappella harmony at its best. In addition to our favored mass chorus of as many barbershoppers as we can fit on stage, you will also be treated to some of the finest barbershop entertainment this district has to offer, featuring our district champion chorus, quartet, collegiate quartet and senior quartet. Tickets are \$20 and are now on sale.

Remember: You must have a current Passport, U. S. Passport Card, or Enhanced Driver's License to be able to return to the United States. At the soonest it takes 'about' 4 weeks to get one of these so if you haven't already, order one ASAP. Although not required leaving the US, it is required for returning into the US. https://help.cbp.gov/app/answers/detail/a_id/74

Traverse City Cherry Capital Men's Chorus Show

Saturday, June 9th at 7:30 pm

Sunday, June 10th at 3:00 pm

Milliken Auditorium, Dennos Museum on the NMC Campus



When a young man's heart turns to love, it also turns to song! As our bachelor spends his last days as a single man, it's up to his buddies to share their thoughts on love, both lost and found! Come be part of an unforgettable evening, full of smiles, laughs, and touching moments with men of the **Cherry Capital Men's Chorus**; and guest performers, [FOUR MAN FISHIN' TACKLE CHOIR](#), as they share their hearts and voices!



Pioneer District Goes to Portland. July 1-8

We now know our slate of representatives at the International Convention this July in Portland, OR, and which days they'll sing. (All times EDT!)

Collegiate quartet competition: EBB N' FLOW Tuesday, July 3, 8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. (EDT)

Quartet competition: EBB N' FLOW (Quarter-finals) Wed, July 4, 1 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. (EDT)

Chorus competition: GREAT LAKES CHORUS 1st of 28 choruses, Friday, July 6, 1 p.m. (EDT)

Best wishes to our reps!

Harmony Boot Camp, July 21

By Mike O'Donnell

Harmony Boot Camp will be July 21 at the same location as the Leadership Academy in Okemos, MI. We're in the process of getting our judges in order and then I'm sure QCA President Roger Lewis will be sending out an "official" notice.

This years Harmony Boot Camp is being held at the same time as the old mini-hep weekend so you might also be hearing from **Pete Westers** who is coordinating that day with the QCA and explains why the new name: Harmony Boot Camp!

From Paul Ellinger

For those of you in quartets, nothing will change for you. There will still be all of the great coaching and encouragement from QCA members from across the District for you. The amplification of the event is simply that there are now also great things to engage in for those that will not be able to come as a quartet. Basically, it is Quartet Boot Camp PLUS more for others Harmony Boot Camp. More to come! :)

MountainTown Harmony Explosion Scheduled for July 26-28

Joe Cerutti and **Erin Odell** return to Mt. Pleasant this summer to lead **Mountain-Town Harmony Explosion**. The two led the first annual event held on the Central Michigan University campus last July. The event is a youth outreach project of the Mt. Pleasant chapter and is spearheaded by chapter member **Joe McDonald**. McDonald is quick to credit his committee that includes **Dr. David Gillingham** and CMU student members **Ryan Collins**, **Craig Johnson**, and **Kenny Davis**. Davis has been a

“camper” in the past and is a testament to the fact that “campers” grow up to be barbershoppers.

Since last summer, Joe Cerutti has been appointed to the Society Board and led an impressive number of barbershop events around the world. He was responsible for the event held at Carnegie Hall this past December titled, NO BORDERS YOUTH CHORUS, which featured 170 young male singers on stage in the world renowned performance hall. Five of those singers participated in last year’s MountainTown Harmony Explosion camp.

Erin Odell has been busy this past school year establishing a vocal music program at Glen Allen High School, a brand new school system in Richmond, Virginia. Odell also competed in the International Quartet contest last October with her quartet, SHADES OF JADE. She is excited to return to the CMU venue this summer to work with the next group of young female singers.

Two quartets are booked to assist the young singers in small group settings that we call sectionals. SHADES OF JADE is an award winning female quartet based in the St. Louis MO area. Three of them have music education degrees. Two are teaching at the secondary grade level. The fourth member is a student that performs in two campus ensembles that is from an award winning barbershop family. The male quartet DOMINANT PREP, is made up of four young men that are all pursuing vocal music degrees at the University of Missouri St. Louis. They all sing with the AMBASSADORS OF HARMONY chorus and have experiences with some of barbershop’s finest educators and performers. They will be competing in the Collegiate Quartet Contest in Portland this July if all goes according to plan. The lead in this quartet is Pioneer’s own **Aaron Pollard** from Farmington Hills, MI.

The camp includes, two nights lodging, eight meals, four songs to include sheet music and part specific learning tracks, a camp shirt, and many wonderful memories. The camp fee is \$195 this year. The camp will conclude with a show on Saturday evening in the renowned Staple Family Recital Hall at CMU.

Additional details can be found at <http://www.mountaintownsingers.org>. Registration opened on April 1, 2012. For more information contact Joe McDonald at joecab2@hotmail.com or call him at 989 560 6181.

Bush League is coming! Aug 17-18

by **Dale Hanson** Bush League Chairman, Gaylord Chapter

Is your Quartet thinking about competing in this summer’s Bush League Competition? This year’s event will be August 17 & 18, 2012. Headquarters Hotel will be the Quality Inn. Venue for the competition, coaching, and the *Show of Champions* is at the Evangelical Free Church. The Afterglow will be at BJ's Restaurant.

The forms and information are up and running on the Gaylord Chapter’s web site

<http://www.harmoniemeisters.org>. Click on the items under **Bush League Information & Forms** for this year's contest. Above that, in the main menu bar, click to find out about Bush League general facts, how it started, the winners through-out the 65 years we have kept it going, and a complete report on last years event.

Hillsdale, August 30



Reports: Chapters and Quartets

Battle Creek Cereal City Barbershop Chorus

From their web site <http://www.cerealcitybarbershop.com/>

The CEREAL CITY BARBERSHOP CHORUS hosted its Spring Dinner Cabaret show on Saturday, May 12th at the Convis Township Hall between Battle Creek and Marshall. The evening started at 6:00 p.m. with a social time, followed by dinner at 6:30 and the show at 7:30. Entertainment included the CEREAL CITY CHORUS, several chapter quartets (including the HARMONY HOUNDS), as well as two great guest quartets, The BLENDY BOYS, and the 2010 International Seniors Champions, RESISTING-A-REST. Their new chorus director is **Paul Cooper**, the original baritone in the a cappella group called THE NYLONS.

Detroit-Oakland Chapter Holds Its 73rd Annual Show

<http://detroitoakland.org/>

by Dave Montera

Boldly going where no Barbershop chorus has gone before, THE GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS recently held their 73rd Annual Show. This Chapter hosted the first ever Parade of Quartets in 1940 at the Detroit Book Cadillac Hotel, and has been continuing the tradition ever since.

The theme for this year's show was "Barbershop in Space...The Final Frontier" ...and the Songsters readily donned their Starship uniforms, and took off on a space adventure to find love, harmony...and finally Earth!! Led by our fearless Captain Dirk (**Steve Sutherland**) the chorus wove songs involving space, the moon, and travel into a story of adventure on the Starship *Genterprise*.



The D.O.C. Chorus in their show costumes



Hi-FIDELITY

The crew was joined by a great quartet, Hi-FIDELITY, which donned its Star Trek uniforms and took a quick space trip through the Detroit area. This group is great, and certainly earned its 2006 Harmony Sweepstakes National A Cappella Champ status. The harmony was tight, and the humor was great.

We were also joined by the 2011 Collegiate Champs from down Bowling Green, Ohio way, PRESTIGE. These young men were fantastic with beautiful harmony and a great stage presence. While they did not get into the space travel theme, the music transcends theme, and the audience was wowed by these young men.

We owe a large thanks to our coaches, **Carl Dahlke**, **Matt Coombs** and our choreographer **Sue Spires** for helping to make this a great show. We also want to give a big PIONEER HO to our M.C. for the day, Paul Ellinger. It was a great show, and the guys had an absolute blast putting it together. We look forward to next years' show, so mark your calendars for February 16, 2013 at Clarenceville High School in Livonia.

Flint Arrowhead Barbershop Chorus

The Flint ARROWHEAD Barbershop Chorus will hold its 71st Annual Show entitled, *Night Time in Dixie Land*, on May 19th, 2012. This will be a Dinner Show and will feature a script prepared and produced by **Dave Lonsbury**, a long time member of the Arrowhead Chorus. If you've never seen a Dave Lonsbury scripted show, you're in for a real treat.

We are proud to feature 2012 Pioneer College and International Preliminary Contest Champion EBB N' FLOW, along with the Second Place Quartet in the 2012 International Preliminary Contest THE BLENDY BOYS and Third Place College Contest Quartet, ALREADY TAKEN.

The show will be held at Church of the Holy Family, Father Bush Hall, 11804 South Saginaw St, Grand Blanc, Michigan, 48439. Doors open at 5:00 pm with dinner served

at 6:00. Tickets are \$28.00 and may be purchased from Ron Gillies at (810) 845-4044 or online at <http://www.flintarrowhead.org>. Seating is limited so please order your tickets early.

Flint Arrowhead Barbershop Chorus has moved

by Doug Lynn

After over 10 wonderful years of rehearsing at St Christopher's Episcopal Church in Grand Blanc, MI, the Flint ARROWHEAD Barbershop Chorus has decided to move to a new location. We can now be found in Courtland Center, which is located on the corner of Center Road and Court Street just north of I-69 in Burton, MI. We will be on the north side of the mall right next to Old Country Buffet. We rehearse on Tuesday nights from 7:00 to 9:30 where "Men Who Love to Sing" are always welcome. For more information please call Doug Lynn (810) 624-2797 or visit us on-line at <http://www.flintarrowhead.org>.

Grand Rapids Great Lakes Chorus

From their website <http://www.greatlakeschorus.org/>

The Great Lakes Chorus had a busy St. Patrick's Day entertaining crowds at two events! The first event was the Forest Hills Community Expo! at the Ada Christian School. We closed the day's festivities with a 30 minute performance that included our Portland Set: "Where The Southern Roses Grow" and "Side By Side", and very popular songs such as "Yesterday", "Under The Boardwalk", and the Disney favorites: "Can You Feel The Love Tonight" and "When You Wish Upon A Star", just to name a few.

After our performance in Ada, we made our way to Van Andel Arena where the guys, and their families enjoyed an incredible dinner at the 5/3 Bank Vault Restaurant, before our performance of both the Canadian & American National Anthems at that evening's Griffin's Hockey game (which the Griffins won 5-3) against the Hamilton Bulldogs. There are a lot of good photos by Michael Baribeau and **Robert Alicea** on our website.

Holland Windmill Chorus

<http://www.harmonize.com/windmill/>

from John Peters/Holland Chapter via PioNet

The Holland Chapter's annual Tulip Time Festival Show *Sounds of Summer* was Tuesday, May 8, in the Knickerbocker Theatre, in beautiful downtown Holland.

Continuing a Festival tradition since the 1960s, this 90-minute barbershop show offered something for everyone, kicking off with a rampant Chorus tribute to "The Beach Boys" presenting a medley of that famous group's most popular songs. Featured guest quartets included female as well as male barbershoppers, with THE FABULOUS SOUND SISTERS and TAKE NOTE. Rounding out the program were two local quartets highlighting members of the Chorus -- BREAK TIME and 2 BY 2. There was also a "surprise" appearance by THE EXTENSION CHORDS, commemorating the anniversary

of their 1952 District Quartet Championship.

The FABULOUS SOUND SISTERS, a Michigan quartet gaining notice for its humor as well as ringing chords, combines four women from the award-winning FENTON LAKES CHORUS, current Sweet Adelines Division A International Silver Medalists. Formed in 2004 and quickly claiming their first Regional Novice Quartet Championship the following year, this foursome collectively brings to the stage more than 100 years of Sweet Adelines and competition quartet performance experience. TAKE NOTE, current top-ranking senior men's quartet in Illinois, consistently ranks among the top ten senior quartets in North America. The group excels with a varied repertoire that includes memorable music ranging from the "big band days" to the hits of the '50s and '60s. BREAK TIME, considered best of the newer quartets to develop recently within the Holland WINDMILL Chorus, has performed primarily in recent HWC concerts and for various local schools and church organizations. 2 BY 2 is the first inter-family quartet to combine two members of Holland WINDMILL Chorus and their wives, one of whom sings with HOLLAND CHORALE and its CLASS ACT women's ensemble, and one of whom sings barbershop with Sweet Adelines.

Huron Valley Harmonizers

<http://hvharmonizers.org/>

by William Stutts Jr

The Huron Valley HARMONIZERS presented their "Chords & Cuisine" show on Sunday, March 18 at Stony Creek Methodist Church in Ypsilanti. For \$20 attendees got not only a show, but a meal. Also, the guys made up some delicious homemade desserts!!! The show featured the Huron Valley HARMONIZERS and quartets, WHAT 4?, META-4, and headlining was the highly entertaining OLDE THYME HARMONY QUARTET.

While you are at it, "like" us on our FaceBook page at

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

The HARMONIZERS got a nice preview article March 12 on the Ann Arbor web site, which is currently viewable at: <http://tinyurl.com/833mxnn>. The chorus was hoping enough people would express interest by clicking on the article to get it into the paper version, published on Sundays and apparently, that happened.

Lansing Capitol City Chordsmen

<http://capitolcitychordsmen.org/>

Lansing presented Hooray for Hollywood, Saturday March 3. Featured quartet was TNS (The Nashville Singers).

Some comments from **Paul Howe's Woodshedder Weekly**:

"A great, great time in Lansing last night! Held in the beautiful Wharton Center at MSU, a crowd of over 900 people saw the Capitol City CHORDSMEN, several chapter quartets, and International finalist TNS put on a terrific show. Emceed by Pioneer's own Paul Ellinger, the Lansing guys showed how to ring some chords last night. Great job, guys!"

Doug Weaver, President, Pioneer District



TNS (The Nashville Singers)

"People came from all over the District to see last night's show: A Grand Rapids contingent that included District President Doug Weaver and Michael Baribeau; a group from MountainTown that included **Barry George, Jeff Rayburn** and Joe McDonald; a contingency from Wayne which included **Charles Nalbandian; William Stutts** from Huron Valley; another contingency from the Saginaw Bay Chapter which included **Ralph Brown**; Current District Champions EBB 'N FLOW were all there and came to support the event; and many others! The CHORDSMEN were definitely "Capital" last night with their show that included a parade of quartets, great show tunes an innovative script that broke through that fourth wall and of course TNS was fantastic. There is a reason that the CHORDSMEN have one of the most, if not the most, active and entertaining stable of quartets in the District. Things are happening in Lansing. All I can say is, if you see a reminder about next year's show, I would more than consider attending!"

Paul Ellinger

"I've head many quartets in my life....that TNS group is THE TOPS!! Thank you!!"

Red Hattedly, *Evelyn*

"The final sales numbers are in. Our final total of ticket sales was 961, which is about 250 more than last year. Our program ad sales totaled \$4000, which is \$400 more than last year, and this is really great! Both of these totals are encouraging. **Van Reid** was our top overall seller and our top ad seller, selling 54 tickets and \$912.50 in ads! **Larry Parker** was our top ticket seller, selling 99 tickets! Both of these men sold nearly \$2000 total for our chapter this year. Thanks so much, guys!"

Jim Hall

From Jeff Markham

Lansing VP for Membership & Chapter Development

At our annual show on March 3 during intermission Jeff Markham, VP for Membership talked with the audience using the "Alternative Cattle Call" from "Supercharging your Chapter". According to the Lansing Marketing/PR VP **James Hall**, we had more names then previous years of potential members who were interested and wanted more information, which was five men. Tuesday, March 6 the Lansing Chapter had our 1st Guest Night of the year in which we we had six guests, two of which were returning guests. All in all, there are eleven potential members from the annual show/1st guest

night. This is encouraging and a positive start.

In the coming months, the Lansing Chapter will be following up with the potential members and starting to gather a list of churches, schools, and our colleges and university in our area to reach out to them. The Lansing Chapter is also working on a theme of "Bring back Barbershop" for the entire year to encourage past or inactive members to come back and sing.

Livingston Lamplighters

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

submitted by Don Horton

The Livingston LAMPLIGHTERS presented an Open House of barbershop harmony on Thursday March 15, 2012 at the Howell Opera House.

<http://www.theoperahouse.us/events.html>

The event was intended to attract attention to barbershop singing and to serve as a fund raiser to support restoration of the Howell Opera House.

OLDE THYME HARMONY QUARTET had the pleasure of attending the event with our Membership VP, **Jeff Markham**. It was a GRAND AFFAIR with over 80 people in attendance. The quartet had an opportunity to sing a couple of songs during the chorus and quartet show, performing ON STAGE as the first entertainment group in over 88 years. Wow! What a NEAT thing. CODA HONOR was also present to sing.

The Livingston Chapter has a very nice repertoire of songs, many of which are in Lansing's repertoire as well. I was very pleasantly surprised at the sound production of the chorus. **Paul Kaiser** is doing a GREAT job of directing this fine chorus.

The Opera House is actually on the second floor of a four story building on Grand River Avenue, the main thoroughfare of Howell. Ladies from the Association give attendees a tour of the 2nd Floor Opera House. The 3rd floor is the balcony. Opening Day for the Opera House was December 30, 1881, but it closed in 1924.

There were several former members of the Livingston Chorus in attendance and nine new faces (potentially interested men). I personally spoke with two of the former members who want to get back to the chorus. Hearing them and the various quartets gave them the BUG again.

Congratulations to the Livingston Chapter for bringing Barbershop to the Howell Opera House for a FUN and hopefully productive evening for both the chorus membership and the Fund Raiser for the Opera House.



Muskegon Chapter

http://www.facebook.com/pages/Muskegon-Chapter-of-the-Barbershop-Harmony-Society/198640052124?v=box_3

First Lady of Muskegon Takes Charge

by George Doyle

After 71 years in existence, the Muskegon SHORELINE Chorus has a new lady director. **S. Annette Jurcevic**, a native of Ludington, Michigan, answered a Craigslist ad and immediately won out over two other prospects. She has advanced degrees in choral conducting and vocal performance and was involved with the Austin, Texas chapter of BHS prior to her return to Michigan. She conducts music education craft sessions at every rehearsal and provides voice coaching for individuals and quartets prior to the weekly meeting. She attended the Pioneer District Leadership Academy this year and sang baritone in a Singing Valentine quartet. She soon was sought out and was hired to direct the Grand Haven, Michigan WEST SHORE Chorus of the Sweet Adelines. Ms. Jurcevic is dedicated to performing in the community, growing the chapter, and improving the overall quality of vocal production.



S. Annette Jurcevic

from their **Website**

The SHORELINE Chorus entertained residents of Nelson Place, a senior community, in Muskegon on April 26 then took the stage at Hennessy's Irish Pub for some afterglow songs. New members are always welcome, no auditions, no training required.

Olde Thyme Harmony Quartet's Busy Schedule in March

<http://www.oldethymeharmony.com>

by Don Horton

OLDE THYME HARMONY QUARTET at the Howell Opera House. L-R. **Don Horton** (L), **Jim McKay** (Bs), **Tim Oliver** (Br), **Jacob Welty** (T)

OLDE THYME HARMONY QUARTET performed on four consecutive days in March.



Our performance at the Livingston LAMPLIGHTER Chapter's OPEN HOUSE at the Howell Opera House on March 15 was a TON of FUN and turned out to be a very HISTORICAL EVENT for OTHQ. We had an opportunity to perform on the Opera House stage which had not had any musical production since 1924. With the help of **Lisa Hall** who happened to have her camera handy, we got some nice photos.

On March 16, we performed for the third straight year at the Respite Dinner/Auction in Owosso to approximately 200 people.

On Saturday, March 17, we performed for the Owosso St. Paul School Annual Fund-raiser Dinner/Auction to approximately 180 people.

Then on Sunday we took a trip to Ypsilanti where we performed on the 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. shows put on by the Huron Valley chapter. Many thanks to our GOOD friends CHORDIOLOGY for inviting us to be part of their show. This was OTHQ'S first opportunity to HEADLINE a barbershop show with a full 30 minute performance on each show. We shared the stage with the Huron Valley HARMONIZERS, and their chapter quartets WHAT-4? and META-4. We also had time to share some tags and pole cats with many of the Harmonizers including our well known friends **Jason Fox** (former Lansing member), **Greg Humbel**, William Stutts Jr., and **Rob Pettigrew**.

Pontiac-Waterford Big Chief Chorus

<http://www.bigchiefchorus.org>

by John Cowlshaw

St Patrick's Day brought two performances by the BIG CHIEF Chorus. On Thursday evening, 38 members performed for the residents and guests of Canterbury-On-The-Lake, an annual gig. The chorus was in fine voice as it sang a set of about a dozen numbers under **Tom Blue's** directorship.

4GVN added its rendition of "The Spiritual Medley," LIMITED EDITION inaugurated a new seasonal number called "That's an Irish Lullaby" and its standard "Come Fly with Me," and NATURAL E sang "Aint Misbehavin' and "Lida Rose." Tom brought along his student teacher to observe the glories of barbershop. Afterward we all repaired to Canterbury's downstairs Pub for green beer and more singing.



Auburn Hills seniors listen to the Big Chief Chorus

The next day a sparser group of nineteen retired members sang at the Auburn Hills Community Center for its Senior Luncheon. Assistant Director **Freddie McFadyen** covered any memory lapses with talk about "wisdom overloads" (aka, senior moments) and that great old joke about Rose. NATURAL E filled in any gaps with three offerings.

Green bow ties and arm bands were provided by **Zaven Melkonian**.

Rochester Heart of the Hills

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

by Don Lewis, VP PR, Rochester Chapter

We often refer to our Society as one great Fraternity. This was recently demonstrated in a joint performance at the Heartland Medical Center in Troy, Michigan by the Macomb and Rochester Chapters.

The Rochester Chapter had booked a 45 minute program for the residents at this medical rehabilitation facility for Sunday afternoon, April 15. When Macomb Chapter President **Ed Bax** and Director **Matt Tipton** heard about it, they volunteered to add their voices and asked other members of their chorus to join in. A friendship has developed between these two chapters, having collaborated on their annual Barbershop show last October and joining together again for the Pioneer District Contest this spring.

By performance time, we had almost equal numbers of guys in HEART OF THE HILLS red shirts and the GUARDIANS OF HARMONY black shirts, resulting in a great performance. The folks all expressed their appreciation and enjoyment of our program.

There was an added bonus for a number of the “older” barbershoppers when they realized we were actually singing to none other than **Denny Gore**. Denny joined with us as we went down the hall to sing to another resident, Sandy, wife of **John Northey**. John, unfortunately, was not aware we were going to be there, but he later personally thanked members of both choruses for making Sandy’s day, helping her in her recovery.



Matt Tipton, Ken Klein, and Denny Gore



Ed Baxx, Ken Klein, Dave Pearcy, and Wes Tomlinson

On the lighter side, the room they provided for our warm up was, appropriately, the Center’s barbershop. How could we not do a good job from there?

Saginaw Bay Harbor Sounds Chorus

<http://www.harborsounds.org/index.htm>

by Ralph Brown and Dave Szutkowski

Our Chapter has joined the Harold Hill Program and one of the charges is to be more visible in the Community. Just before Christmas we joined a group from the Bay City Players which is the longest running Stage Theater in Michigan.

They have a Reading Theater group called the "Recyclables". They sit on stools and read the script much like old time radio. One has to be at least recyclable age, 55 or older, to be a member. Each year they do a show and call it "A Gift To The Community". There was no charge for the performance.



The Harbor Sounds Chorus at the Bay City Players

We sang to a packed house in the middle of the Program with about a 20 minute set. Our Director **Jeff Bonn** scripted our performance and had the crowd chuckling at times. We had a pick-up quartet sing as part of the show with Jeff Bonn-Tenor, **Bill Matson**-Lead, **Dennis Datte**-Bass, and **Marty Musolf**-Bari. Another special feature was the Chorus loo-ing "Silent Night" in the background while a duet sang it in Polish (**Dave Szutkowski**) and German (**Ralph Brown**). A large percentage of the Bay City population is either Polish or German.

We received many compliments from the attendees and in fact got another sing-out as a result. The Director of the Recyclables told me that this year's show was the best they have had in the four years they have been doing it, and she hopes we consider being with them again in the future.

Saginaw Bay Officer Installation

by Dave Szutkowski

On Saturday evening the 31st of March, 2012, the Saginaw Bay Chapter held their Installation of Officers banquet at The 'Ole Tyme Broadway restaurant. Doing the honors was the Pioneer District's International Senior Gold Medalist quartet RESISTING-A-REST. **Steve Warnaar**, baritone for the group, stepped forward to duly install all members of the 2012 Board of Directors of the Saginaw Bay Chapter.

Marty Musolf, long time Saginaw Bay member, received the Barbershopper of the Year Award 2011. Marty's many contributions to the Chapter are greatly appreciated.

All 58 members and guests in attendance enjoyed a fine evening of fellowship, and song by RESISTING-A-REST and the Saginaw Bay Chorus.

Sault Ste Marie - Northland Chorus Annual Show A Huge Success!

<http://www.angelfire.com/music5/northlandbarbershop/>

by Ted McKinney and Bob Shami

Chock-full of dairy humor and bad cow puns, Sault Ste Marie's NORTHLAND Barbershop Chorus, Pioneer District's northern-most chapter, recently presented its 48th annual show on Saturday, April 14th at the Kiwanis Theatre Centre in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada. Under the musical direction of **Bob Shami**, this year's show was an original melodrama entitled *Dire Days at the Dairy or 'Udder' Mayhem*.

The show caught the audience's attention from its very first line, spoken by dairy worker, Mookie Whey, who began: "Well, howdy everybody!" He was spontaneously answered with a big "HOWDY" by the entire audience.

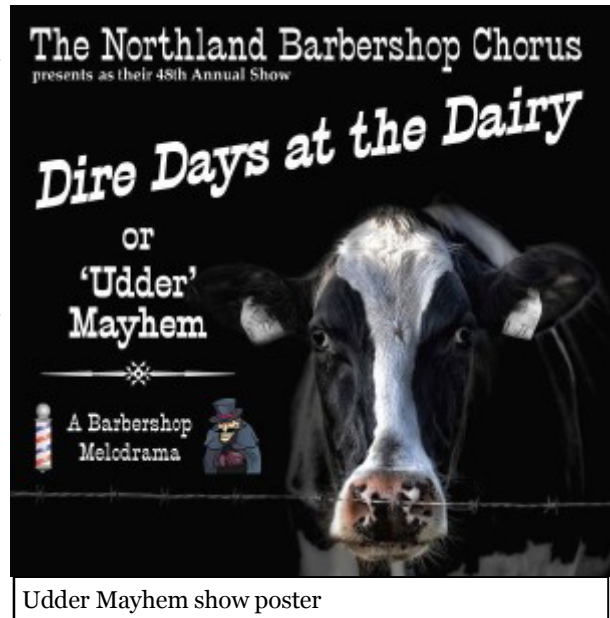
It was side-splitting laughter, audience appreciation and participation from that point on from one of the best audiences for whom the chorus or guest quartet, CROSSROADS, has ever been privileged to perform.

Written by Bob Shami and **Stephen Patterson**, this one hour production filled the first half of the evening and included nine songs sung with great enthusiasm by the 48-man chorus, who were dressed as dairy workers. Interspersed between the songs was the dialogue of a clever, pun-filled script that included all of the usual characters typical of a Victorian-era melodrama: the brave hero (Beau Vine), his dim but loyal sidekick (Mookie), the villain (Dr. Salvatore Monella – yes, that's right: Sal Monella), the fair maiden and her (apparently) far widowed mother.

The show takes place at an earlier time in local settings and allowed the audience to feel truly connected to the goings-on. After a while, the audience even began filling in the blanks, stating the punch lines along with the actors to everyone's delight. It was marvelous for the chorus to see their audience having such a good time

The wonderfully talented cast consisted of a mixture of local community-theatre veterans and chorus members alike. As with all melodramas, the twists and turns led eventually to a happy ending for all as virtue triumphed over vice, as it must.

But this was just the beginning of a great evening. CROSSROADS, the 2009 International Champion, was spectacular from the first chord of their opening song, "You Don't, You Won't", through to their signature closer, a sizzling version of "That Lucky Old Sun" that was even better than their gold-medal performance of it in Anaheim in



Udder Mayhem show poster

2009. Their singing was peerless throughout, but was especially so on this song.

Pioneer's favorite son, **Mike Slamka**, singing better than ever, demonstrated the awesome range and soulful interpretation skills reminiscent to many of the late (Canadian) **Randy Chisholm** of MARQUIS. Mike's place as one of the Society's most talented leads is surely secure. His lead work on **Roy Orbison's** classic, "Crying," was said by many to be worth the price of admission. In a word, it was stunning! Though they rarely do an encore, preferring to leave the stage and their standing audience after their usual closer, they treated this particularly warm



CROSSROADS performance led to three standing Os

and enthusiastic audience to a wonderful and unexpected encore number, "Roll, Jordan, Roll." The audience was thrilled, rewarding CROSSROADS with the 3rd standing ovation they would give them this night; the chorus, watching on-stage from the risers behind the quartet, were mesmerized and inspired by the quartet's ringing chords and vocal perfection. A wonderful night of musical and theatrical entertainment was enjoyed by all.

Next year's show is slated for April 6, 2013. Most of the snow may even be gone by then! Why not plan a road trip? Lots of great music. It'll be worth the drive, really!



Mookie (on left) with some of the boys



Enter the Villain taking the stage from Beau

Wayne HarmonyTown Chorus
<http://www.WeSingBarbershop.com>
 by Frank Adams

The Wayne Chapter's HARMONYTOWN Chorus presented their annual show on Sunday, March 25. The title for this year's show was "A Pirate's Life" and as you might figure is a nautical theme.

Our guest quartet was the 2011 Pioneer District Champions, EBB N' FLOW (kinda goes with the theme). If you hadn't seen these guys perform yet, this was your chance. They are awesome. Also appearing was a chapter quartet, IMPULSE. The show was at Thurston High School, in Redford, MI. Seeing the chorus dressed as pirates was worth the price of admission.

OTHER REPORTS

Convention Sites

from Jerry Ditto, Director of Events

Convention	Date	Location	Host Chapter
Fall	Oct 19-21, 2012	Battle Creek, McCamly Place Hotel	Battle Creek
Spring	April 19-21, 2013	Traverse City Grand Traverse Resort	Traverse City
Fall	Oct 17-19, 2013	Kalamazoo Radisson Plaza Hotel	Lansing
Spring	April 15-17, 2014	Grand Rapids Crowne Plaza Hotel	Grand Rapids
Fall	Oct 17-19, 2014	Muskegon Holiday Inn	Muskegon/Holland
Spring	April 25-27, 2015	Battle Creek ???	
Fall	Oct 16-18, 2015	Kalamazoo ???	
Spring	April 22-24, 2016	Grand Rapids Crowne Plaza Hotel ???	
Spring	April 20-22, 2018	Grand Rapids Crowne Plaza Hotel ???	

Hall of Fame

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

In his letter of Feb 13, 2012, Pioneer District President Doug Weaver asked for nominations to the Pioneer District Hall of Fame.

“The Hall of Fame has been the Pioneer District’s most coveted and honored award for over 30 years. The recipients have had a powerful impact in the Pioneer District, and in the greater Society as well. However, there are still many Pioneer Barbershoppers who deserve the award and the recognition, but who have simply not yet been nominated. A nominee must be (or was, if he is deceased) a member in good standing of a Pioneer District chapter and must have a minimum of 10 years membership in the Pioneer District. Furthermore, since this is a District award, the nominee must have had service to the District. Service to his chapter and to the Barbershop Harmony Society is also considered as part of the criteria for the award. The rules and regulations governing the nomination, selection, and presentation of the award are on the Pioneer web site. The selection committee [met] at the Spring convention in Battle Creek, and the award will be made at the Fall convention.”

“As a follow up to Doug's note, this is also a great opportunity to recognize all of those men who are already Hall of Famers. You can see the list on the Pioneer District web-site at: http://www.pioneerdistrict.org/honor_roll/honorfrm.htm Thanks, gentlemen, for all you've done for Pioneer!”

James Hall, Lansing Chapter

Operation Harold Hill

by Paul Ellinger

Pioneer was the talk of the Society at the Countrywide Membership meeting because we still remained the only District that has had every chapter say, "Yes, I would like to grow and would welcome support in that growth goal." I have reviewed every single report that has been made on a Pioneer District Chapter and there are some pretty amazing things taking place across our District. But, people have lives and things can



easily fall off the plate. To that point, I wanted to ask if ANYONE is having ANY difficulty in getting in contact with their "Harold Hill." If so, please send me an email at Paul@Chordiology.com and I will see to it that you get assigned a new Harold Hill. Also, we get busy too, so if our Harold Hills have reached out to us, please make an effort to make contact with them and keep the ball rolling.

The next step (if you haven't done it already) is to design and embark upon a membership growth outreach for your chapter, and, regardless of what you choose, your Harold Hill is there to help support and encourage you to be your best, to do your best and be as successful as you can be in your growth strategy. Let me know if you have any questions.

The Society continues to have more and more chapters joining Operation Harold Hill from around the country each day; so much so that there is now a call for more Harold Hills. As being one of the leaders in the Harold Hill cause, Pioneer was tapped to be among the first to provide more Harold Hill Heroes to continue the momentum! We have a LOT of talented people in Pioneer so I gave a full list. Realize that everyone on the list may not get called as the need may not stretch that far, but be ready if called upon as it is a true honor to be a Harold Hill.

What are the requirements ask? Positive; supportive; encouraging; and having the ability to help a chapter talk through, design, implement and stick to a growth strategy that they feel will work for them. That's it. This is a great way to make even more barber-shop friends around the Society and support our chapter brethren in other Districts as they too look to grow.

Thanks in advance for your willingness to help promote and support Society growth!

And a big thank you to all of our current Harold Heroes from Pioneer!

PIONEER, HO!

House of Delegates Meeting, April 20, 2012

(excerpted by John Cowlishaw from Secretary Joe Servach's minutes)

The House of Delegates meeting was held Friday afternoon during the Convention. Twenty-five of the fifty-three officers and delegates were present as well as Society Board Member-at-Large **Jim Sams** and Harmony Foundation Director of Development **Sean Devine**.



Chapter recognition at HOD

Paul Ellinger paid tribute to ten barbershoppers who have passed away this year: **Derrick Deakins** (Macomb), **Bernie Sackett** (Michiana Metro), **Don Dawson** (DOC), **Dr. Len Piggott** (Wayne), **Alan Johnson** (Lansing), **Bill Wood** (Windsor), **William "Bill" Daudlin** (Grosse Pointe), **Herman Dykema** (Kalamazoo), **Ken Hampbel** (Muskegon), and **Jack Essenberg** (Holland).

Treasurer Robb Smith reported the District finances are in good shape.

President Doug Weaver thanked Greg Humbel for the return of the *Troubadour*. Pioneer has led the Society in enrollment in Harold Hill, 100 percent, while other districts have fewer than half. Our guy Paul Ellinger is traveling across the country talking about how effective Super Charging your chapter is. Trying to raise \$10,000 to support youth competitions.

Jim Sams described the CEO search and some of the issues confronting the Board. A major one is the relationship of Affiliates to the BHS. It may soon happen that an Affiliate quartet becomes International champions without being BHS members; that's being addressed. Doran McTaggart presented Jim with the *Canadian Crystal Award*, two hotel glasses.

Sean Devine described three programs that are partially funded by funds from Harmony Foundation: Harmony University, College Quartet contests, and the Youth Chorus Festival at the Winter Conventions.

Ten Pioneer chapters received Chapter Giving Awards (In increasing order of donations per man): Lansing, Kalamazoo, DOC, Huron Valley, Mount Pleasant, Michianna Metro, Macomb, Hillsdale, Grand Rapids, and, at \$475.60 per man – Battle Creek.



Sean Devine receiving the Canadian Crystal from Doran McTaggart

Joe McDonald encouraged people to participate in *Supercharging Your Chapter* July 14 and August 25. He pointed out that the Harold Hill sub-site on the BHS site contains Paul Ellinger's mini- and maxi-introductions to *Supercharging Your Chapter*. He also described upcoming Harmony Explosions. Clinicians Joe Cerutti and Erin Odell are coming. He needs host chapters for several of these.

As an outgrowth of past efforts, over 200 young men converged on New York City last December 26, to sing barbershop in the No Borders Youth Chorus at Carnegie Hall. They included five members from the *Pioneer Mountaintown Harmony Explosion*. Sean laughed that at 36 he was the oldest of the singers. A video of the event, full of youthful energy, is now online at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Ii4KKFoS9g&context=C40ec382ADvjVQa1PpcFMYA_isIjcGo-NVnFJeynbrRe1RhWAImNY=

Jerry Ditto updated the list of future conventions that have been booked as far out as 2018.

Doran McTaggart announced the 35th Windsor Send-Off – June 8 (always the 2nd Friday of the month).

James Estes' visit

by Doug Weaver

James Estes, a Music Specialist from the BHS office in Nashville, spent the week of March 19-23 here in Michigan, and did a great job of working with quartets and choruses. He started the week working with META-4 and D.O.C., and I have heard great things from all concerned.

I was fortunate enough to watch him work with the Pontiac-Waterford chapter on Tuesday night, and was very impressed with him. He did a great job with both them, and I think they will agree that he was very helpful.

Wednesday he worked with MOXXY. James felt that they had a very productive coaching session.

On Thursday I watched James work with RIGHT ON Q and with a combined Macomb/Rochester chorus, and again was impressed with how he was able to help both groups in a short period of time. It was a real treat to watch him work, and we will be lucky to have him back in Pioneer for future visits.

Pio-India Connection

Willie Mendonsa, the first and only known barbershop member from India, was written up in the *Harmonizer* and also in *Smoke Signals* (Nov and Dec 2010 issues) because his introduction to Barbershop occurred from a chance encounter nine years ago in a Canton, MI library with the quartet EUFORIA (**Wayne Oberstadt** (T),

Gary Simon (Br), Iain Willox (L), and Paul Alflen (Bs).from the Wayne County RENAISSANCE Chorus. He took the music back to India to his three brothers, and the group soon increased to ten. "Having fallen in love with the smooth harmony and ringing chords of barber-shop, I want to let my people in Mumbai experience this wonderful style of music." Willie truly lives our motto "Keep the Whole World Singing!"

Willie recently sent an email to Wayne Oberstadt about this article in the April 23 issue of "our leading national newspaper, the Times of India, Mumbai edition."

He and wife Judy are at willju.willie@gmail.com and on Facebook too.

Power Play Sings in Punta Gorda by Terry Webner

Just got back from Punta Gorda and the Suncoast STATESMEN'S show. Great show, and a great venue that will be used for the Florida District Convention. The 2010

Sunshine District Champions, THE PURSUIT, were great and should be heading for International.

But the best of the show was once again Michigan's Power Play. After just one day's practice they were once again fantastic. I'd like to say more, but that's it. Once again it was a thrill to sit, watch, and listen. Thanks, Jack, Mike, Mark and Don.

Supercharging your chapter from Joe McDonald

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 the only measure of success.



Supercharging Your Chapter!

The number of people involved in this past Saturday's Supercharging Your Chapter! workshop was commendable, just over 50, but the exciting part was that nine different Pioneer chapters actively participated. While these numbers met the hopes and expectations of the host chapter, it was the aura in the room that was the 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

The Naked Voice

Singing without any instrumental accompaniment is what 72-year-old Willie Mendonza of Dadar does best. His eight-member 'a cappella' band—which performs for free—styles itself on certain popular groups overseas and is affiliated to an American a cappella organization called Barbershop Harmony Society. "The idea is to bring out the beauty of the naked voice. It's not as if we don't like other music with instruments. We just like this more," says Mendonza. The group, Brothers in Harmony, was started in 2001 by the four Mendonza brothers — Willie, Donald, Norman and Leslie, who still sings at 83. The other members—Jossie D'Silva, Percy D'Lima, Santosh Alvares and Brian Colaso—are silvers too. "Younger people are keen to join in, but have their regular jobs to attend and don't get time out for practice." The group performs at residences in Dadar and Mahim, and sometimes at church functions, and during Christmas and New Year's at "old folks' homes", orphanages and schools. Their audience is now getting used to the idea of listening to *As Time Goes By* from *Casablanca* without piano. Just voices.

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 mentioned "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 fifty-plus man chorus performed the barbershop standard

with joy and from a “Proud Regal” stance. The workshop was followed by an “afterglow” at a local restaurant where nearly half of the attendees enjoyed a meal together and a 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!

from the Mt. Pleasant Chapter

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to Paul Ellinger for allowing us to collaborate with him on the very first Supercharging Your Chapter! workshop and for selflessly giving of his time and talent and for bringing these unique concepts, energy and inspiration to all of our chapters.

from Doug Weaver

And then, Saturday saw almost 60 Pioneer barbershoppers gather in Mt. Pleasant for an afternoon with Paul Ellinger. Paul spent half the time on his Wavebox Singing and the other half on Supercharging Your Chapter. Everyone I talked to there felt it was a great afternoon and very productive. If you have not seen either of these presentations, I would encourage you to find a way to bring these to your chapter as soon as possible. Districts all around the Society are bringing Paul in for workshops. This is one opportunity for us to use someone in our own District to help all of our chapters in a big way.

from Paul Ellinger

The first Regional Supercharging Your Chapter! event in our Society took place yesterday in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan. I want to say thank you to Joe McDonald for envisioning the workshop concept and for all of his hard work. Thank you to all of the directors for being in attendance. Thanks to those directors that stepped out in front and to those that didn't due to time. Thanks to **Don Slamka** for his directing the warm ups and getting everyone primed for the day. Thanks to **David Gillingham** for working with both the full group at length and the MountainTown Singers in attendance. Thank you to the MountainTown Singers for hosting the event, the cookies were fantastic!. Thank you to **Ryan Collins** for being a riser buddy to someone very special to me (**Mike Ellinger**) whom had never been even to a barbershop rehearsal before Saturday and also for keeping Cliff in line --- most of the time. :) Thank you to our hands on District President Doug Weaver for being there (man, that guy is everywhere!). Thank you to Hillsdale, Gratiot County and Mt. Pleasant for sending a large contingent of their chapters and to everyone in attendance. And thank you in advance to everyone who helps support, improve, and promote this outreach on an individual, quartet, chapter, district, or societal level. Even before the day was out there was talk by other chapters that they wanted to hold regional events at their chapter. We are officially on our way!

from Mike Scott

Awesome !!!

from Andrew Shackleton
 Fantastic

from Joe McDonald

Hello Pioneer, Two dates have been secured for the next two Supercharging Your Chapter! events. July 14 and August 25 are on the books. We just need two chapters to host one or the other of them. There are benefits (and responsibilities) to being a host chapter. The responsibilities will be shared with your district personnel and the benefits are amazing. So...sing out if your chapter wants more information by emailing me or calling me at 989 560 6181. I have a packet of material ready for your review. Did you notice this past weekend how much Huron Valley has progressed in the last year? Mt. Pleasant and Hillsdale are starting down the same path. Ask them about Supercharging YOUR chapter...and get on the bandwagon. Pioneer HO!

Woodshed Contest, 55th Annual
 by John Cowlshaw

After a one-year break, the Pontiac-Waterford Chapter, under **Dick Johnson's** direction, hosted the 55th Annual Woodshed Contest on Friday, March 30, 2012. Thirty-six men - representing Pontiac-Waterford, Flint, Grosse Pointe, Macomb, Livingston, Lansing, D.O.C., Huron Valley, Motor City Metro, and Frank Thorne - gathered at the Pontiac Country Club for an evening of fun, fellowship and plenty of singing, all for the price of zip, nada, nothing.

Mike Frye emceed the evening, with a seemingly inexhaustible supply of one-liners

The men formed eleven quartets, subject to the rules: (a) registered BHS member, (b) no more than two from any given chorus, and (c) no more than one from any organized quartet. They picked songs from the 85 songs on the song-list board, huddled in room corners, worked up arrangements, and performed in front of the others.

The judging quartet was RIGHT ON Q, comprised of Matt Tipton (T), Ken Klein (L), Chris Bateson (Br), and Ed Bax (Bs). Not only did they carry out their responsibilities - choosing the winning quartet, and raking the other ten quartets over the coals - but they entertained with a sample of their repertoire, singing "Four Leaf Clover," "All of Me," "There Goes My Heart," and "I've Been Working on the Railroad."



Right On Q

The winning quartet was THE RUMBLERS, with **Fred McFadyen** (Tenor), **James O'Dell** (Lead), **Jeff Woodruff** (Bari) and **Aaron Wolf** (Bass). Jeff was enthusiastic about finally winning a coveted Woodshed badge. Aaron is the "Pioneer District Educator and Certifier for the Ancient Harmonious Society of Woodshedders."

The Flint chapter repeated as winners of the *Carroll P. Adams Bennington Trophy*, for largest percentage chapter participation. It's calculated as number present plus number quartetting divided by chorus membership.



Woodshed-winning quartet, THE RUMBLERS Fred McFadyen (T), James O'Dell (L), Aaron Wolf (Bs) Jeff Woodruff (Br)

Several men sang in multiple quartets, especially tenors. Jacob Welty sang three different voice parts in three different quartets.

Ten of the seventeen hosting Pontiac-Waterford Chiefs participated in quartets – **Bill Auquier**, John Cowlshaw, **Walt DeNio**, Mike Frye, Dick Johnson, Freddie McFadyen, **Charlie Perry**, **Lance Shew**, **Bob Stephenson**, and **Bob Wallace**.

Jeff Doig won the 50-50 raffle. NATURAL E (now renamed Bout Time) was the only other organized quartet present; they sang "Aint Misbehavin'."

Dick Johnson brought the snacks. **Bill Dabbs**, **Howard Lynn**, **Pete Mazzara**, and **Doc Mann** worked the tables. **Lance Shew**, **Roger Holm**, and **Jim Owens** transported Woodshed materials to and from the storage bins.



Dick Johnson presenting the Bennington trophy to Doc Heaton for the Flint chapter

As P-W chapter member **Eric Domke** wrote, "It is so inspiring to see how much everyone helps to make the Woodshed Contest happen. Thank you to all who were a part of this tradition."

More photos at:

http://www5.snapfish.com/snapfish/thumbnailshare/AlbumID=5897309028/a=3636342028_3636342028/otsc=SHR/otsi=SALBlink/COBRAND_NAME=snapfish/ (Requires free registration)

Preservation

If you haven't yet opened the barbershop history journal called *Preservation* and edited by Grady Kerr, do so!

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

Pioneer History

From *Preservation*

The first Barbershop Chapters

As we all know, next year's 75th birthday of the Society honors The Tulsa Club and the Roof Garden Terrace where the first meeting was held April 11, 1938.

But we are called the **Pioneer District** because we originated so much that is Barbershop, including eight of the first 25 chapters. Here are the Pioneer chapters in the 1st 25, according to *Preservation*.

- 9. Detroit Oakland, Michigan July 29, 1939
- 10. Grand Rapids, Michigan November 1, 1939
- 13. Saginaw Bay, Michigan September 28, 1940
- 14. Muskegon, Michigan October 1, 1940
- 15. Lansing, Michigan December 7, 1940
- 19. Hillsdale, Michigan June 1, 1941
- 21. Kalamazoo, Michigan March 1, 1942
- 24. Pontiac-Waterford, Michigan March 14, 1943

And here is a nice 20-year anniversary article on Power Play, reprinted by permission of Grady Kerr from *Preservation*.

20 Years of Power Play

Slamkas 1992 - 2012

Our 2003 quartet champs, Power Play came out of retirement and performed a show on March 10th for Charlotte County FL Suncoast Statesmen. Jack and Kitty Slamka have moved to Florida and he now directs the chorus.

The chapter had trouble procuring a headliner quartet so Jack and the boys (retired for the past four years) agreed to reunite. They did well, surprising themselves but not the barbershoppers – *like riding a bicycle*.

They took a family photo that weekend. Almost amazingly – they match one from 20 years before.

A quirk of fate: At the time of the 1992 photo, Mark and Katie were engaged. They ended up **NOT** getting married and went their separate ways. Now – both had since got married and divorced. Today – reconnected via FaceBook – they are again engaged and will wed April 28th.

Although still retired, Power Play plans to perhaps do a few shows a year. Upcoming is a traditional appearance in Michigan at the Harrisville Harmony Weekend (50th year for the Labor Day event). Other groups will also be there.

Of course, there's their 25th anniversary appearance at the 2028 International convention. All plan to attend and perform.



Back row - Mike & Traci - Staci & Don
Front row - Katie & Mark - Jack & Kitty



Historic Photo



Grosse Pointe's PROGRESSIVE Quartet, June 1951 issue of the *Harmonizer*, courtesy of Paul Howe

Barbershop Harmony Society Ops

from Rick Spencer's Director of Operations report, April 5, 2012

The Midwinter convention in Tucson, AZ had an attendance of 1859, making this the second largest Midwinter in Society history (behind Las Vegas). Next year's is Jan 8-13, 2013 in Orlando, FL.

Total Society Membership. 788 chapters and 24,103 members. Society Associates: 284.

738 of those chapters were visited in the Chapter Visitation Program.

Operation Harold Hill was launched on Jan 1. 422 chapters are currently signed up to

participate. "Congratulations to the Pioneer District for having 100% of their chapters signed up."

Harmony University 2011 had total student registrations of 448, including 20 quartets. The Chorus Director's college was the largest attendance ever. 89 students received Harmony Foundation scholarships.

In 2011 thirteen Harmony Explosion camps were held and 1155 students and 50 teachers attended. Eleven of the districts participated. There were also 51 Youth Harmony Workshops with 7109 students and 315 teachers in attendance.

The Society's Facebook page has nearly 6,000 fans and continues to grow.
www.facebook.com/barbershopharmonysociety

The Society's YouTube page has convention videos, instruction videos, etc.
www.youtube.com/user/BarbershopHarmony38

Nearly a quarter of chapters also use the Groupanizer at
<http://www.barbershop.org/resources/website-tools.html>

Media

Virtual Barbershop Chorus, Vc

by John Cowlishaw

The first Virtual Barbershop Chorus is on YouTube, a **David Harrington** arrangement of "If I Had My Way," organized by **Peter Nugent**.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VIgRiTX_x1Y

Out of 45 contributors, (half from the British Isles) four were from Michigan, including Wayne Oberstadt, Tenor, from Pontiac-Waterford, William Stutts, Baritone, from Ann Arbor and Scott Monte, Bass, from Brighton. Michael Matson, Lead, DOC, also contributed, but there was a problem with his video. Gee, that's a Michigan quartet!

More recently, Peter Nugent, aka – nooj, wrote about the second effort:

“Hi guys and thanks so much for submitting your videos for the Vc.

“I've just finished editing the ladies' video – “Lazy Day” - and its now published on YouTube here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J11TDYdoYPY&feature=youtu.be>

“I've almost finished “Sweet Lorraine” arrangement by **David Wright**, but have decided to extend the date for submissions instead, as there are only 43 guys in the video. I think if we give it another push we should get that up to around 100 or so as there are 745 guys signed up.

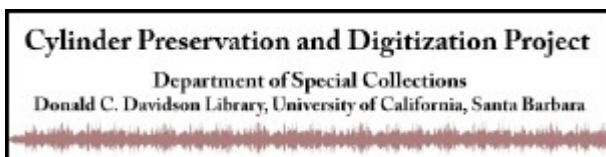
“I'm going to extend the submission date to 1st June with the intention of having the final video completed by International Convention in July (hopefully premiere it on the big screen in the convention hall). Sorry about the delay here guys, but I want us to look as good as good as possible.”

If you'd like to participate in “Bringing Barbershop Singers Together,” go to <http://www.virtual-chorus.com/login/4550571712?noRedirect=Y#/home/4550571710>

Midnight Cafe Radio

Have you listened to “Sundays with Vinny on “Midnight Café”? **Vinny Haynes** of the BIG APPLE Chorus broadcasts nothing but Barbershop each Sunday evening at 7:00 p.m.

<http://www.live365.com/index.live>



from Montana Jack

The University of California-Santa Barbara has a project to preserve old cylinder recordings. They have quite an extensive library. There are many of the old quartets such as the Edison, the Peerless and the Premier quartets. <http://cylinders.library.ucsb.edu/>

They can be streamed and/or downloaded as an MP3 file. The sound quality is pretty good, considering that these recordings are 100 years old +/-.

News of Individuals

Debbie Pollard

by Craig Pollard

“A sad day for Pioneer Barbershoppers. Debbie Pollard, wife of **Jim Pollard** has passed away after a long fight with cancer. Her service was at First Presbyterian Church in Harbor Springs, MI. Jim's address is 7070 Rolling Meadow Tr. Harbor Springs, MI 49740. Keep the family in your prayers.”

John Nolte has moved to Chicago

John Nolte, a 27-year member of the Pioneer District, who has sung with the Macomb County, Detroit Oakland, and Rochester chapters, has moved to Napier, IL, to an assisted living facility near family in Chicago.

While in Rochester Crittenton Hospital, he was serenaded, on Valentines Day, by the LIMITED EDITION quartet, and on Feb 23 by GUARDIANS OF HARMONY chorus members.

Troubadour Business

We are looking for articles, photos, performances, and ads for the next issue of the Troubadour

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.

Using the PioNet

by Tom Ennis

The reincarnation of the *Troubadour* as an online magazine presents a problem. How do we notify people that an issue is available? One option would be to combine chapter email lists into one district list serve.

Oh, wait a minute! That was the intent of having the PioNet. Unfortunately, subscribing to the PioNet is voluntary and isn't necessarily viewed as being as important as belonging to chapter email lists. A quick poll indicated that 20% or less of chapter members subscribe to PioNet. An easy solution to this is to have chapter leaders encourage their membership to subscribe to the PioNet. The PioNet is where we get information about upcoming conventions. Chapters post their shows on PioNet. How would you feel if you missed the opportunity to see OC Times in October because you didn't know about the Mt. Pleasant chapter show on the 27th. This is their only visit to Michigan.

Subscribing to the PioNet will increase your Inbox messages by one. That's right, ONE. You can get a once a day digest of messages rather than getting many individual messages each day. Subscribing is also easy. All you have to do is go to the Pioneer District website at <http://pioneerdistrict.org>, and click the bottom right link labeled "PIONET Email List." Fill in the online form and submit it. When you get your first message from PioNet, go to the bottom of the message and click the link, "Start or resume digest." You're done. Now you'll only get one message a day from PioNet but, more important, you'll no longer miss out on district and other chapter information.

- The following people have contributed photos to this issue of the *Troubadour*: Michael Baribeau, John Cowlshaw, Cliff Dake, Jeffrey Doig, Chris Fink, Lisa Hall,
- Paul Howe, Grady Kerr, Don Lewis, Neil Braun, Bob Stephenson, and Jim Wilcox.
- Some pictures were also obtained from the Pioneer District web site.

Troubadour Sites and Addresses

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

Pioneer District Facebook site

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



District Calendar 2012 CALENDAR

May 12, Sa Great Lakes Shows, 2:00 & 7:30, East Grand Rapids HS Aud.
 May 12, Sa Battle Creek Cabaret Show
 May 19, 5:30 Flint Spring Show, Grand Blanc
 May 19, 3 & 7:30 Hillsdale Show, Malt Shop Memories, Hillsdale College
 Jun 1-3, Great Lakes Harmony Brigade, Okemos
 Jun 2, 7:30 GLHB Brigade Show, Okemos High School, 2800 Jolly Rd., 48864
 Jun 2, Cheboygan Opera House Show, w. MountainTown Singers
 Jun 3, 11 am GLC – GR Festival of the Arts
 Jun 8, F Windsor send-off, Windsor, ON
 Jun 22, Lansing chorus at Lake Lansing Band Shell
 June 22, Grosse Pointe show. “Heading on the 709”
 Jun 26, T, 6:00 Dead Creek Picnic - Frankenmuth
 Jul 1-8, International Convention, Portland, OR
 Jul 6, Fri Lansing sings National Anthem at Lugnuts game
 Jul 7, 10pm EDT Quartet Finals, International Convention
 Jul 14, Supercharging Your Chapter, Grosse Pointe
 July 21, Sa Quartet Boot Camp, Harmony Camp, Okemos

Jul 26-28, MountainTown Harmony Explosion, CMU campus
 Jul 28, Harmony Explosion Show
 Jul 29-Aug 5, Harmony University, St Joseph, MO
 Aug 17-18, Bush League Quartet Contest, Gaylord
 Aug 25, Supercharging Your Chapter, Huron Valley
 Aug 27, Power Play at Harrisville
 Aug 28, Grand Rapids Corn Roast 5:00 to ???
 Aug 30, Power Play Homecoming Tour, Hillsdale
 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 13, Rochester Chapter Show
 Oct 19-21, Fall Convention, Battle Creek, McCamly Hotel / W K Kellogg
 Oct 27, Sa Rochester Chapter Show
 Oct 27, Sa MountainTown Singers Annual Show (with OC Times)
 Nov 3, Sa Pontiac-Waterford Chapter Show

2013 CALENDAR

Feb 16, D.O.C Shows (matinee and evening)
 Mar 9, Wharton Show
 April 19-21, Spring Convention, Traverse City
 Jun 30 – Jul 7, International Convention, Toronto, CAN
 Oct 18-20, Fall Convention, Kalamazoo, Radisson

MOXXY Farewell from Jeff Woodruff

It is with mixed emotions that I let you all know of Moxxy's retirement. We would like to thank the entire district, singers, families, even our critics. We would also like to thank Brandon Mattson, our original lead singer, and Rob Halsey, lead of Moxxy II.

A special thank you to our fantastic coaches over the years: Don Slamka, Mike Slamka, Glen Hipple, Al Fisk, Mike O'Donnell, Paul Ellinger, Roger Lewis who opened his home

as did Mark and Dawn Spears. If we have forgotten anyone, our sincere apologies and thanks. Thanks also to the Motor City Metro Chapter for their support for the last eight years.

We appreciate all of the support and well wishes throughout our time as MOXXY. Let's all keep quartetting at the heart of what we do.

Thanks to all,
 Dave, Glen, Jeff, and Mike



L-R: Jeff Woodruff (Br), Glen Hipple (L), Mike Foner (Bs), Dave Ebersole (T)