

TROUBADOUR

Message from the President

The year 2014 had a bit of a slow start for many Pioneer District chapters, but we hit the ground running with our Leadership Academy, held on January 11 at the CMU campus in Mount Pleasant. I think a great year is in store for us.

I am very excited about the future of Barbershop in Pioneer. The Society is taking a very different approach, and I couldn't be happier about it. In essence, as I'm sure you have heard, it is a "bottom-up" approach; that is, the direction came from you, the barbershoppers of the Society. Over the last couple of years, the BHS initiated the Chapter Visitation Program (CVP), and visited over 700 chapters to determine what the chapters wanted. After evaluating several areas of concern, they determined 5 areas of focus:

- Recruitment
- Visitations from Society and District staff and officers
- Coaching help for Districts
- Planning and implementation of shared activities with other chapters (We have several examples in Pioneer: Uncle Sam Night; DOC Jug Night, and Canada Night; our shared shows for our 75th Celebrations, etc.)
- Modernizing the music (This last item has been already implemented by the Society staff; they plan to release one new arrangement per month.)

My motto for my term as President is "Bringing Joy Through Singing."

Of course, we all enjoy singing; that's why we go to chapter meetings every week. So, we already do that, right? But part of the Society's focus is thinking *outside* the chapter: we are bringing joy to our communities. We want to be known and *identified* for that. The Society is calling this *branding*.

Music is a life-changer. None of us would argue that. Your lives have all been enhanced through making music. But we want to not lose sight of the fact that we want to change and enrich others' lives as well.

This means that we always keep our audiences and our communities in mind when we plan our shows or other events. Why don't we let everyone know just how much we enjoy what we do? We got a good thing going! Let's not keep it all to ourselves anymore!

Dan Bezaire
President, Pioneer District



TROUBADOUR

Official publication of the Pioneer District, Barbershop Harmony Society

Co-editor—John Cowlshaw: cowlsha@comcast.net
Co-editor—Tom Ennis: tom@tenniswithouutt.com
Co-editor—Greg Humbel: ghumbel@comcast.net

<http://pioneerdistrict.org>



PRESIDENT

Dan Bezaire
393 Harvest Land
Belle River, ON Canada NoR 1A0
226.363.0522
dbezaire4@cogeco.ca

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT & HARMONY FOUNDATION

Doug Weaver
861 Reeds Hollow Dr. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
616.706.3787
dweave@comcast.net

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Mike Hansen
513 Kipling
Lansing, MI 48912
517.974.8555
mhansen@mcca.org

SECRETARY

Jim McMahan
3080 E Lois Ave
Midland, MI 48640
989 631-5093
Cyn5093@charter.net

TREASURER

Larry Parker
1416 New York Ave
Lansing, MI 48906-4538
517 372-8389
lparker437@aol.com

CHAPTER SUPPORT & LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Joe McDonald
510 South Franklin
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
joecab2@hotmail.com

CONTEST & JUDGING

Ron Eubank
4272 Browning Drive
St. Joseph, MI 49085
269.470.2088
roneubank@sbcglobal.net

EVENTS

Roger J. Lewis
20125 12 Mile Road
Battle Creek, MI 49014-8497
rjlewisemc@aol.com

MUSIC & PERFORMANCE

Cliff Dake
27123 Barra
Novi, MI 48377
248 860-0046
CliffDake@yahoo.com

Financial Development

Brian Dunkel
5872 Green Road
Haslett, MI 48840-9783
517 339-3422
MSUdunk@aol.com

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Paul Ellinger
1496 Copeland Circle
Canton, MI 48187-3446
517.812.5757
ellinger.paul@gmail.com

YOUTH IN HARMONY

Evan Boegehold
1531 East Bellows Street
Mount Pleasant, MI 48858
(304) 692-8222
boege1et@cmich.edu

PUBLIC RELATIONS & MARKETING

James O'Dell
7319 Warwick Dr
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
734.223.7080
jandjodell@comcast.net

CHORUS DIRECTOR DEVELOPMENT

Rob Pettigrew
6986 Alber Rd.
Saline, MI 48176
734 252-9762
Rob@chordiology.com

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.

In This Issue

| | Page |
|--|------|
| Pioneer District Officer's Corner | |
| <u>Immediate Past President Doug Weaver</u> | 5 |
| <u>Marketing VP James O'Dell</u> | 5 |
| <u>Chapter Support & Leadership Training VP Joe McDonald</u> | 6 |
| <u>Treasurer Larry Parker</u> | 6 |
| <u>Midwinter Convention</u> | 7 |
| Report—Chapters | |
| <u>Detroit Oakland</u> | 7 |
| <u>Flint</u> | 8 |
| <u>Gaylord</u> | 8 |
| <u>Grand Rapids</u> | 9 |
| <u>Gratiot County</u> | 9 |
| <u>Hillsdale</u> | 10 |
| <u>Holland</u> | 10 |
| <u>Huron Valley</u> | 10 |
| <u>Kalamazoo</u> | 11 |
| <u>Lansing</u> | 11 |
| <u>Livingston</u> | 13 |
| <u>Michiana Metro</u> | 14 |
| <u>Monroe North</u> | 14 |
| <u>Mt. Pleasant</u> | 14 |
| <u>Pontiac-Waterford</u> | 14 |
| <u>Rochester</u> | 16 |
| <u>Saginaw Bay</u> | 16 |
| <u>Wayne</u> | 17 |
| <u>Windsor</u> | 17 |
| Report—Quartets | |
| <u>By Design</u> | 17 |
| <u>Limited Edition</u> | 17 |
| <u>On That Note</u> | 18 |
| <u>Patch Chords</u> | 18 |
| <u>Whole Notes</u> | 18 |
| Report—District Events | |
| <u>Barbershop Festival 2013, Carnegie Hall</u> | 19 |
| <u>Leadership Academy</u> | 21 |
| <u>The VOICE</u> | 23 |
| <u>Uncle Sam Night</u> | 23 |
| Reports—International | 24 |
| <u>Spotlight On A Chapter—Flint</u> | 24 |
| <u>History</u> | 27 |
| <u>First Issue of the Troubadour</u> | 28 |
| <u>1893 A Cappella Recording Discovered</u> | 29 |
| <u>Craft</u> | 30 |

| | Page |
|---|------|
| <u>Barbershop, A Distinctive Style</u> | 30 |
| Media | |
| <u>Paul Howe Collage</u> | 30 |
| <u>The Sing-Off</u> | 31 |
| <u>Visions Of Excellence</u> | 31 |
| <u>The Cup Song</u> | 31 |
| Transitions | |
| <u>Don Cline</u> | 32 |
| <u>Paul Cooper</u> | 32 |
| <u>Isaac Hornbeck</u> | 33 |
| <u>George Jackson III</u> | 33 |
| <u>Dick Johnson</u> | 33 |
| <u>Bill Kenney</u> | 34 |
| <u>Demetri Paris</u> | 35 |
| <u>Jerry Twomey</u> | 35 |
| <u>Pioneer Puzzler</u> | 36 |
| <u>Editorial</u> | 37 |
| Pioneer District | |
| <u>Website</u> | 37 |
| <u>Hall Of Fame</u> | 38 |
| <u>Scavenger Hunt Contest</u> | 38 |
| <u>Best Seat In The House</u> | 39 |
| <u>Harmony For Life: If You Build It They Will Come</u> | 40 |
| <u>New Yooper Chapter?</u> | 40 |
| <u>Bucket List</u> | 40 |
| <u>Troubadour Business</u> | 41 |
| <u>Deadline: Next Issue</u> | 41 |
| <u>Pioneer Puzzler Solution</u> | 41 |
| <u>Upcoming Events Calendar</u> | 42 |

Pioneer District Officers' Corner

From Immediate Past President Doug Weaver

It is with great pleasure that I am able to announce that the Pioneer District will be a sponsor the Youth Chorus Festival in Long Beach, California. Because the district reached its goal of \$10,000, two private donors matched that amount, giving the Pioneer District a total of three sponsors for this year's event.

A big thank you to all of the chapters that made this possible.

Congratulations!

From James O'Dell, Pioneer Marketing VP

Greetings Pioneer,

For all of you Facebook fans, you should notice the new 'Event' that was created on the Pioneer District FB page. Please 'Join' this event by clicking on the Join button to help us advertise our convention to the millions of FB users.

What 'Joining' does NOT do: This is not a means for the district to get a head count for convention. You are not purchasing your registration pass or hotel room. You are not committing to anything.

What 'Joining' does DO: You are letting all of your FB friends know that you like this event and would like to attend it. This happens because a little message is posted on your page saying that you 'Joined' an event and all your friends see the activity on your page. Every time we update this event with new information or a new photo, your friends will see that as well since you have 'Joined' it. Once you 'Join' this event you may also 'Invite' any of your FB friends to attend with you and they may 'Join' the event on FB just as you did and the cycle goes on. This is how FB can help your event go viral.

This is a great way for you to advertise our convention in a passive manner. No aggressive selling, No confrontational situations. Just sit back and let FB do the work for you. It is also a great tool to let non barbershop friends know about a barbershop event that they can enjoy with you. What a wonderful idea...bring someone new to a barbershop event with you.

So, won't you please 'Join' our event and spread the word about a great convention, held in a wonderful city, with lots of exciting activities to do, that is family friendly. And while you're at it why don't ACTUALLY register for convention by going to our webpage at http://www.pioneerdistrict.org/nextconvention/convention_info.htm. There you will find everything you need to reserve a hotel room and purchase your convention registration. Hope to see you there.

By the way, all this FB stuff was covered this year at Leadership Academy. If you missed out you will have another opportunity next year. Mark your calendars!

Enough brow beating for today. Pioneer Ho!

From Joe McDonald, Pioneer VP of Chapter Support & Leadership Training

Hello Pioneer!

A single day barbershop workshop for students in 7th - 12th grade is coming up on Saturday, February 22nd in Hillsdale MI. You can get more information or register students at www.mountaintownsingers.org.

Here is a link that allows you to view the informational poster. You share the link and/or get to it on the MountainTown Harmony Explosion Facebook page.

<https://docs.google.com/drawings/d/1UY8xHJJbePYt3emj-q46RmP8LLGSKqIsj5wDes4p-cg/edit?usp=sharing>

So, find a car full of young singers, drive in to Hillsdale for the day, have a great experience, see a fantastic show featuring ALLURE and THE ALLIES and still get home before bedtime.

Sound like fun? See you there.

Joe McDonald
MountainTown Harmony Explosion Administrator

P.S. The three day summer camp is nearly ready to announce too. Save July 10-12 on your barbershop calendar. That Saturday show will feature two spectacular youth choruses, International SAI competitors SHADES OF JADE and BHS International quartet stars AFTER HOURS.

From Larry Parker, Pioneer Treasurer

Hello Pioneer Members and Happy New Year.

As of today, January 27th, the Pioneer District's web site is now open to allow registrations for the District convention the weekend of April 25-27, 2014.

Early registrations (\$35.00 per person) will cease on Friday, March 28, 2014.
Late registrations (\$45.00 per person) will continue and then cease on Friday, April 18, 2014.

Enter early, enter often, and save money.

[Return to TOC](#)

Midwinter Convention

Long Beach, CA, January 28 - February 2, 2014

Our new BHS Seniors Champions are **FACES 4 RADIO**. The MAD quartet scored 75.1, singing “It All Depends On You” and “It's You” as they moved up from their second-place finish last year in Orlando.

Pioneer rep **BUCKET LIST** was in the crowd at the bottom. They sang “Sweet Roses of Morn” and “Get Out and Get Under the Moon” for a score of 64.2.

They were doubly recognized for:

- ♦ **John Wearing** as the oldest competitor - 88 years
- ♦ The most cumulative years for a quartet - 313 years

Twenty Youth Choruses sang. Plateau winners were:

- ♦ ONTARIO YOUTH A CAPPELLA (O YA) Chorus
- ♦ 52EIGHTY
- ♦ THE RECRUITS

All three had been in first or second place last year.



BUCKET LIST— Photo by Becca Grimmer, BHS

Links to program, webcasts, et al are at <http://www.barbershopconvention.com/longbeach>

John Miller's Keynote Speech is at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zAyu2g2QWXE>

Retiring Society Board Member John Miller brought the crowd to its feet in an emotional keynote address [including] a stirring video assembled and narrated by his wife, Sharon, as the centerpiece of a story of how barbershop harmony has been at the core of their family life, and has had a transformative effect on their son, Justin, who now directs the WESTMINSTER CHORUS and the MASTERS OF HARMONY.

There was an opening night party on the *Queen Mary*, with the various salons being filled with music. All five International Medalist Quartets sang. The BHS Dixieland Band played. **Becca Box** and **Brian Lynch** were there from BHS headquarters to host a webcast, live via cell phone and crossed fingers. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b2Tfb la1U8&feature=em-uploademail>

Reports—Chapters

Detroit Oakland Chapter

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

John Balint came through with the dates for caroling this year. We are now regulars at three hospitals. We sang at Providence Park Hospital (in Novi) on Tuesday, Dec. 10, and Providence Hospital (in Southfield) on Thursday, Dec. 12. Then we sang at

[Return to TOC](#)

Beaumont Hospital (Royal Oak) on Tuesday, Dec. 17. And we had a return engagement at The Henry Ford (Greenfield Village) "Holiday Nights" in Dearborn on Saturday, Dec 7 with a repeat performance on Monday, Dec. 23.

December 17, with the Gentlemen Songsters Chorus at Beaumont Health System

by Dave Montera

We are finishing our caroling of the local hospitals tonight. It is always a treat to do this. We get the same volunteers to escort us each year. This is another tradition that goes back at least to the mid 1970's.

C.O.I.N./LADIES NIGHT

from HiNotes

Friday, January 10, was the date of our Annual Ladies Night. This is the night when we officially and publicly take time to thank our wives and sweethearts for allowing us so much time to participate in this hobby of ours.

It was also our Chapter Officers Installation Night & Awards Banquet. After the awards presentation, there was dancing to a live band.

Jim Kunz made the arrangements with Red Run Golf Club in Royal Oak.

Flint

- November 23. The chorus sang during "Christmas at Courtland." "There's No Place Like Home, so I'll Be Home for Christmas; and since we prefer a White Christmas, we decided to Let it Snow. With all that singing, it certainly wasn't a Silent Night!"
- December 8. The chorus held a joint performance with the Fenton Lakes Sweet Adeline Chorus at a church in Fenton.
- December 10. The chorus celebrated with its Christmas Party at the Brickstreet Bar and Grill.
- January 10. The chorus held a weekend retreat at MacMullan Rec Center.

Gaylord

- November 14. The chorus sang at Grayling Nursing Homes.
- November 21. The chorus held a Northern Lights Fundraiser at the United Methodist Church of Grayling.
- December 2. The chorus sang at nursing homes in East Jordan and Boyne City.
- December 9. The chorus sang at Roscommon Nursing Homes.
- December 14. The chorus did a Gaylord Christmas Collage at Gaylord High School's Gornic Auditorium.
- December 17. The chorus sang at Gaylord Nursing Homes.

Then on January 26, the chorus met at BJ's Restaurant in Gaylord for its Ladies Dinner & Chapter Officer Installation.

[Return to TOC](#)

Grand Rapids

- December 7. Noon performance for the Ladies Luncheon at Forest Hills Presbyterian Church.
- December 7 & 8 - **Annual Holiday Show** with the Grand Rapids Sweet Adeline chorus and MAJESTYX quartet at the Peter Martin Wege Theater in Grand Rapids.

The Great Lakes Chorus Has A New Director

from Jim Johnson, President, Grand Rapids Chapter



We are pleased to announce that **Jamie Carey** has accepted the position of chorus director for our GREAT LAKES CHORUS. Jamie brings many years of barbershop experience and expertise to the position. He is the lead of our 2012 Pioneer District quartet champions MAJESTYX, a former director and an accomplished coach. We look forward to a wonderful working relationship with Jamie as we strive to improve the overall performance level of our chorus.

In addition to a new director, the chorus has changed its rehearsal night from Tuesday to Monday, effective February 17.

As long as we're changing things, what say we change our rehearsal venue while we're at it? OK! Also effective on February 17, we will be rehearsing at 2nd Congregational Church, 525 Cheshire Dr. NE, in Grand Rapids. It's on the north side of town and more easily reached off of US 131 or I96.

We're very excited about all the changes taking place. If I worked at an Ad agency, I'd call us New and Improved. Stop by and catch the excitement.

Gratiot County

- December 8. Christmas Concert at Masonic Pathways.
- December 10. Rose Bush Manor.
- December 12. Lights of Love at Gratiot Community Hospital.
- December 17. Caroling at Local Nursing Homes.
- January 14. Rose Bush Methodist Church. Dinner and singing

From Ken Best

I have mentioned this to a few members of other chapters but thought I would post it for all to consider. Our director **Chuck Moerdyk** signed us up for a phone contacting service at <http://www.onecallnow.com>. It is a great communication tool. We now just make one phone call to contact the entire chorus. The cost is about \$15.00 a month for groups of 50 or less members. Totally worth it. We love it. Check it out for your chorus.

Hillsdale

Sunday, December 15 was the date of the chorus's American Cancer Society Benefit Concert, at the historic Michigan Theater in Jackson.

Holland

November 23. Christmas Caroling / Downtown Holland.

Huron Valley

by Rob Pettigrew

It's been an eventful few months for the HURON VALLEY HARMONIZERS, filled with songs, laughter, and tears.

On December 14, a small group of brave and determined Harmonizers set forth into the frozen, snow-swept steppes of Washtenaw County during the first blizzard of the season, and performed at THREE unique concerts. The storm raged as we sang inside the cozy warm environs of a local retirement community. Then we trekked over the snow-covered roads to the Ann Arbor City Club, where we got to perform on the Lucy Ann Lance Radio Show. Of course, the snow continued to blow and drift and pile up, but we harnessed up the Huskies and sledged to Ypsilanti to sing at the District Library. Looking back on it, we do not recommend traveling during a blizzard. However, everywhere we went we found welcoming and happy audiences who were thrilled to hear our wonderful barbershop harmony.

Nothing, however, could have prepared us for the news we received just after Christmas, when we learned of the unexpected passing of one of our youngest chapter members, **George Jackson III**. Many of you will remember this young man's big booming Bass voice, which was nearly as large as the joy he shared in singing anywhere and anytime. He will be severely missed by all of us, but in particular by his father, George Jr, who sings a tremendous Baritone with our chapter. Of special interest to you, George Jr. has set up a special fund with Harmony Foundation. Once donations to that fund pass \$1000 (and we're getting close!), a plaque will be placed in BHS Headquarters with George III's name on it, where it will stay in perpetuity to honor his legacy of joyful song. To honor our friend Trey, we encourage you to send donations to Harmony Foundation with a note indicating it should go to George Jackson, Jr's "Keep A Melody Ringing" fund for his son, George Jackson III. <http://www.harmonyfoundation.org/melodyringing.shtml>

Further encouraging efforts to share the joy of harmony with more youth, **Paul Teska**, who sings Lead with the HURON VALLEY HARMONIZERS chapter and with the quartet KEYLESS ENTRY, is putting together a fantastic Benefit Show on March 16 in Brighton. The show will support Harmony Foundation and its efforts to bring a cappella singing to more youth. Paul was recently diagnosed with terminal esophageal cancer, and wishes to focus all his efforts on bringing the magic of harmony to as many young people as possible. The list of quartets performing at the show is long, so please visit the website:

[Return to TOC](#)

<http://harmonyforlife.vpweb.com> for all the details. Admission is free, but donations will be requested.

February 14 will see Huron Valley quartets scurrying around Washtenaw County, delivering dozens of Singing Valentines. Then on Sunday, March 9 at 2pm, the HURON VALLEY HARMONIZERS will present our annual "Chords & Cuisine" show. This Cabaret-style show will provide a meal and dessert, along with loads of singing from the chorus, chapter quartets (including META-4!), and one of our very favorite quartets: MAJESTYX! Tickets are just \$25 and are available by visiting <http://www.hvharmonizers.org>

We're looking forward to seeing all our fellow Pioneer Barbershoppers in Grand Rapids in April! We hope it doesn't snow.

Kalamazoo

- November 10. Wassailing in Richmond.
- December 4. Wassailing in Parchment, at the Parchment Community Library.
- December 5. Wassailing in Richland, at The Little Yellow Frame Shop & Gallery.
- December 8. FOUR GOT TO SHAVE QUARTET & Chorus performance at the Congregational United Church of Christ in Galesburg, Michigan.

At press time, **Lud Ouzoonian** - President Kalamazoo Chapter BHS – had just learned that: “Thanks to a 'marketing coup' by **Michael Sobel** (Kalamazoo Chapter's VP Marketing), Kalamazoo's BY DESIGN and Grand Rapids' MAJESTYX would promote Singing Valentines, on Feb 5, at WOOD-TV8 in Grand Rapids. The segment aired between 10:00 and 11:00 am on the 'eightWest' show that day.

Along with singing some love songs, the quartets promoted Singing Valentines by encouraging the viewers to go to <http://www.SingingValentines.com> to find participating choruses/quartets in their city.

Lansing

- November 22. Silver Bells in the City, after the parade.
- December 15. The holidays in Charlotte rang with vocal harmony as five barbershop quartets and the 30-man CAPITOL CITY CHORDSMEN chorus from Lansing joined forces on Sunday, December 15. Some of mid-Michigan's favorite vocal groups joined in the fun - like TAKE NOTE, OLDE THYME HARMONY QUARTET, PARTS UNLIMITED, KNOCKIN' ON HEAVEN'S DOOR, and THE PATCH CHORDS. “We created a wonderful show with a lot of fun and variety,” said **James Hall**, Marketing V.P. for the Chordsmen. “In addition to many traditional Christmas carols, our festive concert included a diverse mix of additional songs like “Mary Had A Baby,” “White Christmas,” “Santa’s Been Everywhere,” and even the Beach Boys’ “Little Saint Nick.” It was an entertaining evening for the whole family!”

2013 Was A Productive Year for the Chordsmen and the Lansing Chapter!

by James Hall

Our chapter and our chorus have had a pretty remarkable year.

- Our Annual Dinner featured MAJESTYX (2012 District champs), and **Jamie Carey** and **Pete Westers** installed our officers. **Al Zaeske** was named 2012 Barbershop-per of the Year and **Jeff Markham** got the Key Man Award.
- Singing Valentines (organized by **Larry Parker**) was a success again as our quartets spread joy and love all over the greater Lansing area. We got so many last minute orders we sold out of performance slots.
- Our “Celebrate Harmony” package, commemorating the Barbershop Harmony Society’s 75th Anniversary, included collaboration with three other choruses and members from other chapters. The four successive shows in Lansing, Grand Rapids, Holland, and Gratiot County all fielded large choruses from between 60 to 70 members on stage, and directors from all the choruses directed.
- More specifically, our own Wharton Center “Celebrate Harmony” show with UP ALL NIGHT from New York, got rave reviews and M.C.’s **Rich Harlow** and **Stan Williams** kept the audience laughing along the way. The show was a financial success, with our chapter members directly selling about 2/3 of the show tickets and many program ads.
- The four Society Logo Banners we created (along with finances from the Grand Rapids and Gratiot County Chapters and another local contributor) were used in over a dozen shows and events around the state and helped raise money for Harmony Foundation.
- **Charlie Martin** became our official Assistant Director and he went to Director’s University in Missouri for training.
- Our quartets were also very active and successful this year. This included PARTS UNLIMITED finishing second at the Bush League Contest and OLDE THYME HARMONY QUARTET performing a gig in Rochester, New York and finishing 5th in District competition. KNOCKIN’ ON HEAVEN’S DOOR continued singing songs of Faith and having fun around the Lansing area. THE PATCH CHORDS were busy again, extending their count to more than 1,000 performances. TAKE NOTE was named the official quartet of Grand Ledge. College quartet G-FOURS got a standing ovation at the Gratiot County show and participated in several M.S.U. music events. And C.M.U. quartet WAVELENGTH qualified for the International College Quartet contest and sang well in Toronto.
- **Kevin Lenneman** and **Charlie Martin** organized a “Celebrate Harmony Reprise” show for the Grand Ledge Opera House and a fresh audience enjoyed the wonderful show in this intimate venue.
- Behind Jeff Markham’s leadership, we were hosts of the Fall Convention in Kalamazoo and received many compliments on our efforts. We earned funds for our chapter from hosting and from Barbershopper Shop sales and also earned much for Harmony Foundation through the raffle.
- Our Christmas performances included our first Christmas show at the Charlotte Performing Arts Center and our quartets sang a variety of Christmas tunes.

- In the Fall Convention Chorus Contest, we won Plateau 2, which was the culmination of four consecutive improving scores. Much credit goes to the work of Director **Steve Warnaar**, four coaching sessions with **Al Fisk**, and the hard work of our chorus singers.
- We donated several thousand dollars to charities and non-profit groups, including Harmony Foundation and other Pioneer barbershop groups.
- Well, we did much more than this but these were many of the high points. Thank you to ALL OF YOU for your contributions which made this last year one to remember!

At its Annual Chapter Dinner, **James O'Dell** installed the new officers, and Al Zaeske presented these awards:

2013 Barbershopper of the Year: Charlie Martin

Charlie Sings Lead in PARTS UNLIMITED and is very active in the local community in other vocal music groups. Charlie is section leader for the Lead section and also stepped forward this year to become assistant director for the Lansing Chapter.



Charlie Martin—BOTY

President's Key Man Award: James Hall



Al Zaeske presents James Hall with the President's Key Man Award.

"...for his outstanding work in promoting the Lansing Chapter and its activities."

Livingston

On December 18, the Livingston chorus celebrated Ladies Night Out, in downtown Brighton.



Livingston LAMPLIGHTERS Chorus celebrating Ladies Night Out in Brighton.

Michiana Metro

November 14. The chorus sang Christmas Carols all over downtown Niles. "Oh yes! How much fun was that? We sang for the downtown Niles businesses and several people sang along. We were out for about 1.5 hours, roaming from business to business. We not only had fun singing, we also enjoyed the snacks that each place had to share. Thanks to downtown Niles for their support!"

From their November 17 posting:

The Chorus looks forward to this time of year. We have rehearsed hard this year, had several great performances, went to contest twice, had a great summer, had a quartet win the Pioneer District Senior Championship, had two other quartets form, said good bye to some members but brought others in, have a wonderful board of men that really care, had our board meet regularly and attend the Pioneer District's training sessions, learned a lot of new music, and we are now looking at only a few more times left until the end of this year.

We have a lot to be thankful for and we thank God, each other, our leadership, our spouses and the public for all the support that has been shown to us in 2013.

If you are in the southwest Michigan area some Thursday evening, stop in and sing a few with us. If you know of someone in the area that likes to sing, let us know, we will make him welcome and in return, we will send a few your way as well.

Monroe North

- December 10. Singing With Santa, at the Maybee, MI Fire Hall.
- December 14. Matthes Evergreen Farm, in Ida, MI.

Mt Pleasant

November 26. The MOUNTAINTOWN SINGERS had a great outing at the Mt Pleasant Brewing Co. taproom. We made a bunch of new friends, probably found some new members and sold a few Singing Valentines. Lots of trivia, beer and singing...with prizes!!! Lots of great hometown brews on tap. Live music provided by MTS. The event is called Trivia Takeover Night.

The MOUNTAINTOWN SINGERS will be publishing a chapter magazine in 2014. We recognize our chapter sponsors with display ads in the publication. It will be handed out at our shows, in venues where we are hired to perform and in waiting areas around the community all of next year. Look for it. It's aptly named *Overtones*.

Pontiac-Waterford

Christmas Chorus

After a month of Christmas Chorus preparation, the BIG CHIEF CHORUS and four of its quartets hit the road, beginning its Christmas sing-outs on Tuesday, December 3, at the Waterford Township Christmas Tree Lighting.

Three weeks later they had racked up 23 chorus and quartet performances, to 1853 auditors, including eleven nursing homes, three restaurants, three grocery stores, two Christmas parties, one fund-raiser, the township tree lighting ceremony, and the downtown Milford Christmas fest.



4GVN and the BIG CHIEF CHORUS at Lockwood of Waterford.



Oakland County Retirees luncheon.

The Big Chiefs were excited to note that the Chorus was featured in the November-December *Harmonizer*, page 19, and also a pic on page 13. Thanks to **Tom Blue** for suggesting that we respond to the request for stories about reaching out to Youth. Editor **Lorin May** excerpted from the material contributed by **John Cowlshaw**.



Children at Milford restaurant listening to LIMITED EDITION.



BIDIN' OUR TIME with Katie Bowman at Bowman Chevrolet's sponsorship of the Easter Seal Cancer Fundraiser.



Rudolph entertaining the Elmhaven residents.

Final Big Chief count for 2013: 142 chorus and quartet gigs, to an audience of 14,685.

Rochester

The GUARDIANS OF HARMONY Chorus has been invited to be the entertainment on a special "Harmony at Sea" cruise, after Midwinter 2015 in New Orleans. It will be January 11-18, 2015, aboard the Carnival Cruise Line DREAM.

Saginaw Bay

by Ralph Brown

The past year was a busy time for our Chapter thanks in large measure to **Jim Lamkin's** pushing our sing-outs. We had a lot of fun and many smiles from our audiences. That is what our hobby is all about, right?! It included singing the National Anthem at a Great Lakes Loons baseball game and at the Shriners Circus at the Dow Center in Saginaw.

We sponsored three young ladies from Essexville Garber to the Harmony Explosion Camp in Mt. Pleasant. Their report to us at rehearsal on December 11 was glowing and they all had a fantastic experience which helped with their singing in school. They would all love to go again in the future since they had such a memorable time. This year we plan to form a committee and do a more extensive search for young men throughout the tri-cities.

The week of April 7 through April 13 was designated by Mayoral Proclamation as "Barbershop Harmony Week" in the City of Bay City.

Mike O'Neil from the International Headquarters (Bass of LUNCH BREAK) came and gave us training on voice preparation, singing techniques, and physical preparation exercises for singing. I have a CD of his program if anyone missed his presentation.

A lot more members participated in the operations of the Chapter. **Dick Marquardt** put in many hours working with our sheet music inventory, while **Marty Musolf** worked diligently to get our necessary learning CDs. **Jim Lamkin** did a yeoman's job arranging sing-outs and coordinating the use of the risers at some of the gigs with **Bud Stevens**, **Jerry Snyder**, **Ken Ligrow**, and others.

We achieved all of our goals for the year. We learned two new songs, averaged over one sing-out per month, and added a new member; welcome aboard, **Jerry Snyder**! Having **Herb Benjamin**, **Chris Carland**, **Bob Deming**, and his son **Dave Deming** back with us is breathing new life into our rehearsals.

Sadly we said good bye to two members who passed away, **Tom Roozenburg** and **Bob Reisinger**.

The District and International Society have many new initiatives scheduled this year to increase general membership, with special emphasis on young singers while also working to retain current members. We plan to participate and take full advantage of what they have to offer.

Wayne

The HARMONY TOWN Chorus presented *The Most Wonderful Time of the Year*, their 5th Annual Christmas Show, on December 8, at the Livonia Public Library Auditorium.

Windsor

- December 7. "An A Cappella Christmas." This fundraiser by the Windsor SUN PARLOUR chorus at an Applebee's Neighbourhood Grill & Bar supported the Sandwich Secondary School Music Program.
- January 24. Uncle Sam Night.

Reports—Quartets

By Design

- December 6. Terrapin World Imports in Kalamazoo, MI.
- December 13. At Zooroona in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Limited Edition

Sang to about 45 people at **Gene Griffin's** 89th Birthday party, Saturday, November 23, at Roma Rose Gardens. The reception was exceptional, and the filet mignon and

lobster tail were excellent.

LIMITED EDITION was “high on harmony” after one of its most successful gigs ever, January 11 at Lockwood of Waterford. It was a surprise 80th birthday party performance for **Barbara Pickering** (one of our favorite groupies) arranged by her four lovely daughters, who have gotten an earful from Barbara about us. The quartet sang a ten-set, with several of the songs specifically geared to escaping the Arctic Freeze we had just gone thru. About 20 family and friends cheered enthusiastically, and mouthed the words to several songs including, “Saints Go Marching” and “Desperado.” (Cowlshaw’s arrangement has finally been licensed by the EAGLES.)

On That Note

Was joined by other barbershoppers, family, and friends, when **Paul Teska’s** wife, Chris, threw a surprise Christmas for him at her daughter’s home in Ann Arbor. About 45 people braved the weather, Saturday, December 21, to feast on pulled pork and chili from Hotel Hickman Chuck Wagon and to hear the music of a local band and of the barbershoppers present (ON THAT NOTE, THE JESTERS, and a group-sing by the fourteen barbershoppers there from Livingston LAMPLIGHTERS, Huron Valley HARMONIZERS, and BIG CHIEF Chorus).

Patch Chords

Busy Season for the Patch Chords

In the week prior to Christmas, the Patch Chords were excited to sing at four different engagements. Although all of the jobs were fun, perhaps the one we considered the best was singing for more than 400 State employees on December 19. These hard working folks were celebrating Christmas while having a celebratory lunch at the Capitol Commons office building. The group of 400 provides Medicaid services to the citizens of the state. The PATCH CHORDS were pleased to be recommended for this performance by THREE MEN AND A TENOR. The singing engagement was the icing on a great week of singing and performing.



Patch Chords singing Country Roads for State employees.

Whole Notes

by Ken Best

The WHOLE NOTES Quartet had a wonderful opportunity to perform sixteen times at the village of Ashley’s Country Christmas. We sang four weekends - every Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday morning and afternoon, from November 29th through

[Return to TOC](#)

December 22nd. Each time, 500 people would arrive with great fanfare on the Polar Express train. There were lots of kids, mostly dressed in pajamas. Many adults were also in pajamas. Just like in the movie, kids were coming to the North Pole to see Santa and his reindeer, and it reached a total of 8,500 people.

In addition to doing the shows we roamed the village to sing to the volunteers at the many attractions. There was an old fashion soup kitchen, Santa's workshop, glass blowing, juggler, magician, and several shops. We had a terrific time and a great reception from the people.



WHOLE NOTES L. to R. Ken Best, Scott Johnson, Charles Moerdyk, Errol Moerdyk



WHOLE NOTES with their Groupies.

Our Bass, Chuck, is tall and has a white beard. When one of the kids would call him Santa, he would look down at them and say, "Ho, ho, ho." That excited them!

Three 12 year old girls dressed in elves outfits came to every show and sat right in front, cheering after each song. We called them our groupies.

What a wonderful time we had. We are just four regular guys from the Gratiot County chapter, who have sung together for two years, and who were blessed with this awesome experience. We will never forget it.

Reports—District Events

Barbershop Festival 2013 - December 1, 2013 (at Carnegie Hall)

Michigan-based barbershop singers **Jack Frucci**, **Bob Winters**, **Neil Nugent**, and **Steve Warnaar** performed at Carnegie Hall in New York on December 1.

A sold-out crowd of 2,804 enjoyed the 150 singers, who included:

- ◆ The HEART OF AMERICA Chorus
- ◆ CROSSROADS Quartet
- ◆ The GAS HOUSE GANG
- ◆ The RIVER CITY BARBERSHOP CHORUS

They were led by Artistic Director **Mark Fortino**.

<http://www.carnegiehall.org/Calendar/2013/12/1/0830/PM/Manhattan-Concert-Productions-Series/>



Michigan barbershoppers who performed at Carnegie Hall December 1. L. to R. Jack Frucci, Bob Winters, Neil Nugent, Steve Warnaar.

Upon their return, *The Bay City Times* ran a long story about **Bob Winters'** participation in the event. (Here are excerpts)

Singing at Carnegie Hall wasn't something that even crossed Bob Winters' mind. "It wasn't even on my bucket list," he laughed. "I just never dreamed I would go to Carnegie Hall. It was a thrill."

His appearance at Carnegie Hall was for the Barbershop Festival 2013 marking the 75th anniversary of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

Starting with two groups, HEART OF AMERICA Chorus from Kansas City, Mo., and the

RIVER CITY CHORUS from Mason City, Iowa, the home town of **Meredith Wilson**, it fanned out across the country.

"They wanted another 40 to 50 guys to bolster the chorus," said Winters. "We wound up with 150 on stage, four of us from Michigan."

But those four — **Jack Frucci** from the Detroit Oakland Chapter, **Neil Nugent** from the Traverse City Chapter and **Steve Warnaar** from the Lansing Chapter, along with Winters representing the HARBOR SOUNDS Chorus for the Saginaw Bay Chapter of the Pioneer District — were asked specifically to join in.

"You had to have bona fides," said Winters. "We have sung in champion quartets in our district. They looked at our background and we got invited."

After a phone interview, Winters and his cohorts were then sent music, which he said was the hardest part.

"We had to learn the music on our own," he said. "None of us had sung those songs before. We had to learn it from a CD. The music was not simple. I started on the music a month ahead. I was playing it in my car, playing it on my computer, singing with it days on end. When I got there, I was confident I knew all five songs."

While he says he wasn't nervous for the performance, that first rehearsal left him quaking in his boots.

"I was more nervous for the first rehearsal," he said. "We had a five-hour rehearsal on Saturday. I was absolutely amazed everyone knew their part. It was terrific. We had a four-hour rehearsal Sunday afternoon and sang Sunday night. It was a thrill. We got three standing ovations during the show."

The men began with a brand new song written and arranged for the show called "Harmony."

"It goes so fast, you can't think ahead," said Winters. "You just have to know it. I just let it come out. It's an amazing song."

The group also performed "Hallelujah" by Leonard Cohen, followed by "Ya Got Trouble" from "The Music Man," "Amen," and the song that brought the house down, "Circle of Life," from "The Lion King."

[Return to TOC](#)

An appreciative audience gave the men a 10-minute standing ovation, Winters said.

The show also included two international barbershop champions, GAS HOUSE GANG from Illinois and CROSSROADS, with members from Missouri and Florida, along with PREMIUM BLEND, from Kansas City, who finished 15th in international competition.

The whole story is at:

http://www.mlive.com/entertainment/bay-city/index.ssf/2013/12/essexville_resident_bob_winter.html

From Bob Winters



Michigan four at Carnegie Hall along with former Michigan native Mike Slamka.

The picture above was taken on a party boat ride up the Hudson River after the concert. They asked us to wear our home chorus uniforms so the audience could see that we were from all over. Carnegie Hall was sold out. GAS HOUSE GANG and CROSSROADS each gave fabulous performances and received standing ovations. The Festival Chorus, about 150 guys, also received a standing ovation at the end of the show which went on for about 10 minutes.

Actually, we weren't chosen. We inquired individually and volunteered to sign on. We were interviewed by phone to determine our backgrounds and whether or not they thought we could cut it. We had to pay for ourselves to go. Nothing was free! At one point I got on Pionet and asked if any others were going. Neil and Steve responded that they were. I didn't know that Jack was going until we got there.

Leadership Academy - January 11

What a GREAT weekend in Mt. Pleasant!

[Return to TOC](#)

A fantastic venue, excellent rooms, the other trainers were superstars in the Society, the food was great (to the detriment of my eating plan), the camaraderie, the fun, and the singing was off the charts. Leadership Academy is NOT just for chapter board members. It's for everyone! I brought my family and we all had a wonderful time! Barbershop AND family fun, now that's cool!



Group sing at Leadership Academy.

Let's all thank **Joe McDonald** for outdoing himself (again) and let's all put it on our calendar for next year! Hope to see you there!

Paul Ellinger

I agree with Paul. It was a fantastic weekend.

If you missed it then ask someone who was there about the opening session. What a way to start the day. Start planning to attend next year. As Paul mentioned it is not just for your chapter board...there is something for everyone.

- Newly elected to the board? Come find out what is expected from you in your new position.
- Veteran on your chapter board? Join us for a refresher and enhance our district by sharing your expertise with some of the newer leaders.
- New to the Secretary or Treasurer position? These are key positions with legal responsibilities that have to be done well. Find out what new rules and regulations need to be followed.
- Want to become a chapter board member? Leadership Academy is the place for you to learn and train before you are 'thrown in the deep end.'
- Want to improve your chapter experience? Participate in our many activities and sessions geared toward general chapter health.
- Worried about spending more time away from your family? This is a legitimate concern that your district board is trying to address. Joe McDonald did a great job this year by booking hotel rooms at a water park! Several of the LA attendees brought their families with them and spent time throughout the weekend in the pool with the kids. I wonder what Joe has planned for next year. We will just have to wait and see.

Join us at LA in 2015. Hope to see you there!

James O'Dell

Also included was the installation of the new district Board of Directors, including new

[Return to TOC](#)

new President Dan Bezaire.

There was also some exciting news about the new youth chorus for Pioneer.

The VOICE – January 19

The district's new Youth Chorus had its first rehearsal, Sunday, January 19, in East Lansing. About 20 to 25 young men gathered for four hours under **Aaron Pol-lard's** leadership, to begin the journey to New Orleans next January. The first two songs being learned are "Come On, Get Happy," and "Blame It On My Youth." Singers will receive learning tracks prepared by **Tim Waurick** and **Don Slamka**.



The 2014 Pioneer District Board being sworn in.

When the men weren't rehearsing, they were tagging, or listening to quartets – WAVE-LENGTH and G-FOURS.

Aaron posted on the Facebook site, (*The Voice Barbershop Chorus*), "Hey guys, great first rehearsal! I love the energy and passion for singing this chorus is going to bring! Remember to spread the word to other people that are interested. We would love to have as many members as possible and will be accepting new members until August."

Uncle Sam Night – January 24

from Roger Reid, VP Program

A total of 82 men, from Pioneer and Ontario Districts, attended the annual Uncle Sam Night at the South Windsor Knights of Columbus Hall on Friday, January 24, 2014, hosted by the SUN PARLOUR CHORUS.

Our "hats go off" to the barbershoppers who attended this event as they had to travel under adverse weather conditions on that Friday night.

The doors opened for the evening around 7 pm with a satisfying dinner of chicken, pasta and salad served by 7:30 pm.

Our emcee for the evening, our own **Doran McTaggart**, put out the challenge to all to see who could win the annual trophy for the best chorus. And, as fate would have it, the chorus competition ended with Dan's Ducks, Steve's Sparrows, Jeff's Jays, and Gordon's Gorillas singing their hearts out with no one losing...As Doran said, "This is the

25th year that this competition has ended in a tie” Each chorus director was presented with a moustache comb, for their efforts, and the applause of the of the appreciative audience was heartwarming.

The evening continued with a total of 7 quartets and 4 chapter choruses entertaining us till we eventually had to say goodnight.

I must say that the drive home for most of the barbershoppers, on those snowy/windy roads on Friday night will be memorable. I later learned that our friends of FOREST CITY FIRE CHORUS from London did not arrive home till 5 am on Saturday morning.

The Windsor SUN PARLOUR CHORUS wishes to thank all who attended last Friday night...As most would have stayed home due to the weather conditions, we were most appreciative of those who braved the elements and joined us in some fellowship and the love of Barbershop.

Reports—International

Lost a *Harmonizer* and you want to re-see it? BHS Members can, at <http://barbershop.org/resources/the-harmonizer.html>

On the distaff side, here is a video of the 2013 Sweet Adelines quartet champion, LOVE-NOTES. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tWqtFxW4kiE>

And Sweet Adelines International honored the Barbershop Harmony Society on its 75th birthday at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BI-YsWii5MU&feature=em-uploademail>

The first Women’s Harmony Brigade will be held August 8-10 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Wilmington, Delaware.

Spotlight On A Chapter - Flint

The Flint Arrowhead Barbershop Chapter was formed in October, 1939, number three in Michigan, after Detroit and Lansing and just before Grand Rapids.

Guy Stoppert was a founding member and is one of two Flint members to be in the Pioneer Hall of Fame, the other being **Fred Kienitz**.

After three years as President of the Flint chapter, Guy was elevated to the International Board of Directors in 1945.



By 1945 there were 41 chapters in Michigan, and the district quartet contest was held in Flint, with 31 quartets competing. The flyer for the contest, at the I. M. A. Auditorium is available on page 2 of the February 1945 Harmonizer at:

http://barbershop.org/harmonizer/Harmonizer_vol4_no3_feb1945.pdf

An early champion quartet from Flint was THE ANTLERS. They were active in the late 40's and early 50's, winning the District quartet championship and placing as high as 3rd place in International competition in the Open and Masters competitions.



THE ANTLERS: Harry "Jay" Morton, Tenor; Byron "Barney" Brooks, Lead; Willard "Bill" Schindler, Baritone; Hulin "Hap" Augsbury, Bass



Fred Kienitz and his wife, Joan, at Frankenmuth, 2012.

Another successful quartet was BEAN TOWN FOUR. They topped a field of 14 quartets at the 1969 Bush League contest in Boyne City, before a crowd of 1,000! The Flint-Saginaw Bay quartet included a young Fred Kienitz on tenor; **Noel Carpenter**, lead; **Doug Beaver**, baritone and **Bob Deming**, bass. **Ron Gillies** later took over as Lead.

John Noteware directed the chorus from 1986 thru 2005, and is now the President of the chapter. John says, "Back in the 1980s, the chorus was one of the top five in the district, but then as with many chapters, membership declined, from death and the lack of new members. We have had the luck lately (in the last 3 to 4 years) of having some young men join the chorus. This is due in part to one member introducing Barbershop singing to his Grandson. Presently we have a Grand Blanc High School member and a member from UofM Flint."

There are currently 37 members on the rolls. A few years ago, Flint joined forces with Saginaw Bay for contest and rehearsed together periodically in Frankenmuth as a mid-way point. Some of these gentlemen became dual members but only four now travel the distance from Saginaw and Bay City.

Since 2006, David Longroy has been Director. David is a tax professional by day.

Two of David's compositions/arrangements are available from Harmony Marketplace in Free 'n Easy – "We're the Men of the barbershop Chorus – (A Personalized Show Opener)" and "Valentine's Day Quandary", which was written for a male quartet to sing to a guy.



David Longroy

The chorus meets on Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. at the Courtland Center in Burton, MI. On a typical evening about 21 men show up, with perhaps eight leads, two tenors, four baritones, and seven basses. The chorus is currently working on "We're the Men of the Arrowhead Chorus," "Armed Forces Medley," "Muskrat Ramble," and "It's All Over / So Long Dearie Medley."



The Flint ARROWHEAD CHORUS singing at Frankenmuth.

Throughout the year, the Flint chapter carries out many activities. Each spring is the annual show. This year's show is May 10, entitled "A Double Diamond Jubilee", and will celebrate 75 years for the Society and (almost) for the chorus. In preparation for the show, the chorus "retreated" to the Ralph A MacMullan Conference Center on Higgins Lake in January.

Each June the Annual Dead Creek picnic in Frankenmuth attracts barbershoppers from around the region. The 2013 event included singers from Flint, Saginaw Bay, Lansing, Grand Rapids, Pontiac-Waterford, Rochester, Grosse Point, Detroit Oakland, and Livingston. Flint has been hosting this event for close to 30 years. It started in the Dead Creek Saloon on the outskirts of Frankenmuth.

In addition 2013 included:

- Several performances at the Courtland Center for various events, including the arrival of Santa in December.
- In January they sang the National Anthem on the opening night of the Shrine Circus.
- In February they sang the National Anthem at the Flint area Boy Scout Pine Wood Derby.
- The May show was a dinner show in Grand Blanc, Singing **Irving Berlin** Songs... with Irving talking to the audience in a shadow box.
- In June, they performed at Flag Day ceremony for the Flint Elks Lodge.
- In August, they sang for at the service at First Congregational Church in Grand Blanc, and joined the Saginaw Bay chapter to sing the National Anthem for a Loons game.
- In October we performed at the Pic's Theater in Lapeer Michigan, with a HARMONY HERITAGE Sweet Adeline Chorus from Flint.
- The same weekend as the Pic's Theater performance we hosted a Chicken Dinner at the down town Flint Masonic Temple.
- At the chicken dinner we bused the tables and make sure the buffet table is keep supplied. We sing every 20 minutes starting at 11am. until around 2:30pm.

- Every October, they sponsor an all-you-can-eat chicken dinner at the Flint Masonic Temple, with as much chorus and quartet singing as there is food.
- This past October, they put on a joint show with the HARMONY GATEWAY Chorus at the Pix Theatre.
- In November, they were a guest chorus at New Century Chorale's Fall Concert in Grand Blanc.
- In December, they sang at Crossroads Village, visited a few senior centers, and joined the Fenton Lakes Sweet Adelines Chorus for a Christmas show.
- This February, they will have an active Valentines program.

The chorus has competed at five of the last six conventions, with scores around 60%, peaking at 60.6 in the Spring of 2012 when they were Plateau 3 champions. "Hello, My Baby" has been a favorite number of theirs.

Active chapter quartets include:



UNCORKED L. to R. David Longroy, T; Doug Lynn, L; Ron Gillies, Br; Dave Lonsbury, Bs.

and

DOUBLE O FOUR David Worley, T; Robert Bammert, L; Glenn Partridge, Br; Bruce Nyland, Bs

The chapter also has an active Facebook site, begun last fall, at <https://www.facebook.com/ArrowheadChorus>

Flint photos by **Herbert Judd**

History

from Bob Winters, Saginaw Bay Chapter, QCA Music Director

I thought you might enjoy seeing this photo taken at the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn for the program at a Detroit #1 Chapter show at the Ford Auditorium in the late 60's.

[Return to TOC](#)

The barber, **Joe Coburn**, was not a member of our District Championship Quartet, THE TREBLESHOOTERS, but sang in International with another quartet. **Bob Whitledge**, our bass, wasn't available for the photo session. Whitledge (GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT) is still alive at last report and so am I, but the other three, all great Barber-shoppers, have passed away. The guy on the left is **Bob Mulligan**, our tenor, and the guy getting the shave is **Cliff Jorgenson**, our bari. We had a lot of good times together and when I sing "That Old Quartet of Mine," they are the guys I remember. We sang at International in San Antonio. The shady character with the moustache is me.



The TREBLESHOOTERS.

First Issue of the Troubadour (October, 1949)

THE MICHIGAN TROUBADOUR
Official Publication of the Michigan District of BARBERSHOP

VOL. 1 No. 1 Louis R. Herrington, Editor October 1949

FIRST EDITION - Fulfilling a longtime desire of the officers of the Michigan District, we are happy to present a new District publication which will reach all Michigan Barber-shoppers through their chapter. We hope to bring to you through this medium news not otherwise recorded in either the Harmonizer or your chapter bulletin. We welcome your comments and assistance.

DISTRICT CONTEST - The annual Fall Meeting and Quartet Contest of the Michigan District will be held Saturday, October 15, 1949 at Ypsilanti. The Ypsilanti and Wayne Chapters are the hosts this year with Edwin S. Smith, past international vice-president of BARBERSHOP, as general chairman. The contest preliminaries and finals will be held at the beautiful and spacious Frederic Pease auditorium on the Michigan Normal College campus. In the afternoon the semi-annual business meeting of the District will be held. It too will be at the Frederic Pease auditorium thereby affording all visiting Barber-shoppers an opportunity to sit in on observers. Each chapter should make sure that its duly appointed delegates attend.

The schedule of events arranged at this time for Saturday:
8:15 P.M. -- Preliminary meeting at Pease Auditorium
2:00 P.M. -- Business meeting at Pease Auditorium
3:00 P.M. -- Social hour and Woodchopping, Mason Hotel
8:00 P.M. -- Finals of District Quartet contest, Pease Auditorium

Bob Largent of the Ypsilanti chapter who is serving with Ed Smith, assures us that other interesting functions for Barber-shoppers and their Ladies are being arranged. We are positive that every visitor will be properly entertained.

Accommodations are being handled by a committee headed by Dr. M. D. Wilson, 25 N. Washington, Ypsilanti, and he should be contacted at once if you plan to stay over night.

Seats for both the preliminaries and the finals are not reserved and will be available for all visitors. Prices for the early sessions are 50¢ with tickets for the finals at \$1.50, both prices include tax.

At least thirty quartets are expected to compete in the preliminaries for places in Saturday night's finale. Among the early entries are Songmasters (Lansing), Tune Vendors (Downs), Pitch Pipers (Grand Rapids), Four Harp Mastermen (Ypsilanti), Men of Ashford (Baginaw and Bay City), Four Sherrills (Detroit), Note Blenders (Caledonia), Harmonizers (Holland), Toss/Haladons (Jackson), Compositors (Grand Rapids), Melody Lane 4 (Dearborn, Redford and Oakbrook), Equinox (Lansing) Curbstone 4 (Kalamazoo), Interludes (Richland), Melodizers (Redford), and Talip City 4 (Holland).

Awards will be made in the Senior, Junior and Novice Divisions as in past years.

Among the added attractions on Saturday night will be the Jackson and Metropolitan Detroit choruses. The Chief Dealers, Herb Thompson, will be on hand to entertain and to crown their successors. Incidentally, this year only eight quartets will compete in the finals thereby assuring a well balanced program in the evening. Be on hand with your friends.

HOLDEN CHAPTER NIGHT - On Saturday, October 8th, Holden Chapter will hold its Charter Presentation party at the Hudson High School beginning at 8:00 P.M. All Barber-shoppers in lower Michigan are urged to attend. Ben Wright is president and Dennis Dillon secretary of our new chapter.

LET CALL FOR AIDS FOR 1950 All chapters are reminded that the District Executive Board will shortly award the 1950 International Regional and 1950 District Quartet contests. The Regional is to be held either May 6 or 7, 1950. The District contest is held in the fall with the sponsoring chapter or chapters selecting the site. If your chapter is interested, be sure your bid is on file with the District Secretary's office not later than October 14th.

COMING EVENTS - Several outstanding events are listed during the next month. These include the Bush League contest at Boyne City and the annual Parade of Quartets at Detroit. The Boyne City contest affords the quartets from the smaller chapters in Michigan an opportunity to compete on even terms. The Charlevoix County boys go all out in their hospitality and it is an affair well worth attending. The Detroit show, sponsored jointly by Detroit and Oakland County chapters, attracts a capacity audience and the program this year again includes some of the top-notch quartets.

A musical tribute to the late Al Vredenburg of the Muskegon chapter is also scheduled for this month. Several Western Michigan chapters are co-sponsoring this worthy project to raise money for the family of this Barber-shopper who died after a long and costly illness.

Troyes City, Boston Harbor and Genet County chapters also have outstanding shows set for October.

THE SCHEDULE:

Saturday, Oct. 8 -- Hudson Chapter Charter Presentation, Hudson High School, 8:00 P.M.
Saturday, Oct. 8 -- Troyes City Chapter Parade, Central High School 8 PM
Saturday, Oct. 15 -- Michigan District Convention and Quartet Contest, Ypsilanti - 2:00 Day
Saturday, Oct. 22 -- Boston Harbor Parade, Boston Harbor 8:00 P.M.
Saturday, Oct. 22 -- Al Vredenburg Musical Benefit
Saturday, Oct. 22 -- Central Campus Auditorium, Muskegon, 8:15 P.M.
Saturday, Oct. 29 -- Great Lakes County Parade, Alma, 8:00 P.M.
Saturday, Oct. 29 -- Bush League Quartet Contest, Boyne City, 8:00 P.M.
Saturday, Nov. 5 -- Detroit & Oakland County Parade, Masonic Temple, Detroit, 8:00 P.M.

For all Troubadour issues, go to
http://pioneerdistrict.org/troubadour/Troubadour_Menu.htm

1893 A cappella Recording Discovered

from the Harmonet

A 120-year-old wax-covered cylinder containing the earliest known recording of a black vocal group in the U.S. was sold at auction this month.

Discovered in a private collection in Portland, the 1893 recording of "Mama's Black Baby Boy" by the New York-based UNIQUE QUARTET was one of only two copies known to exist and sold for \$1,100. The other resides in the Library of Congress.

A second UNIQUE QUARTET song, "Who Broke the Lock (on the Henhouse Door)?" from 1896 sold at the same auction for \$1,900. The same buyer purchased both recordings.

The cylinder recordings were played on an early-style phonograph that had the appearance of a Victrola-style player. But the music was etched in wax on cylinders instead of in the grooves of vinyl records, which were popular throughout the 20th century.

The wax was so fragile that auctioneers didn't dare try to play them. But you can hear it thru a digitization project of the Black Music Restoration Project, at http://youtu.be/ztu_J5oW3Cw

Three years later, "Who Broke The Lock" was recorded.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zwXwktCDoCo>

kr103 (handle for a YouTube account holder) has discovered and posted another song, "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" by the UNIQUE QUARTET, recorded in 1921 on an Edison master.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h2DhTQa1_Qw

kr103 writes, "This is a record of real historical importance, as here you can listen to the first black quartet that ever made a recording. Their phonographic career started as early as 1890. Mr. XNews says, "The UNIQUE QUARTETTE was started in the 1880s by **Joseph Moore**, and this session might include Moore, **Frank DeLyons** (bass), but some members passed away before 1920, and almost no sources list these as being UNIQUE QUARTETTE records. Congrats on this rare discovery! p Jedinn writes, "This is without doubt the best performance this song ever got."

CoCoLatte48 adds, "This is a coded song of the Underground Railroad. Plantation slaves sang it announcing a group of slaves gathering that night to be led by a "conductor" on the "railroad" heading "home" meaning safe haven - north to freedom. The chariot represents the horse drawn wagons that were used as normal transportation at that time. Some wagons had false bottoms where the slaves hid. Band of angels = other conductors on route who gave runaways food and rest before going to next station on the way north.

Craft

The Hillsdale TOWN AND COUNTRY CHORUS web site has this link to **David Wright's** article on "Amazingly Mathematical Music." Go to the bottom of the home page. <http://news.wustl.edu/news/Pages/23890.aspx>

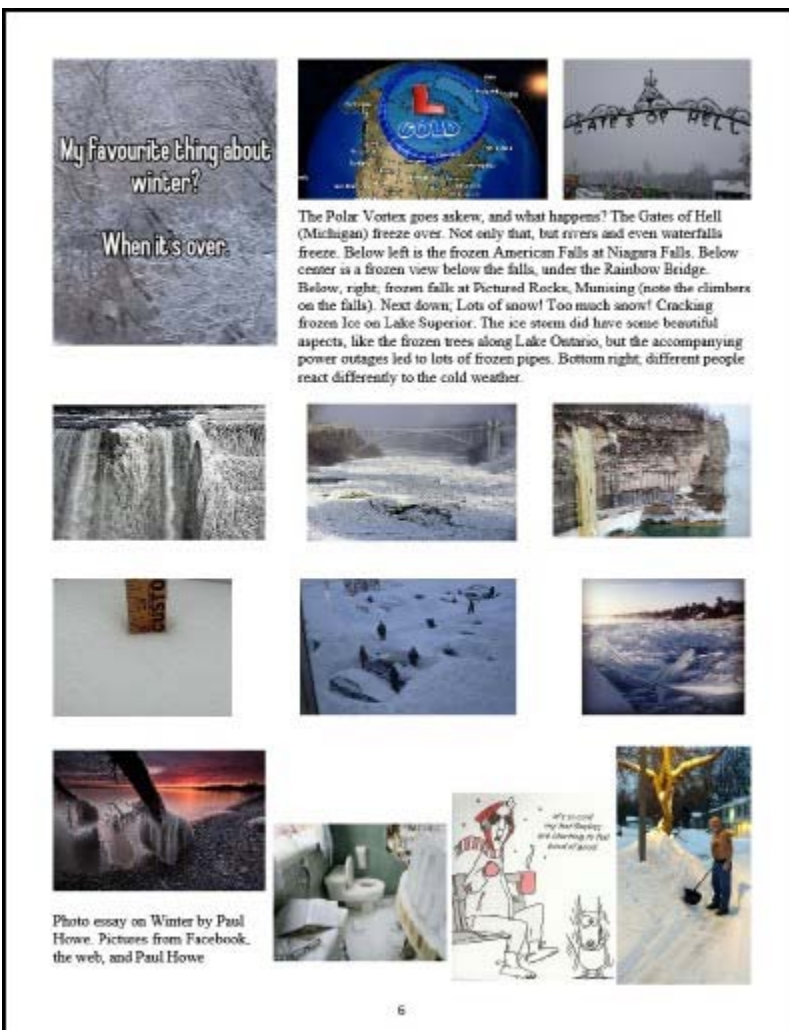
When he listens to music, math department chair David Wright hears connections to many branches of mathematics.

Barbershop, A Distinctive Style

Here is barbershop arranger Jon Nicholas's take on what makes barbershop sound different from other singing styles:

<http://jonnicholas.hubpages.com/hub/In-A-Nutshell-What-Makes-Barbershop-Sound-Different-From-Other-Singing-Styles>

Media



Paul Howe's evocative photo collage of our "winter of discontent" under the Arctic Vortex is reprinted from the Lansing Woodshedder Weekly:

The Sing-Off

The 4th season of *The Sing-Off* concluded December 23, with HOME FREE winning the title, the recording contract, and \$100,000.

The three finalists had distinctly different backgrounds. HOME FREE is a quintet that has traveled for years in the country-western circuit. TEN is a very recent gathering of ten individuals from a gospel background singing as a group for the first time. VOCAL RUSH is a dozen students from the Oakland School for the Arts, and the only high school group to have ever made it to the finals. All three groups sang wonderfully.

If you missed the show, or if you would like to re-live it, there is a wonderful and “aca-supportive” review at <http://popwatch.ew.com/2013/12/24/the-sing-off-season-four-finale/> where you can hear all the finalists and more.

Click on HOME FREE’s rendition of “I Want Crazy” and you’ll love the Lead soloist (Austin Brown), the bass, the solid harmonies, the energy! And agree that they deserve to follow in PENTATONIX’ footsteps.

And they’re already off and running with a blog offering advice to singers to go beyond basic singing, to (a) basic staging, and (b) banter/flow.

<http://tinyurl.com/odalvhw>

Good advice for choruses and quartets. (Wait 10 seconds on their home page, and it will switch to the story automatically.)

Visions of Excellence: A Dialogue with the Finest Directors from the BHS

edited by Joe Cerutti

Reviewed in the November 2013 *Choral Journal*, published by the American Choral Directors Association.

The review includes this quote: "What does barbershop chorus singing offer that you can't get in any other choral or quartet medium?" The answers by the interviewees fell generally into three categories: vertical tuning of chords, ensemble cohesiveness, and life-long avocational singing opportunities. Who in the profession can't identify with that?

The Cup Song

Jim Owens sends along this version of “The Cup Song” from the movie, *Pitch Perfect*.

<http://www.break.com/video/the-cup-song-quartet-2490558>

Transitions

Don Cline passed away Nov 14 in Bloomfield Hills.

“My great sadness upon hearing of Don's passing is tempered by a feeling of relief that this horrible burden of ALS is over for him, his family and all who shared his life. What remains are fond memories of many adventures and happy hours together through the years.”

Fred McFadyen

Paul Cooper

Paul Cooper, a founding member of legendary a cappella group THE NYLONS, and chorus director of the Battle Creek Chapter, passed away December 29. This past summer in Toronto, THE NYLONS were inducted into the Society as Honorary Life Members, with a reunion of seven of the surviving members of the group. This sparked more reunion ideas and shows, and they were planning shows in Toronto in May.



Paul Cooper, third from left, reunited with the NYLONS in July 2013.

Even though Paul had only been in Barbershop and our director for two short years, he had a tremendous impact on us individually, and as a chorus due to his vast experience in the entertainment industry. His talents were used in Battle Creek, the Pioneer District, and the Barbershop Harmony Society in general as he had spent twelve years touring the world with the famous a cappella singing group THE NYLONS and he was all about entertaining audiences. Paul was enthusiastic, knowledgeable, and the consummate showman.

Paul was only 63 years young and will be greatly missed as a vocal teacher throughout the U.S. and Canada. He was born in Tennessee, later moved to Battle Creek, MI with his family and graduated from high school in Battle Creek. After high school he moved to Toronto to follow his dream of performing in plays on the big stage. While there he and three other guys were asked to sing for a variety show that the company he was working for put on. After that performance this group was invited to do some night club shows and thus, THE NYLONS were born. He wrote and arranged much of the music they recorded and performed on tours in every corner of the world; during that time they won eight gold and platinum albums.

Since then he has spent time acting, writing music, teaching vocal techniques to young and old, as well as working with THREE MEN AND A TENOR where he produced an Emmy-award-winning PBS special for the group. For the past several years he has

performed with a Lansing, MI based group.....THE DOOWOPS, in addition to his responsibilities with the CEREAL CITY CHORUS.

Roger Lewis

Isaac "Ike" Hornbeck



Isaac "Ike" Hornbeck, Jr., 83, of Marysville, died Wednesday, January 29, 2014.

Ike sang with the old Oakland County Chapter/Wolverine Chorus back in the 70's. Ike was 83 years old. The funeral was at St. Christopher Church in Marysville, February 5.

from John Bober, Rochester GUARDIANS OF HARMONY

Mr. Hornbeck was a career salesman for various companies and owned The Gallery Bar in Port Huron. Ike was proud of his service in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He attended St. Christopher Catholic Church, was a member of Moose Lodge #158, a former member of Marysville American Legion #449,

sang with the Susqwatch Barbershop Group, and enjoyed playing bridge at the Voyageur. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Beverly; two children, three grandchildren, and a great grandson.

George Jackson III



George III, on the right, with father, George Jr. Both members of Huron Valley HARMONIZERS

It is with a heavy heart that we have lost one our own Huron Valley members to join the chapter eternal chorus. George Jackson III, age 23, died in his sleep on Dec. 26th, 2013. He had a raw, booming bass voice, and was an awesome guy to be around with his big laugh. He will be sorely missed. George Jackson III was the only son of another Huron Valley member, **George Jackson, Jr.** and his wife, **Nikki Jackson.**

George had just recently formed a quartet with his father, called DETROITSOUNDMACHINE.

Dick Johnson



Dick Johnson, Pontiac-Waterford's most senior member, passed away Saturday, February 1, 2014 in his West Bloomfield home. Dick was 81 and had been very active in the BIG CHIEF CHORUS and in BIDIN' OUR TIME quartet right up until respiratory/cardiac issues sidelined him in early December.

He was notable for his unceasing support of barbershop, even after 65 years in the Society, showing up each week, leading the opening songs, stimulating chapter quartetting, and then joining the rest of us at Heroes Restaurant after rehearsals. Plus he had a busy quartetting schedule as the baritone of BIDIN' OUR TIME. In 2013, BIDIN' OUR TIME sang as a quartet or as part of the chorus 69 times. These included Barber-shop demos at nine different schools, to over a thousand students, teachers, and administrators.

Dick probably sang in more choruses and quartets than anyone in the chapter, starting as a five-year-old, and progressing thru grade school, high school, and college, in church choirs, high school and college quartets, college glee clubs, operettas, musicals, solos, duets, a dozen or so quartets, and four chapters, two of which sang at International.

He joined the Terre Haute chapter of S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. in 1949. That chorus finished 3rd in the 1953 International contest in Detroit, MI.

He rose thru the ranks of K-Mart, moving to Pontiac in 1968, and retiring from their Troy world headquarters in the '90s.

Since joining the Pontiac-Waterford chapter, he had been a board member, chapter president, treasurer, chorus director, Bari section leader, program ad chairman, and organizer of the Annual Woodshed Contests. He still attended Leadership Academies and helped other district treasurers with the intricacies of the job.

In addition to BIDIN' OUR TIME, his quartets at Pontiac-Waterford included HARMONIC PROGRESSION, SUNNYSIDE, and B-NATURAL. He also had seven Man of Notes.

Dick and his wife Rexetta raised 5 children and 12 grandchildren. Rexetta died in December, 2008, with Dick at her side, as he had been almost continuously since her stroke two years earlier. Dick's hobbies have included golfing, hunting, and fishing, and he flew a 65hp Piper Vagabond in Indiana.

The funeral service was Thursday, February 6, at Coats Funeral Home-Clarkston.

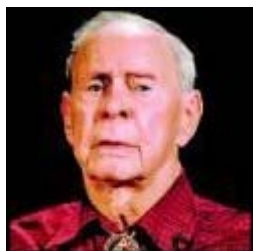
Bill Kenney



The Livingston County Chapter sadly reports that one of our members, Bill Kenney, died at age 79 on December 14, 2013. Surviving are his wife Kathleen and five daughters. A Funeral Mass was held Wednesday, December 18 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Howell. Memorial contributions may be made to Right To Life.

Stan Lawrence, Secretary, The Livingston LAMPLIGHTERS

Demetri “Dee” Paris



I am sad to report the death of 98-year-old Dee Paris, November 12, 2013.

Dee was instrumental in the founding and growth of numerous barbershop chapters and published two volumes of District history. He was active for many years in Society public relations work and produced manuals on bulletin editing, public relations, show production, and how to start new chapters. In the mid-1950s, he was founder and first editor of the Mid-Atlantic Press Service (MAPS), which later evolved into the Society organization of chapter public relations officers and bulletin editors with the acronym PROBE. Dee served as PROBE President, Editor of *Probemoter*, and was inducted into the PROBE Hall of Honor in 1989 (www.probeweb.org). The distinguished contributions of Dee Paris warrant the widest recognition in our Society.

Martin L. Banks

Burke, Virginia
Alexandria VA Chapter Historian
PROBE VP 2008-2010
PROBE PROTY 2007

Jerry Twomey



Jerry Twomey passed away, age 77, a resident of Highland for over 40 years, November 11, 2013.

Jerry loved all kinds of music, and especially loved to sing. He joined the Milford Barbershop Chorus when he moved to Highland Township and also sang with the Big Chief Chorus of Pontiac and the Livingston Lamplighters. As a lover of Gospel music he sang with the Kakhi Boys at the Highland United Methodist Church. It was Jerry who suggested the name Smoke Signals for the Pontiac-Waterford bulletin.

Jerry bravely battled with pancreatic cancer and selflessly participated in a clinical trial.

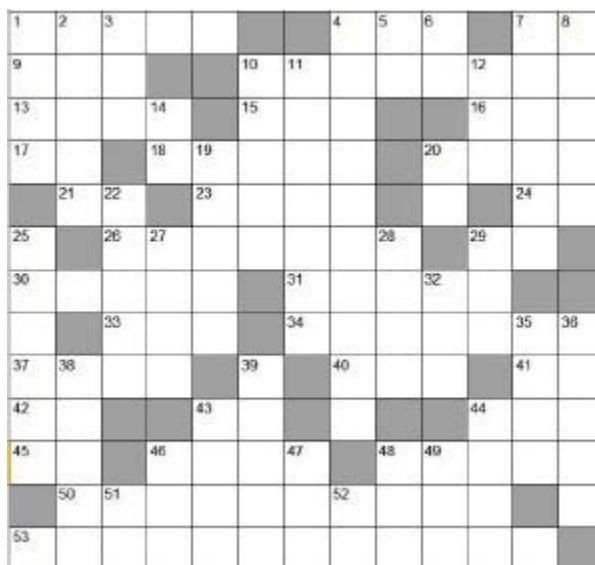
Pioneer Puzzler

ACROSS

1. River-loving quartet
4. Sturdy Bari of Coda Honor
7. Computer address
9. Flash-____
10. Before it was BHS
13. Computerized journal (abbrev.)
15. Who's on the beat?
16. Lettuce
17. PIO, relative to ILL
18. French school
20. What Barbershoppers love to sing
21. Doctor
23. Obama edited it
24. Open-mid front rounded diphthong vowel
26. Perform surgery
29. The fourth Gospel (abbrev.)
30. Harmonizer editor
31. "Wherefore art thou?"
33. A chimp, orang, or bonobo
34. Composer of "Keep America Singing"
37. Not yours
40. "Get Your Kicks, on ____ 66"
41. State in JAD
42. Canadian singer Lang
43. Blood type designation
44. Not Neg.
45. Sober group
46. Vowel quartet
48. A Bell For ____, John Hersey's Pulitzer-Prize-winning novel
50. The first (Michigan) Troubadour editor
53. Street where the parade is

DOWN

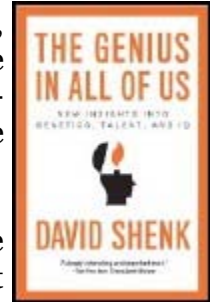
1. "How many are in your quartet?"
2. Analog to digital converter
3. J. Edgar Hoover's group
4. The stock of songs one knows
5. Stomach muscle
6. ____ Laurent
7. An equal-angled polygon
8. No longer in fashion
10. Scrub vigorously
11. PIO YIH director
12. PIO quartet winning members
14. ____ Housman, British poet of "A Shropshire Lad"
19. Musical park with amphitheater on the Detroit River
20. Solfeggio 7th – "a drink with jam and bread"
22. The grandest emcee
25. A "power"ful name in Pioneer history
27. A Barbershopper's only admission of an instrument
28. A vomit-causing medicine (abbrev.)
29. Connelly or Liles
32. Barely make a living (with out)
35. It's Only a Paper ____
36. Org. for ear-singers
38. Its capital is Boise
39. Musical group in Dr. Scott Dorsey's ACDA
43. German steel-producing region
44. Peruvian American National Roundtable 0
46. Garfunkel
47. "What's ____ name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet."
48. Cellular energy molecule
49. Lifeless upon reception (abbrev.)
51. The Earth-Sun distance (abbrev.)
52. Car Co.



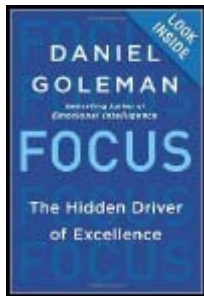
Editorial:

The Need for Practice: The 10,000 hour rule

In *The Genius in All of Us: New Insights into Genetics, Talent and IQ*, **David Shenk** describes research that suggests, “rather than being the result of genetics or inherent genius, truly outstanding skill in any domain is rarely achieved with less than ten thousand hours of practice over ten years' time.”



"Across the board, these last two variables -- practice style and practice time -- emerged as universal and critical. From Scrabble players to dart players to soccer players to violin players [to barbershop singers], it was observed that the uppermost achievers not only spent significantly more time in solitary study and drills, but also exhibited a consistent (and persistent) style of preparation that K. Anders Ericsson came to call 'deliberate practice.' First introduced in a 1993 *Psychological Review* article, the notion of deliberate practice went far beyond the simple idea of hard work. It conveyed a method of continual skill improvement. 'Deliberate practice is a very special form of activity that differs from mere experience and mindless drill,' explains Ericsson. 'Unlike playful engagement with peers, deliberate practice is not inherently enjoyable. It ... does not involve a mere execution or repetition of already attained skills but repeated attempts *to reach beyond one's current level* which is associated with *frequent failures*.' ..."In other words, it is practice that doesn't take no for an answer; practice that perseveres; the type of practice where the individual keeps raising the bar of what he or she considers success. ...



In a second book, *Focus: The Hidden Driver of Excellence*, Daniel Goleman re-emphasizes 'deliberate,' where an expert coach takes you through well-designed training over months or years, and you give it your full concentration. "If you are a duffer at golf, say, and make the same mistakes every time you try a certain swing or putt, 10,000 hours of practicing that error will not improve your game. You'll still be a duffer, albeit an older one.

Editor's Note: Let's see, if the 10,000 hours is met by three hours per week at chorus practice, it will take 60 years to be a master Barbershopper. But if one includes a daily hour of deliberate practice at home ... hmmm, we get there in 20 years.

Pioneer District

Website

from President Dan Bezair

We are trying to keep our website current, so could you please send all your chapter officer info to BHS HQ (<http://www.barbershop.org>). Thank you.

[Return to TOC](#)

Hall of Fame

from President Dan Bezaire

The Hall of Fame has been the Pioneer District's most coveted and honored award for over 30 years. The recipients have had a powerful impact in the Pioneer District, and in the greater Society as well. However, there are still many Pioneer Barbershoppers who deserve the award and the recognition, but who have simply not yet been nominated.

A nominee must be (or was, if he is deceased) a member in good standing of a Pioneer District chapter and must have a minimum of 10 years membership in the Pioneer District. Furthermore, since this is a District award, the nominee must have had service to the District. Service to his chapter and to the Barbershop Harmony Society are also considered as part of the criteria for the award.

You have the opportunity to continue this great tradition by nominating one of your chapter's members for this prestigious award. Please take a moment to consider those men within your chapter who have gone "above and beyond" for the Society, the Pioneer District, and your Chapter, and who have been "Pioneers" and leaders in our District. Please complete the application form that you will find on the District Business page of the Pioneer District web site. To be considered for the award, the nomination must be received before April 1, 2014.

The rules and regulations governing the nomination, selection, and presentation of the award are also on the Pioneer web site.

Your attention to this important process is greatly appreciated. The selection committee will meet at the Spring convention in Grand Rapids, and the award will be made at the Fall convention. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you for your leadership within your chapter.

Scavenger Hunt Contest

from Joe McDonald, Pioneer VP of Chapter Support & Leadership Training

Hello Pioneer!

Just a note to remind everyone that the Scavenger Hunt Contest is closed and that you should have entered your scores via the Pioneer website. The deadline for entering your individual score has been extended to February 15th. Please remind your fellow chapter members that they enter their scores by clicking the Scavenger Hunt image on the Pioneer homepage and selecting the Enter Your Scores Here option. Just enter your name and score and click submit and you are done.

Contest winners will be recognized at the Spring convention in Grand Rapids.
Thank you!

Best Seat in the House

by Chris Berry

I have done many things on short notice, but I don't recall anything working out as well as my experience with the Best Seat in the House program at last October's Pioneer District Chorus Competition. When I registered to compete with META-4 in the quartet competition, I noticed an ad on the registration page that mentioned something called the "Best Seat in the House." After watching a short video about the program, I thought I might enjoy sitting up close to the stage to listen to the chorus competition. I guess I didn't catch all the particular details of the program, but after I won the auction, I gave a little more attention to what was involved. Not only was I going to be sitting center stage for the chorus competition, I would be sitting with the judges, and even eating lunch with them. I couldn't wait.

I arrived shortly before the event began and was warmly welcomed by all of the judges and shown to my chair. I had signed up for the Presentation category but hadn't thought much about what that would involve. The two Presentation Judges, **Ev Nau** and **Larry Reinhart**, talked to me about using the scoring forms, what to look for, and where comments were to be placed. It was only then that I realized I would be unofficially scoring the competition, with my scores being entered into official BHS records - one of the many mind-blowing parts of this experience. During the competition, I would score the chorus, complete the form, and then after the forms were collected, would have a moment prior to the next group to discuss with the judges what we had just seen. What a wonderful way to see the choruses - through the judges' eyes. This process of scoring, writing, and discussing went on throughout the competition. What I learned that morning about the Presentation Category, I have used as the Director for Monroe North and as Bass in META-4 quartet.

But the learning did not end there. I was invited to the judges' lunch meeting where we discussed the chorus competition in great detail. We discussed the strengths of each chorus, and judges' comments for each one, including my own comments. I was impressed by the judges and their wiliness to listen to my thoughts on the competition.

The day could have ended there I suppose, but I was invited to attend some of the Chorus Evaluation sessions. I would like to thank all the choruses that allowed me to hear what the judges had to say. The evaluations gave me a great deal of information to use in my chorus and quartet rehearsals.

I would recommend the "Best Seat in the House" program to those who stand out in front as directors and coaches working with choruses and quartets, those who sing, and those who love to listen. There is nothing like the seats down front. Get ready for the next bidding to begin; I am.

Harmony for Life: If you build it, they will come.

from Paul Teska

Well, they built an auditorium with 800 seats and one of them should be filled by you. Please mark your calendars for Sunday, March 16, 2014 at 4:30 on Grand River Ave. in Brighton. This show will be enjoyed by the young as well as all other ages. Try to make that statement with any other style of music. We will have eight A Cappella groups of both men and women who are champions in the state. The show itself is absolutely free although there will be a free will offering of your choice.

Paul Teska comments: "After living with esophageal cancer for some months now, I am feeling a bit bushed but still have this overwhelming desire to share what singing has brought to my life with others. Chemo is a God-send. It allows me to swallow food without any problems now. So it seems to be doing its job."

You are promised some good stories, no bad jokes at this show, well maybe some. You are promised some great entertainment. You are promised that once in a while the hairs on your arms will get the willies. This will be entertaining, fun, educational and above all, for a great cause. All the proceeds will go to the Harmony Foundation to help our young find their niche in the music world. There are scholarships, camps, coaching and much, much more for the kids who show an interest in learning how to sing 4-part A Cappella music. Do someone a favor and invite them. They will thank you.

2/42 Community Church 7526 Grand River Ave. across from St. Joe Hospital, Brighton, MI.

The **web page** is at: <http://harmonyforlife.vpweb.com/>

The **facebook page** is at: <https://www.facebook.com/events/643566989029641/>

And Paul's **CarePages** site is at:

http://www.carepages.com/carepages/PaulAndChrisT/updates/3617823?client_code=umich&ipc=mur

New Yooper chapter?

by Pete Stephens-Brown

After many years away from the fun, I plan to start a chapter in Marquette, Michigan, in the fall of 2014. Our son will have graduated from High School by then. Just planting seeds for now.....

When I was directing the CEREAL CITY CHORUS in the '80s, my name was **Pete Brown**.

Bucket List

Our Pioneer District Senior Quartet reps, BUCKET LIST, made the BHS YouTube channel on January 7, the first of the Seniors to be highlighted.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ztQ2uDIvnyo&feature=em-uploademail>

[Return to TOC](#)

Bucket List hails from the Pioneer District, and the quartet total age adds up to 313 years, with the most 'experienced' member being 88 years old Their name was registered with the hopes of finding "three other old guys to sing with!



BUCKET LIST L. to R. John Wearing (T), T. C. Conner (L), Lee Hanson (Bs), Roger Lewis (Br)

Troubadour Business

Advertising Special!

To help defray cost of the Troubadour we will be offering a multiyear rate for the first five advertisers in the Troubadour. Contact Greg Humbel for details at ghumbel@comcast.net

You can stay in "CONSTANT CONTACT," with Troubadour direct email sign up. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/bpeey57> 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

Deadline: Next issue

We are looking for articles, photos, performances, and ads for the Troubadour. Spring 2014 Issue– May 15, 2014; deadline for submission – May 1

Pioneer Puzzler Solution

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | M | F | T | C | | | R | A | Y | | I | P |
| M | O | B | | | S | P | E | B | S | Q | S | A |
| E | D | I | A | | C | O | P | | | C | O | S |
| N | E | | E | C | O | L | E | | T | A | G | S |
| | M | D | | H | U | L | R | | I | | O | E |
| S | | O | P | E | R | A | T | E | | J | N | |
| L | O | R | I | N | | R | O | M | E | O | | |
| A | | A | P | E | | D | I | E | K | E | M | A |
| M | I | N | E | | C | | R | T | E | | O | H |
| K | D | | | R | H | | E | | | P | O | S |
| A | A | | A | U | O | I | | A | D | A | N | O |
| | H | A | R | R | I | N | G | T | O | N | | W |
| S | O | U | T | H | R | A | M | P | A | R | T | |

[Return to TOC](#)

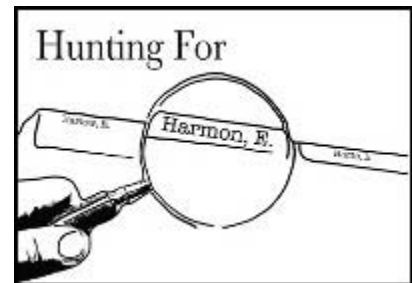
Upcoming Events/Calendar

February 16, and each succeeding 3rd Sunday of the month. *The Voice Youth Chorus*, Hannah Community Center (819 Abbott Rd. in East Lansing, MI)

February 22. 9 a.m. – 8 p.m. *Harmony Explosion*, Hillsdale, MI. Show at 6 p.m.

February 22. D.O.C. Show, “*Thanks for the Memory*,” 1:59 pm & 7:29 pm, Clarenceville High School, 20155 Middlebelt Rd, Livonia, MI. With THROWBACK and MAJESTYX.

March 8. Lansing Show, *Hunting for Harmon, E*, with STORM FRONT. 7:00 p.m. Wharton Center for the Performing Arts in East Lansing, MI. With The Capitol City Chordsmen Chorus and chapter quartets



March 9. Huron Valley Harmonizers, *Chords and Cuisine*, with MAJESTYX and the HVH chorus and its quartets

March 16. *Harmony for Life*, Benefit concert organized by Paul Teska at the 2/42 Community Church, 7526 W. Grand River, Brighton, MI. 4:30 – 6:30

April 9-12. *BQPA/Pioneers Spring Festival* - Tempe, AZ

April 25-27. *Pioneer District Spring Convention*. DeVos Center for Arts and Worship at Grand Rapids Christian High. Host: Grand Rapids

May 4. Wayne Harmony Town Chorus Show, *Barbershop Showstoppers – Hits from Hollywood*, 3:00 Matinee, Village Theater, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton, Michigan

May 10. *Flint Spring Show*, 5:00 p.m. Church of the Holy Family

May 30 – June 1. *Great Lakes Harmony Brigade*, Okemos

Jun 13. *Send-Off Show*. Windsor

Jun 29-Jul 6 – *International Convention*, Las Vegas, NV



July 10-12. *Harmony Explosion*

July 19 - [QCA Quartet Boot Camp](#) Okemos Conference Center

July 27-Aug 3. *Harmony University*, Belmont University, Nashville <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1xurD8mokNI&feature=em-uploademail>

August 22, 23. *Bush League*, Gaylord, MI

Oct 17-19 - *Fall District Convention* in Muskegon, host: Muskegon/Holland

Oct 4 - *Rochester Chapter Show*

Nov 1 - *Pontiac/Waterford Chapter Show*

Nov 24-29 – *Comedy Quartet Cruise*

2015

Jan 6-11 - *Midwinter Convention*, New Orleans

Jan 11-18 - 7-day *Solid Gold Caribbean Cruise* on the Norwegian Dawn with CROSS-ROADS, GAS HOUSE GANG, will dock in Cozumel, Belize, Roatan, and Costa Maya

Apr 24-26 - *Spring District Convention* in Battle Creek, host: open

Oct 16-18 - *Fall District Convention* in Kalamazoo, host: Hillsdale

2016

Apr 22-24 - *Spring District Convention* in Grand Rapids, host: open



Sing. Sing! Sing!!

“The VOICE”

...is an exciting musical opportunity coming soon to a city near you!

We hope East Lansing is near enough. ☺

WHAT: “THE VOICE”[®] is a brand new young male chorus directed by Aaron Pollard – and is dedicated to singing & performing 4-part A cappella music.

WHERE: Hannah Community Center (819 Abbott Rd. in East Lansing, MI) just blocks from the MSU campus.

WHEN: First meeting/rehearsal will be Sunday, January 19th from 2-6 PM – and will continue to meet the 3rd Sunday of each month until further notice.

WHO: Males (teens and young men to age 30) FROM ALL OVER MICHIGAN (actually from anywhere) who groove on singing A cappella harmonies.

WHY: To provide a FREE enriching (12 month) experience for youth and young men culminating with a competitive performance in New Orleans, LA in January of 2015. Yup, you read that right!!

*The Voice is not affiliated with nor endorsed by the television show with the same name.