



TROUBADOUR

Congratulations on a great District convention in Battle Creek. The host chapter did a fantastic job throughout the weekend, and the whole convention went very smoothly.

There have been several changes in the Pioneer Board of Directors in recent weeks:

Joe Serwach, after many years of valuable service to Pioneer, has stepped down as District Secretary. **Jim McMahan** has agreed to take over to complete Joe's term.

Don Slamka has resigned as VP of Chorus Director Development and recommended **Rob Pettigrew** as his replacement. Rob has accepted the appointment.

Pete Westers has decided to step down as VP of Music and Performance. **Cliff Dake** has accepted that position.

Robb Smith, longtime Treasurer of the Pioneer District, because of added work responsibilities, will not be able to continue in his District role. He will be resigning, effective at the end of the year. His stewardship of District finances has put Pioneer in a position of financial strength that was not there when he took over. The new Pioneer District Treasurer will be **Larry Parker** of the Lansing chapter. Many of you have worked with Larry through Leadership Academy and other projects and I am sure you share my enthusiasm in welcoming Larry into this new position.

A couple of Management Team openings were filled during the convention weekend. **Nels Carlson** will not be continuing in the YIH position. **Doug Lynn** has accepted the VP of Youth in Harmony role, and **Roger Lewis** has agreed to fill the VP of Events position that opened up when **Jerry Dittto** stepped down. Please join me in thanking these gentlemen for their willingness to help where they were needed.

At the House of Delegates meeting on Friday, Society Rep **Jim Sams** mentioned two very important messages, one from Society President **Alan Lamson** and the other from new BHS CEO **Marty Monson**. Thanks to **Steve Sutherland** and **Matt Tipton**, these documents are now posted on the Pioneer web site for you to read. I would encourage all of you to read them. I would be very interested to hear your reaction to them.

http://www.pioneerdistrict.org/business/Business_frame.htm

Looking ahead, our Spring Convention will be in Traverse City at the Grand Traverse Resort. A convention in Traverse City is always a good time, and I hope you will make plans to be there.

Thanks!

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



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



CHORUS CHAMPIONS
1953 GREAT LAKES CHORUS (GRAND RAPIDS)

QUARTET CHAMPIONS



SENIOR QUARTET CHAMPIONS
2010 RESISTING-A-REST

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

BHS Judging Program? Think About It Now . . .

by Ron Eubank, Pioneer District Director of Contest and Judging

Do you have any interest in judging, that is, more than wondering where that score you got might have come from, wondering what in the world that judge was thinking, or what he was looking at or hearing because it certainly couldn't have been your group? Or maybe you noticed how busy those Contest Administrators (CA) are and wonder if you might contribute in that type of role.

It's not too early to be thinking about the BHS judging program and whether you might want to be a judge.

What to consider? Applicants need to have some personal experiences and activities that already qualify them to be judges; then they can be trained to use those skills in the judging program. This mandates that you are already somewhat prepared, that you are aware of what judges do. Obvious qualifications are people skills and experience in coaching both quartets and choruses. Specific categories have particular concerns--for instance, MUSIC judges are often also arrangers. Other descriptors:

Music judges adjudicate the musical elements in the performance: melody, harmony, range and tessitura, tempo, rhythm and meter, construction and form, and embellishments. They judge the extent to which the musical performance displays the hallmarks of the barbershop style and the degree to which the musical performance demonstrates an artistic sensitivity to the music's primary theme.

Presentation judges evaluate how effectively a performer brings the song to life. They respond to both the visual and vocal aspects of the presentation, to evaluate the interaction of those aspects in creating the image of the song, as well as everything about the performance that contributes to emotional impact upon the audience.

Singing judges evaluate the degree to which the performer achieves artistic singing in the barbershop style: the production of vibrant, rich, resonant, technically accurate, and highly skilled sound, created both by the individual singer's use of good vocal techniques and by the ensemble processes of tuning, balancing, unity of sound, and precision. They listen for a sense of precise intonation, a feeling of fullness or expansion of sound, a perception of a high degree of vocal skill, a high level of unity and consistency throughout the performance, and a freedom from apparent effort that allows the full communication of the lyric and song.

Contest Administrators have responsibilities to the competitors, the judges, the audience members, the district sponsoring the contest, the host chapter, and the Society Contest and Judging Committee. They are responsible for ensuring the best possible environments for competitors to perform, for judges to adjudicate the performances, and for audiences to enjoy the performances.

You should start now by talking with current or prior judges. In Pioneer that includes **Al Fisk** (alfisk@comcast.net), Roger Lewis (RJLewisCMC@aol.com), **Mike O'Donnell** (bbsmike@comcast.net), and me, **Ron Eubank** (roneubank@sbcglobal.net).

A guy fresh off this type of thinking is **Kevin Dunckel** (dunckel.kevin@gmail.com). Kevin is in the candidate phase of the process and can provide a great perspective on all things judging.

Fall District Convention

by John Cowlshaw

The Fall Convention of the Pioneer District was held in Battle Creek October 19-21 at the Kellogg Auditorium, and McCamly Plaza Hotel.

The quartet Preliminaries Friday night included eighteen quartets. Two were 'Ology quartets, giving **Greg Humbel, Paul Michalik, George Jackson, Jr, and George Jackson, III**, the opportunity to sing and be judged on-stage with members of EBB N' FLOW and CARTE BLANCHE. MIXED METAPHOR was Rob Pettigrew's chance to sing Lead, without **Paul Ellinger** being around. Mic-Testers were EBB N' FLOW, with **Mike O'Neill** (LUNCH BREAK) subbing at bass for **Craig Johnson**. The cut, to make it into the Finals, was about 62 %. Consensus opinion narrowed the likely winner to three quartets – BAND OF BROTHERS, SOUND FX, and THE BLENDY BOYS.

Saturday night was a great show, opening with a mass sing, led by Rob Pettigrew, a welcome from President **Doug Weaver**, our International Chorus representatives, MOUNTAINTOWN SINGERS singing, and HARMONY ROAD "testing the mics." Then the Finalists sang. All eight were exciting, singing in the 60s and low 70s, and with a variety of song types.

The winners were!

SOUND FX, scoring 74.3
THE BLENDYBOYS, 70.1
BAND OF BROTHERS, 69.3

SOUND FX (say it fast) is comprised of Pete Westers (T), **Jamie Carey** (L), **Steve Wheeler** (Br), and **James Masalskis** (Bs). The Lead and Bass provide a very robust core to this quartet. Their Saturday night songs, "Mona Lisa" and "A Rainy Night in Rio," were spell-binding. And Jamie Carey's post Friday night on "May I Never Love Again" was memorable.

Jamie Carey has a long Pioneer history. He has sung in winning quartets - FULL CHORD PRESS (1992,3), FIREPOWER! (1995), and MARKED FOR SOUND (2000). And he has directed both the Lansing CAPITOL CITY CHORDSMEN and the Grand Rapids GREAT LAKES CHORUS to championships and international competition from 1996 to 2002.

Pete Westers sang Tenor in FERMATA (1996) and WILDCARD (2004). Masalskis also



SOUND FX: L. to R. Pete Westers, Jamie Carey, James Misalskis, and Steve Wheeler



HARMONY ROAD: L. to R. Alan Coombs, Bill Edmunds, Jim Johnson, and Tom Ennis

sang in WILDCARD.

In the International Seniors Quartet Preliminary Contest, it was HARMONY ROAD outscoring CLASSIC FIT, UNMATCHED!, and WHOLE NOTES. (CLASSIC FIT won the Novice competitor award, a month after winning Bush League in Gaylord.)

Jim Johnson returns to the International Stage for something like the 6th time. He sang Tenor in CLASSMATES (1975), OPENING NIGHT (1992), and most recently in SHOWTIME (2011), as well as chorus appearances. This time around he sings Bass. **Alan Coombs** is the Tenor, **Bill Edmunds** the Lead, and **Tom Ennis** the Bari.

On Saturday, fourteen choruses competed, with 334 men crossing the stage.

The Windsor SUN PARLOUR CHORUS, under **Dan Bezaire**, is the Plateau 3 Champion, besting Holland, Kalamazoo, Grosse Pointe, and Muskegon. However, Grosse Pointe won the Most Improved Chorus award.

In Plateau 2, it was Lansing, beating out Traverse City, Macomb Co., Michiana Metro, Hillsdale, Flint, and Battle Creek.

And in Plateau 1, Mt. Pleasant MOUNTAINTOWN SINGERS outpointed the Detroit-Oakland GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS by 52 pts, and gained the honor of representing Pioneer District at the 75th International Convention in Toronto, next July. And on director **David “Doc” Gillingham’s** birthday. Their first song, “What’ll I Do?” included a memorable moment when Lead **Matt Small**, veteran of many community theatre plays in the area, pantomiming the sorrow of the song at a small café table in front of the chorus, broke out into a solo for one brief line in the midst of the chorus’s singing, drawing the chorus members to him in comfort.

Mike O’Neill was the “Presenter” at the Chorus contest, and he got a lot of mileage out of comparing **Sean Devine** and **Doran McTaggart’s** listings in the program as “Masters of Ceremony.”



Chorus Directors being honored on-stage Saturday afternoon



Gary Steinkamp, Director of the SPIRIT OF PHOENIX chorus, led the JOE BARBERSHOP chorus thru "Sweet and Lovely" and "Nellie."

Sean Devine, Mike O'Neill, and **Kevin Keller**, led special classes Friday afternoon. Sean's class was "Choosing Your Quartet Repertoire." Mike led a Tag class and Kevin taught "Coaching for the Non-Coach, for which META-4 volunteered as guinea-pig quartet.



Kevin Keller teaches "Coaching for the Non-Coach" with META-4

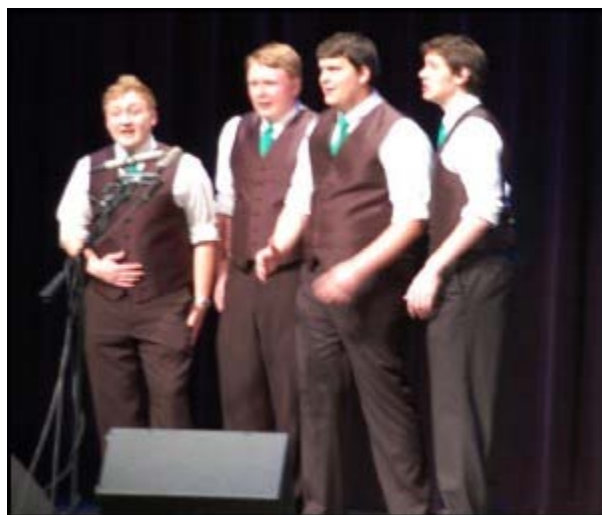


Sean Devine and Mike O'Neill at HOD

Age Extremes:

The young quartet from Lansing, ALREADY TAKEN, suffered a 5 point penalty for too much Tenor melody during "Home on the Range," but they probably more than made up for that in presentation score for that same sweet Tenor role by **John Hank**.

SHADES OF GREY, our Senior Quartet reps in 2001, were back to compete again. Many old quartets have broken up and their members redistributed into current quartets, but this quartet keeps going.



ALREADY TAKEN



SHADES OF GREY



EXTENSION CHORDS at the 2012 Corn Roast



Al Fisk received a special award (from Kevin Keller) for his work with the Contest and Judging Committee

The Friday evening QCA Fund Raising show included the 1952 District champions, EXTENSION CHORDS, (**Sid Helder**—T, **Don Lucas**—L, **Cal Verduin**—Br, and **Don Hall**—Bs), all looking hale and hearty, 60 years later, and all still living in the Grand Rapids area.

Lansing, Kalamazoo, and Battle Creek ran Hospitality Suites, and Mt Pleasant and Pioneer cooperated on the big one, on the 16th floor.

There were also ***some non-venue events.***

Kent Cushman (Tenor, Hillsdale) wrote: “Wow everyone! What a weekend full of great singing and smiles! I just wanted to post a special thanks to **Paul Teska**, **Frank Adams** and **John Cowlshaw** for helping me put together a Harmony Brigade quartet for singing in downtown Battle Creek. These guys gave up a couple hours of their Friday night convention to brave the October rain and entertain the public with the sounds of barbershop harmony at the Battle Creek “Fall Into The Arts” and to spread

the word of who the society is and what we do. We saw many smiles and happy faces! So thanks guys!”

And a Roller Derby??? On Saturday, we shared the McCamly Hotel/Kellogg Arena with the Roller Derby Double Header, Spook Tackle-Her, put on by

www.cerealKillersDerby.org

Steve Sutherland has posted the scores on the web site for Quartet, Senior Quartet, and Chorus contests. <http://www.pioneerdistrict.org/contestsummary/contmenu.htm>

In **Michael Baribeau's** absence, John Cowlishaw took photos, learning the difficulty of photographing small, brightly lit faces, against a large, black background, from some distance, without a flash, even with a Nikon. The best 75 are posted on Shutterfly, at <http://tinyurl.com/9j4uxrs>



Carl Dahkle directed the QCA chorus

The *House of Delegates* met Friday afternoon.

The names of sixteen known Pioneers who have died in the last six months were read solemnly.

Society Board Member-At-Large Jim Sams reviewed correspondence from Society President Alan Lamson and from new BHS CEO Marty Monson. There are many task forces at work.

Sams urged chapters to be sure they are compliant by completing:

- The annual corporate report (Oct 1 deadline)
- 990 IRS form by May 15. Can be done online if < \$50K
- Financial review to Society office

President Doug Weaver introduced the new officers - **James Odell**, Rob Pettigrew, Cliff Dake, Jim McMahan, and Larry Parker. Jerry Ditto has also announced that this is his last year. Most of the new officers will attend a one-week forum in Las Vegas in November.

We are still the only district with 100% enrollment in the *Harold Hill* program. Weaver pointed out that there are a lot of overdue memberships; in our quest for new members, let's not forget the currently lapsed.

A package of songs has been put together to celebrate the society's 75th anniversary. It could lead to multi-chapter shows.

Joe McDonald announced the Leadership Academy, January 5, in Okemos.

Sean Devine talked about Harmony Foundation. Since 2003, our membership has dropped from 36,000 to 23,000, but it could have been worse had the Harmony Foundation not changed its emphasis from external service projects to internal, to fund the Youth Outreach and Education program (\$3 million). Nearly 1/4th of our new members are younger than 26 years of age. The Pioneer District has 19 members in the President's Council and 149 in the Ambassadors of Song program. Up to 30% of such contributions can return to the District, and, in fact, fifteen chapters were brought checks by Sean this convention. Already 17 youth choruses have pre-registered for 2013 Midwinter. One is from Kenya. Pioneer District is a \$10K sponsor.

There are 300 Pioneers on Pionet. We should encourage even greater participation. Greg Humbel reported that the District will use Constant Contact to distribute the **Troubadour** and other district business.



Doug Weaver introduces the Pioneer District board

Reports – Chapters

Battle Creek

The chorus presented a cabaret dinner and show on September 29. It was held at Convis Township Hall in Marshall, MI.

Detroit Oakland

The D.O.C. chorus journeyed down to Grosse Pointe Farms Pier Park for a picnic with the Grosse Pointe Chapter on October 2.

D.O.C. held its annual Canada Night (honoring “our friends from across the border”) November 2 at St. Aidans Hall in Livonia. The evening included dinner, Mini-Chorus Contest, and Special Guests SINGERS LOCAL #4 who entertained and judged the Mini-Chorus Contest.

Flint

The guys of the Flint Chapter joined the Saginaw Bay chapter in Midland to sing the National Anthem and “Take Me Out to the Ballgame” at the Loons game Friday, August 17. The Loons are an A level minor league team in the Yankees organization that plays in the Midwest League.

The chorus held its annual chicken dinner at the Flint Masonic Temple at Sunday noon, October 14. The Chorus performed periodically for diners’ listening pleasure.

Gaylord

Friday, October 5, was the date of Michigan Northern Lights with the HARMONIE MEISTERS at Trinity Lutheran Church.

Grand Rapids

GREAT LAKES CHORUS sang at Lamar Park, August, 2012.



Doug Weaver introduces the GREAT LAKES CHORUS at Lamar Park



SHOWTIME at Lamar Park



FOUR SHORE performs at Lamar Park



Members of GLC at the Harmony Brewing Company.

On September 25, members of the Grand Rapids GREAT LAKES CHORUS had a great time 'sampling' home brews and singing barbershop tags for the Black Squirrel University talk series at the Harmony Brewing Company 1551 Lake Dr. SE Eastown, Grand Rapids.

Gratiot County

by Kenneth Best

On September 22, the MIDSTATESMEN celebrated a milestone in barbershopping at the Alma High School. **Lowell Boyer** performed in his 65th consecutive show. Everyone's friends and exciting quartet CHORDIOLOGY headlined our show this year. This reporter had the honor of being the MC for the show. After being away from this wonderful hobby for several years I and several other retreads have returned and are having a ball. In honor of Lowell, we put together a hilarious skit-filled show that Gratiot is known for. Lowell picked all the music.

Holland

The 4th Supercharging Your Chapter (SYC) was held in Holland.

The advertising for the event brought out the poetic heart of President **Jay Bylsma**; well at least the limerick-ster.

True Holland is not a Granada.
But it's similar, and like musical formata.
With beaches it's blest
It's a great place to rest
(And escape Paul's yada, yada?) Nada!

Jay added: "If you've never been to the Holland Harmony Hall and seen its collection of photos dating back to the 40's, you should see it before you pass on (or by)."

Huron Valley

by William Stutts

The Huron Valley HARMONIZERS had a very special guest August 21 at rehearsal. Sean Devine, Lead of the 2008 International Champion Quartet -- OC TIMES, was there to talk about the Barbershop Harmony Society's outreach organization, Harmony Foundation.

It was an awesome night! We had the Monroe North Chapter up and some members from Wayne chapter and a couple of guests. We got a chance to sing with Sean and some of us stayed until 11:30pm doing tags. That was awesome. The pics from that night are in the Facebook photo album "Sean Devine at Huron Valley. <http://www.facebook.com/hvharmonizers>

Friends & Family Harmony Gathering occurred September 11 with three barbershop choruses, the Huron Valley HARMONIZERS, Livingston LAMPLIGHTERS, and the Sweet Adelines Ypsilanti VOICES IN HARMONY.



Friends & Family Harmony Gathering with HARMONIZERS, LAMPLIGHTERS, and SAI VOICES IN HARMONY

Their rendition of Lida Rose in 8-part harmony is at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Y5PY3Oa7GY&feature=youtu.be>

On October 6, the chorus presented "Wine Tasting at the Spotted Dog" in Saline. It was a chance to try a variety of incredible local wines, with the Huron Valley HARMONIZERS providing harmonious music to accompany the 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.

Kalamazoo

The Kalamazoo MALL CITY HARMONIZERS sang on Independence Day in Schoolcraft.

On September 22, the chorus and their chapter quartets presented a show entitled "4 our Ladies," for and about "the Ladies in our lives," at the WMU Dalton Center.



Kalamazoo MALL CITY HARMONIZERS performing at Schoolcraft, MI. on July 4

Lansing

portions taken from the Woodshedder

September 11 – Krazy Kwartet Night

A fun-filled evening for ourselves and the residents of Great Lakes Christian Retirement Home.

We had at least 26 men participating in 15 quartets. I don't want to mention any names, Doug, but one person was in eight quartets.

Throw together an arm, an eye, komputer parts, kazoos, klever lyrics, Tupperware, loud and off-key singing, and probably everything except the kitchen sink (which undoubtedly got lost in transit). What do you have? As **Doc Oliver** might say, it doesn't take a real brain surgeon to figure that the answer to that question is the annual Krazy Kwartet Kontest, held before a large and appreciative (maybe deaf?) audience at the Great Lakes Home. Attendees included spouses, friends, "Home" residents and a few escapees from the Jackson Prison -- they'd already "sung" in prison so they were warmed up.

Everyone had a good time, and if they didn't they just didn't understand our chorus and the Krazy people involved in filling up chorus risers. One event-goer said he heard music he'd never heard before. Event officials are still trying to figure out exactly what he meant.

Judging the Kontest and also singing a few songs was a Sweet Ad quartet from the Ann Arbor area, ANOTHER ROUND, which included Chairman **Gordy Lind's** daughter. Mic Testers (minus the mics) were the YOOPER TROOPERS. Master of Ceremonies was **Stan Williams**.

A huge "Thank You" to Gordon Lind for spearheading the Kontest!

The Lansing Chapter presented a "Parade of Quartets" at the Charlotte Performing Arts center, October 13. The show began with several songs performed by the chorus, and

then the “parade” of nine quartets began.

The quartets gave a lot of variety -- from good old-fashioned barbershop to Gospel to Comedy to Collegiate energy and even two quartets with a Sweet Adeline flair!

The seven men's quartets performing were: ALREADY TAKEN, KNOCKIN' ON HEAVEN'S DOOR, OLDE THYME HARMONY QUARTET, THE PATCH CHORDS, PARTS UNLIMITED, TAKE NOTE, and UNMATCHED! The two Sweet Adeline quartets were: FRIENDS OF THE CHORD and HEAT WAVE.

This idea for a parade of quartets came from the fact that in the “olden days,” before choruses became the central hub of most chapters, many barbershop shows simply were a string of quartets.

Livingston County

On July 4, the chorus was part of the Parade through downtown Brighton.

On Sunday, August 19, the Livingston LAMPLIGHTERS participated in the festivities at the Howell Melon Festival, singing outside the Restore the Glory - Howell Opera House.



4th of July parade in downtown Brighton

In September, the chorus participated in the Brighton Walk to end Alzheimer's at the mill pond. The walk was put on by Alzheimer's Association, Michigan Great Lakes Chapter.

On November 4, The Livingston LAMPLIGHTERS Barbershop Chorus took us back in time when it presented "Sentimental Journey - Our Way" at the Hartland Educational Support Service Center. Along with the LAMPLIGHTERS Barbershop Chorus, the performance showcased four barbershop quartets: MYXT RYTE, NOTEWORTHY, THE JESTERS, and CODA HONOR; and the RECYCLED ROCKETTES from the Hartland Senior Center. Master of ceremonies **Jeff Jackowski** performed magic.



(L to R) Cal Bock, Gene Tauriainen, Jim Mindling, Doug McCall, Ray Bradley, Bruce Campbell, Stan Lawrence, Phil Stendel, Dan Arnold, Tom Crane, Steve Devereaux and Ralph LeRoy
Photo by Gillis Benedict, Daily Press & Argus

Macomb County

The GUARDIANS OF HARMONY are teaming up with the Rochester HEART OF THE HILLS Chorus to create one large awesome sounding chorus. See "Breaking Story" on page 48.



In the tent at MAINstage. Michael Sandstrom and Evan Boegehold

On August 22, the MountainTown Singers performed at the Isabella County Commission on Aging. This was an excellent opportunity for community exposure.

Acapellapalooza – October 27

On Saturday, October 27, The MountainTown Singers hosted their fall chapter show in Central Michigan University's Plachta Auditorium at Warriner Hall.

Mt Pleasant

On August 26, the MOUNTAINTOWN SINGERS hosted a table at MAINstage. Each year thousands of CMU students attend this event. This is a tremendous opportunity for both students and the Mount Pleasant community to get to know each other. Mobile Zip Line, inflatables, novelties, games, and live music adorned the grassy area and made this an enjoyable event for all. And we beat the rain, and let people know about barbershop.



Jim Whitten warms up the chorus for performance at Isabella County Commission on Aging

The show featured:

- Three-time Pioneer District Champion, and four-time International Competitor, The MOUNTAINTOWN SINGERS
- CMU's oldest all-male contemporary acapella group, FISH N CHIPS (<http://www.facebook.com/fishnchipsacappella>)
- 2011 Pioneer District Champions and 2012 International Representatives, EBB N' FLOW (<http://www.facebook.com/enfquartet>)
- And, singing in Michigan for only the second time, 2008 International Quartet Champions, OC TIMES (<http://www.facebook.com/OCTimesQuartet>).

The event even made the advance listings in the Chicago Tribune Travel section.

Muskegon

On August 30, the chorus sang at the Dayspring Assisted Living Facility.



The Muskegon SHORELINE CHORUS performs at Dayspring Assisted Living Facility



The Big Chief Chorus annual picnic

Pontiac-Waterford

The BIG CHIEF Chorus' Annual Picnic was held on a beautiful August evening, as forty Chieftains and family gathered at **Bob and Eileen Marshall's** home on the shores of Sylvan Lake. Once again, the food was plentiful and delicious.

The BIG CHIEF Fall Show was held Saturday, November 3, at Waterford Mott High School. The chorus was "up north" at *Camp Harmony* for a musical retreat, interspersed with a little fishing and hunting, and accompanied by those outdoor specialists – FOUR MAN FISHIN' TACKLE CHOIR.

Rochester

October 13 – Show - 🎵 "You Make Me Feel So Young" 🎵 with tunes made popular by the Rat Pack

Featured quartets were

- HOT AIR BUFFOONS in their only Michigan engagement this year
- RIGHT ON Q, District Champs 2010

The show, at Stoney Creek High School in Rochester, was once again a combined show, consisting of both the Rochester HEART OF THE HILLS chorus, **Mike Hartrick** directing, as well as the Macomb GUARDIANS OF HARMONY chorus with Matt Tipton, directing.

Traverse City

On September 26, the chorus and several quartets performed in the "*Harmony with a Purpose*" Concert Series at Central United Methodist Church. The event raised money for Safe Harbor Organization and the chorus.

Wayne

The HARMONY TOWN chorus sang September 23 at the Northville Victorian Festival, and on November 15, at the Livonia Library Noontime Concert Series.



The Sun Parlor Chorus

Windsor

"Timeless," the Annual Chapter show was October 13, "our 68th Annual Chapter Show." In addition to the chorus and chapter quartets performing, the show featured the 2011 Pioneer District Quartet Champion and Collegiate Champion, and 2012 International District & Collegiate Quartet Representative EBB N' FLOW. Also featured on the show, adding some talented hometown

vocal flair to the line-up, was the SANDWICH SECONDARY CHOIR.

Reports – Quartets

Limited Edition



Tom Blackstone (L), Jeff Doig (L), Charlie Perry (Bs), John Cowlishaw (Br). Jeff Doig snapped this photo remotely with his new GoPro)

LIMITED EDITION had five gigs in the last quarter. On August 15, the quartet joined with the Huron Valley Chorus (no relation to the HARMONIZERS) to present a free concert, as the final event in Highland Township's Summer Concert Series. The event took place at Veterans Park in Highland. The quartet sang two sets of songs, chosen by Bass **Charlie Perry**, a past member of the chorus, to exemplify the wide range of types that the quartet has in its repertoire – patriotic, Americana, Disney, classic barber-shop, doo-wop, and inspirational.

LIMITED EDITION performed Sunday, August 26, at the Bowers School Farm Fund Raiser Corn Roast.

On Labor Day weekend, the quartet sang a five-setter, at Charlie Perry's 3rd biennial pig roast. A hundred family members, friends, and neighbors feasted on the 120-lb porker and enjoyed Charlie and son Ike's home-brewed beer. The weather was lovely, haze from Hurricane Isaac just slightly reducing the solar intensity. LE sang "When It Comes," "Can You Feel," "Come Fly," "Let the Rest of the World," and "Sold."

On a beautiful fall Sunday afternoon, LIMITED EDITION sang at the 27th annual Fisk Farm Festival in White Lake Township for the White Lake Historical Society fundraiser.

And On September 16, LIMITED EDITION returned for its third year to Milford Historical Society's "Historical Homes Tour." Over a five-hour period (whew!), the quartet circulated between four historic homes in the southeastern section of Milford, standing outside, or in the foyers or porches of the homes. A count of the songs sung came to twenty-two (of the 31 songs in its repertoire). What was really appreciated were all of the "wow!"s that were received. The quartet also taught the tag, "In Dixieland Where I Was Born," to several listeners, and that was a highlight, as their eyes glowed to hear the overtones of the tag. **Elena Gliner**, a Milford High School student tried it out. (She also knew the words to "Sold" and sang that with the quartet.) Charlie's sister, **Marlene Gomez**, tried out the tag, did it so well, that there was a pumped fist at the end, and the comment, "I didn't realize how hard it is!"

Meta-4



META-4

META-4 had the honor of singing for our veterans at the POW/MIA Brunch at the VA facility in Ann Arbor on September 15.

Olde Thyme Harmony Quartet

Had a busy summer!! We have been blessed to perform with the Chorus on a couple of performances and to sing for the St. Johns Mint Festival, a Wedding Reception at the Royal Oak Farmers Market, the St. Johns Methodist Church, and to compete and tie for 2nd Place at the Annual Bush League Contest.

We definitely experienced some Gold Medal Moments while performing at the Rives Junction Freedom Festival at the Thompkins Township Historical property, a 62 acre farm southwest of Rive Junction. The 8th annual festival was very impressive with several entertainment groups, steam-fired tractors, saw mill, flea market, classic car show, and Civil War and other war displays. We also had the opportunity to entertain Lovers sitting on a big rock with "Heart of My Heart" and a charming lady in her fashionable dress carrying her parasol with "Let Me Call You Sweetheart."

In the meantime we just keep getting older and older (even Jacob!!) he's 24 now ya' know!!! More OTHQ details at their website: <http://www.oldethymeharmony.com>

Patch Chords

On Tuesday, September 25 the PATCH CHORDS sang at the Bickford Retirement center in Okemos for an appreciative group of residents. The highlight of the evening was singing the ever popular INK SPOTS number "We'll Meet Again" to Olga. In all the years the Patch Chords have been singing this song we've never had such a great person to sing to.

The PATCH CHORDS were pleased to sing at the Battle Creek Cabaret Show on Saturday, September 29, along with a great assortment of quartets and, of course, the Battle

Creek Chapter chorus. Fellow Lansing chorus members **Al Zaeske** and **Don Terpe** sang with UNMATCHED! on the program along with former Lansing Chapter director, Jamie Carey, singing with his newly formed quartet. Jamie is currently singing with the MOUNTAINTOWN SINGERS and his quartet is planning on singing in the fall District contest. Battle Creek sang their competition songs along with a number of upbeat 50s numbers.



The Patch Chords

There was good food, good singing, and a good time had by all!

Willie Mendoza's Quartet, Pioneer ex-patriot in India

(via Wayne Oberstadt)

Last night my quartet won the first prize at our parish talent contest. We wowed the audience with our rendition of "I Believe." I taught the boys the song and trained them, even wrote in a key change which came smoothly. My group and quartet [also] gave a most creditable performance at the Daniel

Pearl Memorial Concert in Mumbai on Sunday, 15th October. Our songs got tremendous ovations and the audience requested us to sing more.

Peace and harmony,
Willie

Reports – Events

Bush League – August 17-18

by Dale Hanson

Friday evening RIGHT ON Q! led the quartets through a discussion on how to survive while changing baritones four times in three years. Then Matt Tipton taught a very informative craft session on the special problems involved in quartet singing and the differences from chorus singing.

Saturday morning they were on hand to Mic Test for the contest. Then they took notes on all of the quartets for use in coaching them in the afternoon. Their day continued as they were the headliners on the Gaylord Chapters "Show of Champions." Then on to the afterglow.

The Gaylord Chapter thanks RIGHT ON Q! for truly making the 2012 Bush League fly!



Willie Mendoza's quartet. Willie is third from the left

And the winners were: CLASSIC FIT from the Detroit Oakland and Macomb County Chapters.



RIGHT ON Q! from the Macomb County Chapter
Matt Tipton (T), Ken Klein (L), Ed Bax (Bs), and
Rich Anderson (Br)

There was a tie for second place between
SHARP ATTACK and OLDE THYME
HARMONY QUARTET.



OLDE THYME HARMONY QUARTET from the
Lansing Chapter: Tim Oliver (Br), Jim McKay
(Bs), Don Horton (L), Jacob Welty (T)

Last years winners, THE BLENDYBOYS, from the
Mt. Pleasant, Lansing and Battle Creek Chapters
were on hand to sing away the "Brass Gaboon".
They have a good start at trying to set a new record
for second place finishes. They were 2nd in the 2011 District Champion Competition
and 2nd in the spring International Quarter Finals. [Editor's Note: It continued at Bat-
tle Creek, October 2012]



Bush League winners, CLASSIC FIT from the
Detroit Oakland and Macomb County Chapters.
Eric Van Poucker (T), Kevin Moriarity (L), Dave
Anderson (Bs), Jeff Spires (Br)



SHARP ATTACK, from the Macomb
County and Frank Thorne Chapters:
Roger Davidson (T), Gordon Kummer
(L), Don Kondor (Br), Mark Hawley (Bs)

Others participating quartets, in order of appearance, were:

SURROUND SOUND from the Mt Pleasant Chapter.

Steve Marks, Tenor

Joel Todd, Lead

Evan Boegehold, Bass

Scott Verlinde, Baritone

THE WHOLE NOTES from the Gratiot County Chapter

Ken Best, Tenor

Scott Johnson, Lead

Chuck Moerdyk, Bass

Grant Colthorp, Baritone



THE BLENDY BOYS: Kevin Smerdon (T), Rob Halsey (L), T.R. Gerard (Bs), Steve Warnaar (Br)

MOUNTAINTOWN CONNECTION from the Mt. Pleasant & Gaylord Chapters

Steve Marks, Tenor

Jim Whitten, Lead

Randy McLaren, Bass

Bruce Hunting, Baritone,

FOUR SHORE from the Muskegon & Grand Rapids Chapters. (All four of these young men are students at Mona Shores High School.)

Jerry Lawton, Tenor

Josiah Baird, Lead

Sam Stewart, Bass

Cody Munford, Baritone

JUST 4 KIXX from the Windsor Ontario Canada Chapter

Lou Muzzin, Tenor

Roger Reid, Lead

Al McGregor, Bass

Jim Roy, Baritone

The Judges were **Ken Fisher** – singing, Al Fisk – Music, and Matt Tipton – Presentation. Not only did they do a very good job of judging the quartets, they also spent the afternoon coaching all of the contestants, along with the members of RIGHT ON Q! I'd like to say thanks to Ron Eubank, Contest Administrator, for putting together this outstanding panel and keeping the contest and coaching running smoothly.

And that's the report from the far North!

Dale Hanson,

Exhausted Bush League Chairman

BBBB in the barn – August 24

by Roger Lewis

Another Barbershop, BBQ, Beans, and Beer (BBBB) is history -- with 34 guys from near and far enjoying BBBB in the Barn at the Lewis Ranch. Attendees were from all over; five from Lansing, three from Benton Harbor, two from Hillsdale, four from Kalamazoo, three from Holland, three from Wayne, one from Huron Valley, two more from various parts, and eleven from Battle Creek.

Six Senior Quartets and Six "all ages" quartets competed for top honors, and left wearing a new "Top" BHS hat! Senior winners were the CRISPY CRITTERS, with **Bud Burrill** (T); **Bruce Jonasz** (L); **Ben Jerzyk** (Br); and **Frank Adams** (Bs).

(Actually, the winning senior quartet name was FLATLINE and consisted of Jerry Ditto, tenor; Frank Adams, bass and 2 other guys but I can't remember their names. I guess Roger wasn't the only one having a senior moment. Could the other two guys let us know who you were and take credit? Frank Adams)

The age "10 to 90" quartet winner was EVERY NIGHT'S A SATURDAY NIGHT FOR ME, PARTY TIME FOR ME WITH ALL MY FRIENDS QUARTET, with **Rich Harlow** (T); **Nick Roe** (L); **Howard Goldman** (Br), and **Mark Spear** (Bs). (Because of the length of their name, score sheets will not be available.)

Five more quartets entertained the gathering -- FOR THE RECORD, a pickup Brigade quartet; BY DESIGN from Kalamazoo; M-66 (+/- 1) from Battle Creek; CARTE BLANCHE; and PATCH CHORDS. Great fun.

Kudos to our well-paid judges -- **Brian Duncel**, Don Terpe, and **Paul Cooper**.

Thanks to Alan Zaeske and a pickup quartet for providing the theme "From the First Hello to the Last Bud Light"

(from Frank Adams)

Let's not forget who put this classic together and did one heck of a job. Roger Lewis has done it again. This was a fantastic night of getting together and singing with our brethren and the food (and drinks) were awesome. It was well worth the 1½ hour drive for my brothers and me from the Wayne Chapter but we shall return. Thanks Roger. "Keep the whole world singing."

Supercharging Your Chapter – August 25

by John Cowlshaw

Four Supercharging Your Chapter (SYC) events were held in Pioneer District this year. Here is a report on the third, held in Ann Arbor, Saturday, August 25.

The event was sponsored by the Huron Valley Chapter, organized by Joe McDonald,

and taught by Paul Ellinger and drew about 30 barbershoppers – from Huron Valley, Pontiac-Waterford, Macomb, and Wayne.

The result came down to two things: singing better and growing the chapter. Paul Ellinger and Joe McDonald followed up on that, and Paul created the Supercharging Your Chapter workshops to answer the question of how to accomplish those goals. The answer to the first goal is Wavebox Singing. The answer to the second goal is Turbo Growth. Any organization that doesn't reach out beyond itself is doomed to failure, which resulted in a third prong – Altruistic Purpose. Joe's hometown chapter agreed to test it out. Last March, Paul offered his first SYC workshop at Mt Pleasant to see whether the concepts had traction. The result was so impressive that the Mt Pleasant chapter has basically changed its whole outlook, from one of competition and contest, to one of service, an altruistic purpose (which they won't specifically state, because they hope that each chapter will develop its own, but it's along the lines of "help other people improve their lives in some significant way").

Based on this early success, an attempt was made by Paul and Joe to enlist the support of other chapters. Grosse Point, Huron Valley, Lansing, and Holland were the other chapters that agreed to host a workshop in 2012. (The \$20 registration fee helps to reimburse those chapters for their management costs.)

The content of the workshop can't be described easily, but here is an attempt. Wavebox Singing is all about singing better. The most important thing is probably that it emphasizes what to think, not what to do. Those who have listened to Paul will understand the reference to such ideas as: Proud Regal, Wall of Sound, Semicircle singing, Cursive Endings, "Oh Really" Breath, Silent H and Boswell Ahh, and Basic Phrase Interpretation. Others will have to attend a workshop.

Turbo Growth enlists the image of a turbocharger - with input (effort) amplified into output (but don't worry about results). People join barbershop for Fun, Camaraderie, and Singing. But Purpose trumps them all.

Less than 1 % of us feel that recruitment is part of our responsibility as barbershoppers. Paul emphasized how ineffective most of our recruiting methods are. (A few years ago, the Society spent more than \$100,000 for a nation-wide New York Times ad that resulted in 16 responses and 0 new memberships.)

The most effective recruiting methods use Personal and Interactive interactions after a person has heard actual barbershop (rather than just imagined the stereotype). Thus one approaches someone after a performance to ask, "So... Where do you like to do your singing?" Paul has crafted this question to avoid the most common pitfalls. Some people sing in front of other people; they're easy. Most sing alone. (Why? The fear of being judged.) Five minutes practice at each chorus rehearsal on the possible dialogues could do wonders.

SYC 2 is now being created, and the MountainTown Singers are training some of their own members to teach the SYC approach.

Reading this won't convince someone to embrace Wavebox Singing or Turbo Growth, but at least barbershoppers might be intrigued to consider attending a future workshop or even to encourage their chapter to host an event in 2013.



SYC participants being guided in exercises



SYC finishing the day with "Keep The Whole World Singing", lead by Rob Pettigrew

(from Joe McDonald, August 15, 2012)
Hello Pioneer,

Doug Weaver participated in the very first Supercharging Your Chapter! Event back in March in Mt. Pleasant and returned last week to measure the results experienced by the chapter (MTS). He mentioned in his previous Pionet post that Supercharging "changes the way choruses sing". With all due respect to Doug, Supercharging is so much more than just singing better. There are hundreds of ways to sing better. MTS has made substantial improvement using just seven steps to singing better, and they have a head start on the rest of Pioneer. Doug Weaver stood right in the middle of the risers last Wednesday and was amazed, as were the rest of us when the first concepts of "Advanced Wavebox Singing" were demonstrated and utilized. It was an emotional experience and an experience we (MTS) will now crave from week to week. But it only happens AFTER the chapter pretty much masters Wavebox Singing, the seven steps taught at a Supercharging Event. But Wavebox Singing is just one of three modules incorporated in Supercharging Your Chapter! Turbo Growth (TG) is the second component. TG has been practiced by MTS since the initial training in March. Individual successes have been accomplished to date. I'm talking about chapter members utilizing the step by step process to learn how to effectively invite men to explore singing with the chapter or other chapters or just for fun. The first large scale opportunity for the chapter to use Turbo Growth techniques will happen next week. MTS will present a free evening of entertainment at the local Commission on Aging venue to hundreds of invited seniors and their families. There will be opportunities there to extend genuine invitations to other men that may have an interest in singing and our guys will be ready to do that, they are anxious to do that.

That brings me to the third leg of Supercharging. Altruistic Purpose is the secret ingredient in Supercharging Your Chapter! if you ask me. Paul Ellinger's presentation out-

lines the value in focusing a volunteer organization toward a common purpose (Not a mission or goal). That purpose in most cases is connected to helping others with basic human needs. MTS worked on their Altruistic Purpose as a chapter, not as a committee or board of directors. It was an experience unlike the experience we expected. You know, the experience when a few guys, always the same guys, come up with the idea, adopt it, and set it as the chapter's purpose. MTS made the identification of its' Purpose an agenda item on chapter night. They spent several minutes per night over several weeks and had nearly every man speak on the topic. After several drafts and scrutiny of nearly every word, the entire chapter adopted the statement. We all own it now and the event we are sponsoring for area seniors next week is our very first effort at living our Purpose. And we have also made a commitment that a portion of our Fall show proceeds will be donated to a local agency that is aligned with our Purpose. Nope, I'm not going to provide our Purpose statement here. I don't want to influence your statement in any way. I just want you to realize that both the process of identifying your chapter purpose and implementing it are unifying and cathartic.

I hope this provides specific reasons why I believe that you and your chapter should experience Supercharging Your Chapter! You are likely asking; "Why would Joe care about other chapters getting better". Well...my brothers in MTS and I have come to understand what barbershop is all about...and it is not about being the best chorus in Pioneer. It is about being the best chorus you can be and about sharing the FUN, CAMARADERIE, and SINGING inherent in vibrant chapter life. It's about the "Gold Medal Moments" that Dr. Jim Henry spoke of in his now famous address at Harmony University a couple of years ago.

Several MTS members are working toward becoming "certified" as Supercharging presenters/facilitators and they hope that your chapter might be open to our help some time. It sure would be exciting to have the renaissance of the BHS originate from Pioneer, the "district of firsts". Pioneer HO!

(from Joe McDonald – September 29)

It was great getting to know the Holland Chapter guys yesterday and sharing Supercharging concepts with them and their guests from Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Muskegon, Macomb, and Huron Valley. I sense a new momentum in Pioneer. Let's work together guys and see where we can go from here!

(from Dave Gillingham)
Pioneer friends;

Many of you have experienced the thrill of working with Paul Ellinger and Joe McDonald at several "Supercharging Your Chapter" events over the past year. I will never forget the one we had here in Mt. Pleasant last March. It has done wonders for our chapter, and having Joe McDonald in our ranks has helped us sustain and continue all the wonderful techniques and tools we gained from that event.

Paul talks about the altruistic purpose of our individual chapters at these Supercharging events. This motivated our chorus to have multiple discussions on the "why" we are doing what we do so well. However, I would like to point out that Paul Ellinger and Joe McDonald are LIVING an altruistic purpose themselves. They are giving of their time and talents to spread the good news about the concept of "Supercharging Your Chapter". It is not, in the least bit, self-serving. They are doing it for the whole district, not for themselves and not for their individual chapters. We are ALL winning because of their altruistic purpose!!! I've been in this district for over 30 years and I have never seen a program that has done more good for the district.

There will be more Supercharging events ahead. We've only just begun! I strongly urge all of you to attend one of these events!!! We will all reap the benefits!!

39th Annual Barbershop Stag Corn Roast – August 28

Sponsored by the GLC and Baker Family, Jenison MI.

(submitted by Michael Baribeau)

There were 70 in attendance for this annual affair – from Battle Creek, Kalamazoo, Holland, Muskegon, Kansas City, Lansing, and Grand Rapids. \$5 for dinner buffet. All quartets and male guests welcome (sorry, no ladies). Pick up quartet contest at dusk. Ears of corn and hot dogs boiled over an open pit flame in metal trash cans (they said they cleaned them first). A pan of melted butter to dip your corn in, plus potato salad, baked beans, and the like. Lots of guys trying out different pickup quartets, singing tags and songs, looking for a quartet to compete with after sunset. Many pickup quartets sang with improvised names that can't be mentioned here. Also some established quartets sang. Seventeen quartets all together. The contest was opened by **Doug Weaver**, the Grand Rapids Chapter President and the District President. There was Roger Lewis' quartet from Battle Creek. The Mona Shores High School quartet FOUR SHORE with Pete Westers as a substitute tenor. STATE LINE RIVALS (SLR) from Kansas City with long time GLC member **Dan Casamatta**, a dual member of the Grand Rapids and Kansas City chapters. The EXTENSION CHORDS- 1952 Bush League, District Champs, and International Reps. (According to the Lansing Woodshedder "In the 50's this popular Grand Rapids quartet used to sing radio jingles for Archway Cookie Co.") Also there was the debut of a Grand Rapids quartet yet to have a



Baker's lawn as Corn Roast gets under way

name with Peter Westers, James Masalskis, Jamie Carey, and Steve Wheeler. Grand Rapids International Seniors Quartet SHOWTIME, Senior Champs SHADES OF GREY, including the Corn Roast host **John Baker** singing bass, a pickup quartet with new GLC member **Ken Rodenhouse** in his first quartet performance. The evening ended with the 'CAMP SHIRT' Chorus. The shirtless tradition was started many years ago at the Corn Roast by legendary barber-shopper **Jim Horton** and was performed in his memory. Members took turns directing

including Dan Casamatta; also directing were GLC members Peter Westers, and Bill Edmunds.



Dan Winer working at the Corn Roast

How did this event originate? The answer, from the Grand Rapids Chapter's newsletter *4 Cast*, August 9, 2010, by John Baker; "Corn Roasting, a GLC Tradition."

"Singing at Smitty's Shack and GLI After-glow parties at the Pantlind Hotel are some stories my grandfather use to tell. But none have lasted longer than the Great Lakes Corn Roast. It has resided at the Baker homestead for 36 years now and counting. There is some question as to when it started at

our home - 1973, 74, 75? Well, many of you know I took over the role of Pioneer District Historian. People began dropping off items of interest faster than I could keep up. Digging through some of these items I came across an old 1973 Great Lakes Chorus member directory and calendar. Looking it over I found the last Tuesday, August 28, 1973 - Corn Roast at **Herm Baker's**. So this will be the 37th year held in the backyard, and I've attended all - Well maybe not all. The first year the Baker children were



Art Lane and friends



Grand Rapids GLC with Jamie Carey, James Masalskis and Joshua Masalskis

sent to bed before the party started. Fortunately the boys were sent to the old "Wolf" Camping trailer parked within view of all the activities. With our noses pressed up against the windows, watching and listening to every note and joke. So yes, you could say I attended in spirit. The Corn Roast is much older than 36 years and was not always held on Bauer Rd. It was Jim Horton that convinced my grandfather to hold it on his property in Jenison, when their last place was not available. The GLC Corn Roast simply put - was created for the purpose of replacing one rehearsal night with a night for the 'guys' (hence why no ladies) to recon-

nect and blow off some steam before their hard work schedule for Fall Contest. It began as - Beer, Dogs, Corn and Tag singing until the cows came home. Other chapters were invited to join in the festivities of the night. Soon a pick-up quartet show became the event of the evening spawning new quartets in our society, the first I can remember

being BLACK VELVET. Even registered quartets find their way here. DETROIT SOUND COMPANY made it one year. Some quartets we get to see even before they're crowned District Champs, or have a chance to move on as our International Representatives. Comedy quartets, we've had our share - from HARMONY HOUNDS to FOOL'S GOLD. Reunions like the TOUCH OF CLASH and last year's guests the EXTENSION CHORDS."



Evening singing gets underway



FOUR SHORE with Pete Wester filling in at GLC Corn Roast



UNMATCHED! At GLC Corn Roast



SHOWTIME at GLC Corn Roast



STATE LINE RIVALS at GLC Corn Roast



HARMONY ROAD at GLC Corn Roast

Power Play Homecoming Tour, August 30, Hillsdale

by Roger Brook

It was a warm night in late August. Nearly 400 people gathered at the Sage Auditorium at Hillsdale College for a night of barbershop music. By 7:00 pm people were in their seats, the chorus was on the risers and the lights went down ...



FAMILY FORUM sing at POWER PLAY homecoming tour

The TOWN AND COUNTRY Chorus opened with selections from their spring show MALT SHOP MEMORIES. And so began a wonderful night of barbershop music. First up was the FAMILY FORUM, the original Slamka family quartet. The quartet included Don Slamka and his dad, Uncle Jack, and cousin Michael. Don has told us that he started singing with this quartet when he was a teenager. They were followed by the first set by POWER PLAY, a Pioneer District quartet that competed on the international stage for 12 years before being named the International Gold Medal Quartet in 2003. Included in that set was the crowd favorite "Blue Bayou (Blew By You)."



POWER PLAY sing at their homecoming tour

After intermission, various members of the talented Slamka family entertained the audience of barbershop enthusiasts. The groupings included:

- the Don Slamka family trio, featuring Don, his wife Staci (daughter of the late **Phil Haines** of RESISTING-A-REST fame) and their teen-age daughter Holli.
- the **Mike Slamka** family trio, featuring Michael's daughters Michaela, Mackenzi and Madison.
- Michael then joined his daughters for a song.
- the SLIP N' SLIDE GIRLS (Michaela, Mackenzie, Madison and Holli) provided proof that the next generation of the Slamka family is as talented as their parents.

POWER PLAY then returned to the stage for a second set, continuing to entertain the appreciative audience with their wonderful harmonies and vocal enthusiasm.

The Town and Country Chorus returned to the stage to sing "Rise, Shine," with Power Play as the feature quartet. Power Play then closed out the evening with the song " W h e n T h e r e ' s L o v e a t H o m e . "

It was a wonderful night of a cappella music, barbershop style. Truly a night to remember. As a relatively new member of the Hillsdale chorus, I could only leave the auditorium wondering why nobody introduced me to this musical style earlier in my life.



The Power Play Homecoming Tour

BQPA/Pioneers Fall Festival, September 5-8

by Tom Noble

Well, another excellent Festival of "do-it-yerself" quartetting in the old style has chor-dially come, and alas, gone. Close to 75 singers and guests populated the Barbershop Quartet Preservation Association (BQPA)/Pioneers' room at the Hillside Best Western, just outside of Chicago, for our traditional "pick-up" quartet contest Friday evening, September 7, and nearly 100 were on hand for our Saturday evening parade of quartets.

The competition was fierce and well-fought, resulting in the presentation of medals to the champs, who were very well-received. Woodshedding and other informal quartet singing then resumed and went on into the wee hours.

On Saturday evening, seven quartets appeared in a parade which featured EASY DAYS (LOL District), from Greendale, Wisconsin. Most of the other groups were from the local Chicago area, although one, RANDOM SAMPLE, consisted of gents from the Minneapolis area who regularly attend our Festivals.

The next BQPA/Pioneers Festival was announced for the Spring of 2013. It will be held at the Embassy Suites in Tempe, AZ, April 10 - 14. If you enjoy singing in quartets, with no pressure or assigned music, please join us in Tempe. You can find details on the BQPA/Pioneers website, www.BQPA.com. Come join us next April!

History – Harrisville

(Harrisville has drawn a large fraction of east-side Pioneers for many years. How did that begin? **Ray Sturdy** (D.O.C. and Pontiac-Waterford) referred your editor to stories published in the local paper, the *Alcona Review*. Permission has been granted by Editor and Publisher **Cheryl Peterson** to make extensive use of the stories, written by **Mary Weber** and published on August 29 and September 5 in that paper, with photos by **Wil Weber**.)

Harmonizing tradition began 50 years ago

Little did **Russ Seely** and **John “Key” Smith** know while they were packing for a camping trip “up north” their families were about to start a tradition that would entertain Alcona County residents and visitors for 50 years.

The two men didn’t even know each other when they pulled into a restaurant parking lot on their way to northern Michigan for a much needed rest away from the Detroit, Mich. area where they both worked and lived.

They probably would never have said a word to each other if Seely hadn’t noticed a S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. sticker on the back of Smith’s trailer. Seely was a barbershopper from the Grosse Pointe Chapter and Smith was from the Wayne Chapter. One or the other were on their way to the Harrisville State Park to camp and convinced the other to come along.

As the story is remembered, that weekend the two men and their wives tried to make a quartet, but it didn’t work. They decided, instead, on having another camping trip and bring other barbershoppers with them.

Smith presented the idea to his brother-in-law, **Tom Pollard**, who sang lead with the AIRE MALES. The AIRE MALES thought a family camping trip would be fun and definitely wanted to be there. Seely, a lead in the 4-FITS encouraged his quartet and their families to join the trip to Harrisville as well.

A great time was had by all and another trip was planned for the next year.

In 1961 Seely insisted tenor **John Wearing** quit his barbershop quartet to join the 4-FITS. Of course, that meant he would take part in the annual Harrisville trip.

“Those guys were just so much fun, I just had to join up with them,” the 87-year-old Wearing said. “I’m the last living (member) of the 4FITS and I’m really looking forward to coming up to Harrisville this year to see some of the other ‘shoppers’ and Sweet Adelines as well as some of the old VFW gang that always put on such good barbecues, if there are any of them still hanging around.”

“We always had a good time,” Wearing continued, “I could tell you so many stories of



The FOUR FITS performing in Harrisville in 1962. (From left) John Wearing, Russ Seely, Ray McAlpin and Marv Burke. Courtesy photo from Matthew Seely

crazy things we did... There was one night I was almost asleep in my camper and I heard the other 4-FITS at my screen window saying 'Johnny, Johnny, can Johnny come out and play?' I told them I was sleeping, but they wouldn't let up, so I put on my boots and, still wearing my nightshirt, I grabbed my derby hat. Someone gave me a cigar and we all headed for Cuyler's bar. When we got there the whole parking lot was filled with motorcycles, but we decided to go in any way. Me, with just my derby, nightshirt and boots, and the other 4-FITS (fully dressed) donning their derbies and cigars walked in just as two burly bikers were heading out.

When they saw us the one said to the other, 'Wait I gotta see this,' and they turned around and went back in. We sang for the bikers and had a lot of fun."

In just a few years the annual camping trip had grown large enough to put on a show at the Harrisville Harbor.

A historical publication, "The First Fifty Years" printed by the Grosse Pointe Chapter of barbershoppers, documents Pollard's tales of how the first Harrisville shows were "colder than a well digger, with winds whipping off the lake" and how he was glad he was singing in an old fashioned World War I Army uniform complete with a coat that went all the way down to the floor. That was part of the costume or "gimmick" the AIRE MALES touted in their quartet. Wearing remembered the 4-FITS wore shorts and straw hats and were freezing while they sang.

In 1962, Russ Seely encouraged **Ed McCarthy**, a fellow Barbershopper, to bring a flat bed trailer and the concert was performed from the back of the trailer, parked in the VFW parking lot on Lake Street. That was the first real concert planned and performed, which began the 50 year tradition.

As the quartets continued the Harrisville tradition other shoppers and Sweet Adelines heard about the fun they were having. Before they knew it the annual event was drawing record number crowds and camp sites at the Harrisville State Park were sold out.

A few years later, another barbershopper, **Ray McAlpin**, an architect, designed a domed band shell which was used until the late 1970s when the concert moved to the current Harbor Park pavilion.

Matthew Seely, son of the late Russ Seely, will be representing his father in this year's parade along with Grand Marshals John Wearing and **Gloria Pollard**, the wife of the late Tom Pollard of the AIRE MALES and sister of the late John Smith.



John Wearing (left), 87, the last living member of the 4-FITS Barbershop quartet that performed in the first Harrisville Harmony Concert performs with (from left) Craig Pollard, son of the late Tom Pollard, Jack Slamka and Matthew Seely, son of the late Russ Seely founding father of Harrisville's Harmony Weekend. Photos by

"Most of the barbershoppers had young families in the '60s and they always made sure we (kids) had a great time," Seely said. It really was a lot of good family fun. "They always had a children's talent show and a parade and, of course, a barbershop concert. The VFW would do an ox roast barbecue after the concert. The attendance in the '60s must have been well into the thousands," Seely said.

The art fair portion of the Harmony festivities didn't begin until the early 1970s when it changed its scheduled time to Labor Day weekend to coincide with the already popular barbershoppers Harmony Reunion.

The show on Saturday was held under the pavilion at the Harrisville Harbor and included 2003 International Champion quartet, POWER PLAY, among others.

One of the youngest quartets to perform Saturday night was the SLIP AND SLIDE GIRLS. (From left) sisters, **Michaela, Madison, and Mackenzie Slamka** came from Florida to perform with their cousin, **Holly Slamka**, from Hillsdale, Mich. The girls' fathers and brothers also sang barbershop with a quartet called FAMILY FORUM during Saturday night's performance. Mike Slamka won the award for traveling the longest distance from Fort Meyers, Fla.



SLIP & SLIDE GIRLS singing at Harrisville



RELATIVELY SPEAKING

RELATIVELY SPEAKING, a husband and wife quartet, consisting of (left to right) **Sally Burns, Bruce LaMarte, Pete Burns, and Dodie LaMarte**. During the performance, quartet members explained that Dodie had heard about Harmony Weekend in 1983 so she bought a 1969 camper for \$650 so they could attend. Unfortunately, she didn't realize their car couldn't pull the camper so they had to purchase a \$10,000 vehicle with a \$700 trailer hitch. The LaMartes have a cottage five miles north of Harrisville.

Spotlight on a Chapter – Benton Harbor-St Joseph

by John Cowlshaw (with data from McDermott's history of the Pioneer District, and with editing by Dave Mohr)

The Benton Harbor-St. Joseph Chapter (FRUITBELT Chorus) has a distinguished history. It was chartered in 1948 during a period in which **Bob Walker**, a former Pioneer District and Grand Rapids Chapter president organized many new chapters throughout Michigan, including Niles, Sturgis, Marcellus, Three Rivers, Benton Harbor-St. Joseph, 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. The Benton Harbor-St. Joseph Chapter was in Area 10, along with Dowagiac, Kalamazoo, Marcellus, South Haven, Sturgis, Three Rivers, and Vicksburg.

In 1953, the chapter hosted the Pioneer district convention. They competed under **Bill Hansen** and were the District Chorus champions in 1957, at Traverse City, and in 1962.

In April, 1962, the chorus again hosted the District Convention; the House of Delegates meeting was held at their new Chorditorium, after properly dedicating the structure. In 1972 the chorus competed with **Roger Valentine** as director.

In 1982, Benton Harbor-St Joe won the Plateau IV, with 29 men on stage, and in 1984, they won Plateau III. In 1986, they competed with 21 men on stage.

Several quartets have also claimed the chapter as home. The Bush League Champions in 1951 were the OVERTONES – **L. Rohm, M. Humphrey, K. Kerlowski, and J. Bulley**.

A favorite quartet in the area was the QUADRICHORDS. Lead was **Art Rutz**, Bass **Bob Biasy**, Tenor **Herb Marschke**, and Baritone **Gus Reeves**.

In 1998, UPSTAGE SOUND was Quartet District champions, with members **Raleigh Bloch, Ed Fritzen, Kerry Foley, and Gene Hanover**, the latter a dual member with Benton Harbor-St. Joe. In May 2008, GO 4 IT! competed in Pioneer quartet competition, with members from Benton Harbor-St. Joe, Frank Thorne, and Kalamazoo.

I talked with President **Don Richmond**, Secretary **Darrell Stiner**, and Treasurer **Dave Mohr**.



Photo taken from March 1958 show program.

Benton Harbor—St. Joseph Chorus

The Chapter is small now. The membership stands at ten, seven of whom show up regularly. The other three live at a distance. A visiting tenor shows up on alternate Mondays. Meetings are Mondays, 7 p.m., at Crown Pointe Senior Residence, on Red Arrow Highway in Stevensville, a few miles south of St. Joseph.

Darrell Stiner joined in 1977, when Roger Valentine was the director and there were about 40 members. A work-friend, **Herb Pringle**, invited him. Darrell has served as Secretary for many years.

There is no specific Director, but Dave Mohr critiques the chorus. Dave is a bass who has had a long-time interest in intonation theory, having enjoyed the preachings of “just intonation for barbershop” from **Jim Richards**. Dave encourages the “old time harmony” that the members sing.

President Don Richmond joined the Society in the 1960s when Bill Hansen was director. However, he started barbershopping earlier, in 1952, with his Air Force comrades. They formed a quartet called the METRONOMES that was active for many years until their Tenor died last year. The other three members are still active, in the Bozeman, Montana, Chapter, the Mt. Rushmore, S. Dakota, Chapter, and Benton Harbor-St. Joe. The METRONOMES quartet was featured in *The Harmonizer* in the March/April 2012 issue on page 28.



THE KORVETS Dale Leighty (T), Don Richmond (L), Dave Mohr (Bs), Roger Valentine (Br). (Singing For Life, 2010)

Don Richmond (Lead) and Dave Mohr (Bass) get together with two other members of the Chapter, Roger Valentine (Bari) and **Dale Leighty** (Tenor) every two weeks to sing. Their quartet is called THE KORVETS, named so because they are all Korean War veterans. They competed at Bush League a couple years ago.

Don and Dave enjoy their long heritage as active barbershoppers. They attend the Chicago meeting of (BQPA/Pioneers), most recently September 5-8, and they may go to the Western meeting next spring.

The Chapter would be considered a Super Seniors organization. There is one new member; otherwise the present loyal members have been singing in the chorus for an average of 31 years. They are able to present a pickup quartet or a VLQ from the Chapter to sing at a senior's event, a reunion, or some other special event. Some new members, wishing for more than sitting around singing barbershop, and willing to spend hours on the risers each week, have joined the Michiana Metro Chapter, LIGHTHOUSE CHORUS, in Niles.

During chorus meetings, the chorus has been working on some new songs: “I’m Forever Blowing Bubbles,” “Whispering,” and “Little Street Where Old Friends Meet.” After meetings, they gather at Culver's, on Red Arrow Highway, at 9:15 pm, for ice cream.

Media

Talkback (Before and After)

by Brandon Matson, Music Educator & Proud Barbershopper! And former lead of Moxxy

Barbershop Friends,

I was contacted by a radio station called "Mushroomfm" to do a two-hour interview and presentation on Barbershop Harmony for a show called "Talkback". The show will air LIVE tonight (Thursday August 23) from 7-9 pm EST. Since this is an internet radio station, it broadcasts worldwide in 60 countries!! The "talkback" show airs every Thursday and is heard by thousands of people around the world! The show features a variety of different presenters each week. Mushroomfm is based in Australia but the guy interviewing me is from Michigan. Isn't technology wonderful?

My presentation will be on the history and current state of barbershop music and will feature 14 sound clips from quartets such as VOCAL SPECTRUM, FLAT FOOT FOUR, CROSSROADS, WESTMINSTER CHORUS, THE BUZZ, OC TIMES, FOUR VOICES, and MAX Q.

After a brief history of barbershop music and an aural presentation of our great quartets, I am going to talk a lot about what it's like being a part of this great organization. I will talk about how being a barbershopper builds your musicianship, your self esteem, and your performance confidence. I will also talk about how this wholesome music turns strangers into brothers in a way that nothing else in our society can. I will of course be able to plug our society website and tell folks how they can get involved.

The show can easily stream to your computer or smartphone FREE by going to: <http://mushroomfm.com/> and clicking on the link.

Pioneer Barbershop Friends,

Thanks to all the folks who listened to the talkback show yesterday. Thank you also for the positive feedback that you sent to the station and to me directly.

The host informed me that last night's show had one of the highest listener ratings of any other talkback show in its two-year history. I have you guys to thank for that!! I did my best to positively represent this great society. I also wanted to give listeners true historical facts about the BHS and provide great audio examples of our best quartets! I hope I represented us well!

If you missed the show, it is available on podcast at <http://mushroomfm.com/>

Thanks again everyone!!

Brandon Matson

Michael Baribeau and Facebook

Michael Baribeau has posted an article about using *Facebook* for promotion. “The majority of barbershoppers already have internet access but statistically they are part of the smallest group by age using Facebook.” In this article, Michael explains to newbies how to use Facebook, and what its value might be for the promotion of barbershop. <http://greatlakeschorus.org/misc/facebook/>

Dave Jacobs from the Sunshine District responded: “Everyone who is interested in getting into Facebook, or making their choruses or quartets reach on Facebook more effective should read this awesome article!”

There is also an article on the BHS web site (“Social Media for Barbershop Quartets and Choruses: Things to Consider”) which gets into specifics of what a chapter should consider as it enters the world of social media.

Barbershop on Comcast

If you are a Comcast subscriber, you can access barbershop videos on TV. From the Comcast menu, go to **On Demand>Music>Music picks>Barbershop Harmony**.

Tell your friends, family and fans to watch too. Thanks xFinity!

BarbershopHQ

You can find some interesting information at <http://www.barbershopHQ.com/> It’s structured as “Hang out and chat around Nashville’s water-cooler.”



Recent postings have included: “When do contest performances start and end?”, “Small vs. Large chorus competitions,” and “Talking on stage.”

Barbershop Chord Database

Tom Goldie has created an amazing Chord Database, denoting each chord in each song. He started by analyzing all the Polecats. Now he has added all the songs of the *Heritage of Harmony* as well as the chords from 140 tags. That represents 15,000 chords in the database.

An example of its use: “The particular voicing of a seventh chord (doubled tonic missing the fifth) is found only ONCE in the database: in a Polecat. Which one, and where?” “I can send you a copy if you're interested (less than 1 MB).”

tomgoldie@yahoo.com

BBS Arranger Joe Johnson finds the odd chord

“I got it! In “Heart of My Heart”, measure 31, the first beat has a Bb7 chord with the root in the bass and the lead, the third in the tenor and the seventh in the bari.

“I would call that a seventh chord with flatted fifth. It’s rarely used in barbershop music, and usually only where the altered note is a swipe or passing tone in the melody.”

JOE JOHNSON
House of Joseph Music
www.bbsmusic.com

Low, lower, lowest ... pitches

Bert Laurence writes:

“What is believed to be the lowest known sustained musical note in the universe is caused by the rumbling of a black hole in the Perseus Galaxy.

“What I find cool is that it is a *** B FLAT ***, 57 octaves below middle C, and has been rumbling constantly at that pitch for at least 2.5 Billion years...

“Can a chime for the famous barbershop wind chimes be cut for this tone? How long would the chime be? Inquiring minds want to know!!”

A related tonal trivia. In Jan 2002, **Tim Storms** reclaimed his Guinness World Record for the lowest musical note produced with the human voice. The record is now set to 0.189 Hz, or G-7, well below normal human hearing:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tim_Storms

He also has the record for largest range – ten octaves.

Earlier coverage and some YouTube clips of him singing:

<http://www.noiseaddicts.com/2009/04/extremes-of-human-voice/>

Finale PrintMusic, MuseScore, and .XML

by John Cowlshaw, with major input from Aaron Wolf [wolftune@gmail.com]

I am continually frustrated in the sharing of PrintMusic files with my barbershop friends, all of whom seem to have different editions of PrintMusic. One option has been for recipients to use Finale Notepad as the “catcher’s mit” for receiving PrintMusic files. But Notepad will only catch older files, not newer ones, so you have to keep downloading the new versions.

In 2009, this minimal version, Finale Notepad, began to cost \$9.95, and the only free program was a completely passive Finale Reader. But in February, 2012, Finale abandoned the Reader and returned Notepad to being a freebie.

From the Finale web site: “Finale NotePad is a free download that can create, play, and print music notation. NotePad can also open and save MIDI and MusicXML files and is compatible with version 2012 and older Finale family notation files.” You can download it from <http://www.finalemusic.com/NotePad/Default.aspx> However, Notepad is very limited in its usability for writing music or altering received music!

Thus, I took a look at MuseScore. <http://musescore.org/> Musescore is free music composition and notation software of elegant sophistication. For those who are used to PrintMusic, MuseScore is quite different. But the problem with PrintMusic, the non-portability between different editions, is easily overcome by the use of MuseScore. So if you are new to notation software, why not START with MuseScore. As Ann Arbor barbershopper and AHSOW leader **Aaron Wolf** says,

“It is easy to do basic things and whenever something is uncertain, the handbook is very helpful. There are also video tutorials and an active community forum. MuseScore is not only gratis but is Open Source. That is, it is not only free, but but it is free for everyone to access and improve. If barbershoppers out there are programmers, they could even adapt MuseScore to do things we want (except it already does everything I can imagine we would care about). All the Finale programs less than the full \$600 version have features intentionally turned off just to make you buy the full version. For example, there are rhythms that NotePad and even PrintMusic cannot do, but MuseScore has no such restrictions. NotePad cannot do time signature changes at all. NotePad is not much better than just a reader for Finale files. Also, files could simply be shared in MuseScore format, because everyone can easily download MuseScore. There's also a system for publishing them online.”

Aaron adds,

“If you want, you can reference my arrangement available freely here: <http://blog.wolftune.com/2012/08/copyingisfun2.html> The link is on that page but the MuseScore file is actually at:

<http://archive.org/details/CopyingIsNotTheftForBarbershopQuartet>

“This is a good example of how to use MuseScore for barbershop. It has all the various features of different barbershop arrangements. Different lyric lines, note crossings, triplets, etc. “Anyone can install MuseScore and open my file and modify it or study it. “Furthermore, it has a feature Finale is completely lacking: I tuned all the notes to *Just Intonation!*”

Now, what about transportability? If you are a Finale user who doesn't want to switch, but are blocked from opening newer PrintMusic Files, you can transfer them by .XML. (This little-known fact was confirmed to me by **Joe Liles**.)

XML files have become a standard way of storing and transferring data between programs and over the Internet. And MusicXML (*.xml) is the universal standard for sheet music and can be used by most of the currently available scorewriters including

Sibelius, Finale, MuseScore, and more than 100 others. It is the recommended format for sharing your sheet music between different scorewriters.

The drop-down menus within both MuseScore and PrintMusic make it easy to export a score as an .xml file.

Using MusicXML, I can import newer Print Music files into my 2011 PrintMusic and they will open. And folks with older PrintMusic software can import my 2011 files, again via MusicXML. Thus, people with any version of PrintMusic can exchange files simply by using MusicXML as the transport medium, instead of the PrintMusic file directly. You can also use MusicXML to transport between Finale and MuseScore, though there may be some burps.

Society Forms New Musical Alliance with Music Educator Fraternity

from BHS

In the spirit of collaboration and cross-pollination between the Society and other relevant musical organizations, we have formed a "Musical Alliance" with Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity of America, the nation's oldest and largest music fraternity.

Phi Mu Alpha has posted this news and information on the Society on their website <http://www.sinfonia.org/affiliates/> , including links to our music catalog, our music collection, a link to search for a barbershop chapter, and the video of Ambassadors of Harmony's 2009 "76 Trombones" performance.

The fraternity, formed in 1898, has a mission statement, values and goals that mirror our own, and both organizations will benefit by this alliance. Sinfonia featured a breakout session on barbershop during their convention last summer, where longtime member **Manny Lopez** led dozens of members in song.

Upcoming Events

The No Borders Youth Chorus, December 26, 2012

The No Borders Music Consort is an organization established by musicians for musicians. Our mission is to provide music performance and educational opportunities for non-professional vocal artists across the globe.

On December 26, 2011, the No Borders Youth Chorus debuted at a sold-out Carnegie Hall. Since the debut performance, we have realized the value of providing unique performance opportunities to non-professional vocal performers and have established the No Borders Music Consort to sustain the chorus. The No Borders Youth



Chorus will again perform at Carnegie Hall on December 26, 2012, underwritten by BHS Harmony Foundation. Want to know more about the chorus? Go to <http://www.nbmconsort.org/>.



January 8—13, 2013

Come for the sun and cheer on our Pioneer District international senior quartet representatives, HARMONY ROAD.

Huron Valley, Chords & Cuisine

March 13, 2013, 2:00pm AND 6:00pm

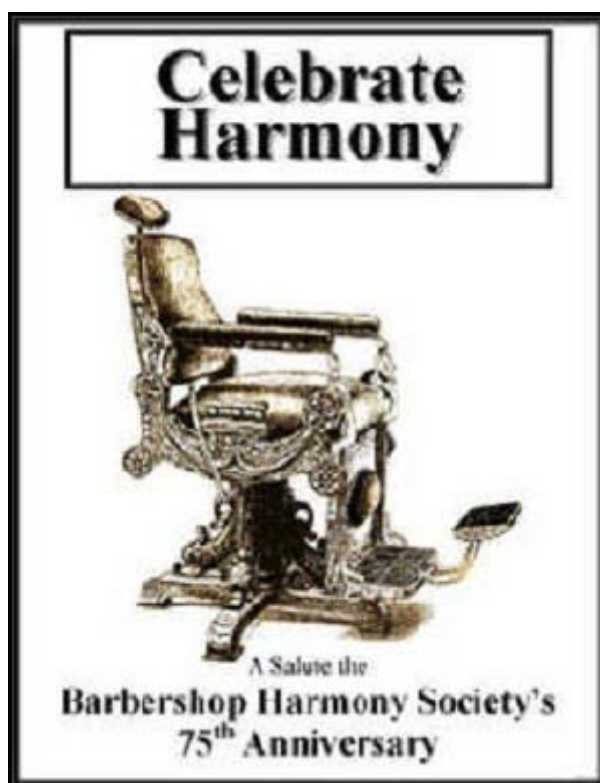
Stony Creek Methodist Church, 8635 Stony Creek Road, Ypsilanti

Come enjoy a wonderful meal and LOTS of singing. The HARMONIZERS will be entertaining the crowd with old songs, new songs, singalongs, and a slew of barbershop quartets.



Harmony Explosion - July 11-13, 2013

Central Michigan University



Transitions

Recent deaths of Pioneer barbershoppers:

as read at the H.O.D., October, 2012

Donald E. Bartz - Niles, Benton-Harbor/St. Joe FRUITBELT, and Michiana Metro Lighthouse Choruses
 Gene Beaty – Livingston County
 Derek Deakins – Macomb County
 Laird Geyer – Grosse Pointe
 Jerry Hammond – Saginaw Bay and Flint
 Ken Hampel –
 Al Hansen - D.O.C.
 Kyle Jurries – Holland
 Ed Lilly – Pontiac-Waterford
 Victor Long - Windsor
 Raymond Luce – Muskegon
 Gary Meldrum – Saginaw Bay
 Bob Mulvihill – Lansing
 Kenneth Sedlow – Flint
 Michael Simpson –
 Jerry Smith – Kalamazoo

Chuck Greene

from the Woodshedder

Several of you may have known Chuck from Harmony Brigade and his excellent course, "Compellingly Attractive Chapter Meetings," which was offered a couple of times in Pioneer District.

On Wednesday, August 15, with no warning signs, Chuck suffered a major heart attack. His wife, Beverly, quickly began CPR and got 911 in gear. Response was quick and Chuck was in professional hands very promptly. It was determined that he had a blockage to the left anterior of the heart. Following surgery to correct the situation, his condition was "stable." However, over the following couple of weeks, his condition deteriorated, and he passed away on August 28.



According to Beverly, "His philosophy in his work was this, "Seek, develop, use, and enhance the skills and talents of each member to such an extent that progress seems limitless." This is what he wished for you. And this is the legacy each one of us can carry forward for him.

Please remember Chuck with the songs he last sang with you, the excitement he carried, his energy when he directed, the gleam in his eye and the brilliance of his mind.

And most of all, the smile in his heart. Please keep Chuck's wife and family in your prayers.

from **Tom Gentry**

So sorry to learn of Chuck's death. He was a fine friend to so many of us.

Whenever he and I ran into each other, we would almost always speak of the first time we met. That was at the Atlanta international in 1972. Chuck was in his military uniform, and I had long hair. In that Vietnam era, each of us represented something the other one did not much care for.

After we sang a couple of tags, though, differences disappeared, and we were just two barbershoppers enjoying ringing some chords. Chuck and I were happy to see each other every time we met after that.

So, friend Chuck, go with God. I miss you already.

Ed Lilly

from John Cowlshaw

Ed died Saturday, July 28, in his late 80s. He was very active both in the Pontiac chapter and in the Pioneer district in the 1950s and 1960s.

He sang Tenor with the 1958 District Champions STAFF SERGEANTS – **Ed Lilly** (T), **Bernie Smith** (L), **Jack Golding** (Br), **Don Golding** (Bs); and he also sang Lead with the 1962 District Champions CURBSTONE SERENADERS (Ed Lilly (L), Bob Marshall (T), **Tom Rafferty** (Br), **Cliff Douglas** (Bs). The CURBSTONE SERENADERS represented the then Michigan District in Kansas City placing 20th. He also sang Tenor and Lead with various other pick-up quartets.

Ed was very active in the Elks Club and was at one time the Exultant Ruler and was active with the drum and bugle corps of the Elks and was their featured singer when appropriate.

He was also active in Barbershop while in Florida, directed a small band and sang solo when needed.

Vic Long

from Bill Strong

It's with sadness that we announce the passing of Windsor Chapter member Vic Long on Saturday June 23. Vic was a 50 year plus member of our chapter and sang bass for his entire barbershop life. He originally sang with the Amherstburg Ontario Chapter and when it folded Vic moved over to Windsor.

Vic was rarely seen without a smile on his face and will be missed by all. His wife June

passed away a few years ago and she too sang Barbershop with the Sweet Adeline's.

Clay Shumard

died October 27 after a 7-year battle with cancer. He silver-medaled as the Baritone of Pioneer District's VAGABONDS in 1976.

The VAGABONDS competed at International every year between 1971 and 1978. Between 1975 and 1977, the VAGABONDS earned three consecutive medals in the International Quartet Contest, rising as high as 2nd (in 1976).

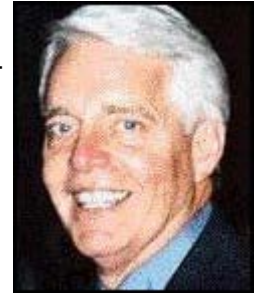
Medalist Members:

Tenor: **Ken Gibson**

Lead: **Dennis Gore**

Bari: **Tony Scooros** (71-74); Clay Shumard (75-78)

Bass: **Norman Thompson**



Clay also sang with INSIDE TRACK (Int'l Competitor, 1997), OPENING NIGHT (Int'l Competitor, 1992), SHARPLIFTERS (Semi-finalists, 1973), and was a Finalist with The RITZ in 1987.

(From Barbershop Wiki - <http://www.barbershopwiki.com/wiki/Vagabonds>)

"While never winning the gold medal, the Vagabonds were yet one of the top quartets of all time. Their harmony was superb, and their delivery of phrases exuded an elegance that is emulated still today." - **David Wright**

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, November 17th at 11:00am at the Ofield Funeral Home, 4500 Kalamazoo Ave SE, Kentwood.

But enough words. Listen to his beautiful Bari voice on this audio provided by Matt Tipton: <http://youtu.be/EI8dEyzXWis> "If it doesn't give you goose bumps, check your pulse."

You can buy a double CD set of The Vagabonds at Harmony Marketplace <http://www.harmonymarketplace.com/vagabonds.html#>

Troubadour Business

Errata:

The championship year of the AUTOTOWNERS was 1966, not 1961. It has been corrected on our credits page (2). Thanks to **Carl Dahlke** for pointing that out.

Letters

John,

Just read your current issue of the *Troubadour*. It is GREAT!

Neil Keihm

Atlantic Div. VP, MAD

Gentlemen,

You are to be commended for bringing back the *Troubadour*!

I left the state in 1985 having joined the Pontiac Chapter in 1970 as a 16 year old. I grew up in barbershop as my dad, George, was a long-time member of both Grosse Pointe and the Pontiac chapters. (He later retired to North Carolina but remained active in the Research Triangle Park chorus until his death about ten years ago.) As a young man after college, I was lucky enough to sing with Russ Seely, **Bob Demchak**, and **Nels Gregersen** in the POINTE CLASSICS and had the honor of singing on the International stage at Pittsburgh. We didn't do very well in that competition (perhaps you may recall or heard stories about a bar on stage!) but it is a memory I still cherish.

Eventually, work took me to New York and later Washington, DC and with career and family commitments, I eventually dropped out of barbershop. However, I still get to a show every year and it is fantastic to see old names, photos, and the resurrection of the *Troubadour*.

Thanks so very much for all your hard work!

PS – How great to see John Wearing still going to Harrisville. What a nice man and a great tenor!

Chord-ially,

Gerry Van De Velde

Chief Financial Officer

American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers

Washington, D.C.

gvandavelde@afpm.org

Stay in “CONSTANT CONTACT,” with Troubadour direct email sign up

At the present time, you don't know when the next *Troubadour* has been published unless you read about it on Pionet.

Therefore, we have subscribed to *Constant Contact* in order to provide an email chan-

nel for distributing news of the Troubadour. (*Constant Contact, Inc.* is an online company offering e-tools for small businesses, nonprofit organizations, and membership associations. It claims over 500,000 customers after January 25th, 2012.)

However, your agreement to sign up will only launch emails from the Pioneer District into your mailbox!

Go to this Tiny URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/bpeey57>

One of us editors tried it. It was simple to sign up, and the immediate response was;

Dear John,

Welcome to Pioneer District. We are happy to have you as a member of our community. Your email address and interest preferences have been recorded in our database. In the future, you will receive periodic emails specific to your interests.

Privacy is important to us; therefore, we will not sell, rent, or give your name or address to anyone. At any point, you can select the link at the bottom of every email to unsubscribe, or to receive less or more information.

Thanks again for registering. If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact us.

*Sincerely,
Greg Humbel
Pioneer District*

Each time a new Troubadour issue comes out, you will be notified with a simple email, reminding you to go to the Pioneer District web site to read it online.

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

Breaking News

“ROCHESTER AND MACOMB CHAPTERS TO MERGE”

Members of the Rochester Chapter and Macomb County chapter voted overwhelmingly to merge, under the Rochester charter, to form the

Rochester GUARDIANS OF HARMONY Chorus

This positive move has been in the works for some time. The two chapters collaborated to successfully produce the 2011 and 2012 annual Rochester Barbershop shows. The Rochester men became dual members with the Guardians to appear on the risers as Macomb County Chapter at the 2012 spring and fall Pioneer District conventions.

The merger, effective January 1, 2013, brings together the established brand and competitive experience of GUARDIANS OF HARMONY chorus with the long tradition of community involvement of the ROCHESTER Chapter. Directors Matthew Tipton and Mike Hartrick are looking forward to continuing to improve singing quality for each member and in every performance of the chorus. The members are committed to working hard to make the chapter grow and have a lot of fun in the process.

Plans are being made to increase the number of quality musical performances in the Rochester community. Men of all ages are invited to join in the fun at any of the Thursday 7pm chapter meetings at University Presbyterian Church, 1385 South Adams Road, Rochester Hills, MI.

Contact Walt at 248/853-6622 (walmartau@yahoo.com) or Don at 248/652-8195 (lewbox30-bbs@yahoo.com) for further information.

Respectfully submitted

Don Lewis, VP PR, Rochester Chapter

11/12/2012

SOUND FX No More

It has been brought to our attention that there is an existing quartet in the St. Louis, MO area that has been registered under this name since 1994. They have been active in contests and have even cut a CD. They had simply dropped the ball on getting registered this past spring so the name showed up as available.

After speaking with that quartet and with HQ, it was an easy decision to relinquish the name SOUND FX back to the original owners.

The result? SOUND FX of Pioneer District shall from this point forward go by their new name, MAJESTYX.

Pete Westers, Tenor, MAJESTYX

Chorus representatives

The Pioneer District web site has been updated, thru this month, with photos of all Pioneer District Choruses in International Competition, from 1953 thru 2013.
http://pioneerdistrict.org/honor_roll/intchs.htm

Photo Credits

Michael Baribeau, Gillis Benedict (Daily Press & Argus), John Cowlshaw, Jeff Doig, Becky Eberhard, Paul Howe, The KorVets, Bob McDermott, Willie Mendoza, Meta-4, No Borders Youth Chorus, The Patch Chords, Shelley Schwaderer Roland, Matthew Seely, Wil Weber, and the chorus websites of Gaylord, Huron Valley, Kalamazoo, Lansing, Livingston, Mt Pleasant, Muskegon, and Windsor.

District Calendar

2012

Dec 5 Huron Valley Christmas show, Kerry Town Concert House, Ann Arbor
 Dec 8 Windsor Christmas show
 Dec 16 Flint Christmas show, First Congregational Church
 Dec 16 Wayne HARMONYTOWN Chorus 4th Annual Christmas Show
 at the Livonia Public Library
 Dec 26 No Borders Youth Chorus, Carnegie Hall

2013

Jan 5 Leadership Academy, Okemos
 Jan 8-13 Midwinter Convention, Orlando
 Feb 16 DOC Shows (Matinee and Evening)
 Mar 9 Lansing Wharton Show
 March 13 Huron Valley, Chords & Cuisine
 April 19-21 District Convention, Traverse City
 June 30-July 7 International Convention, Toronto
 July 11-13 Harmony Explosion - Central Michigan University
 Oct 18-20 District Convention, Kalamazoo Radisson Hotel

