



Dan Bezair
President



TROUBADOUR

A couple of years ago, the Society had an initiative called the *Chapter Visitation Program*, in which all or nearly all the chapters were visited by a staff member, or Society or District Officer, to ascertain what you, the membership, wanted. At last year's Leadership Forum, this information was consolidated into five main Focus areas:

- Modernizing the music
- Recruitment
- Communication
- Coaching
- Shared activities

The Society has taken on the first item on their own, and has already released a number of modern arrangements, **Jason Mraz**' *I'm Yours* and **Pain White T**'s *Rhythm of Love*, to name but two.

The other areas are pretty much up to us. In Pioneer, we already do pretty well with the Shared Activities, such as Windsor's Send-Off Show, D.O.C.'s Canada Night, and Roger Lewis' BBBB. And many others.

Our main challenges are Recruitment, Communication, and Coaching. So what are we doing about these challenges?

First, Recruitment. **Paul Ellinger** has gathered a number of "superstars" to get chapters motivated to attract more singers. His "Supercharging Your Chapter" program is becoming very popular. Ask Paul how often he's on the road.

Communication. We have the *Troubadour*, we have the Pionet, we have the website. These are great tools for communication, but they may be underused. But if you want to reach a number of people, these are at your convenience.

Coaching. Everybody wants to sing better. So sometimes you need a coach. We do have a couple of coaching programs at the District level: Top Gun for Choruses, Harmony Boot Camp. But did you know that the Pioneer website has a listing of Pioneer-based coaches? They would be glad to help your chorus or quartet.

Now, the Society and the District can and do offer programs in all these areas. But they don't mean a thing without your involvement. *Everything* happens at the chapter level.

Want more members?

New members do not join the Society; they join a chapter. Get some information, get some tools. Paul has a number of scripts you can use for your next sing-out, to attract some singers.

How about shared activities?

As I said, we have a good number in Pioneer, but they are only successful if people attend. If you have never gone to an inter-chapter activity, you are missing out on a great part of the barbershop experience.

Coaching

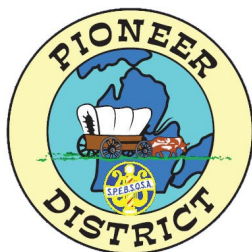
A coach is not going to just drop into a chapter meeting and go to work with you. Ya gotta ask!

Want to get the word out? Want to find out what's going on?

You have the tools. The *Troubadour* and Pionet are excellent ways to broadcast information, and the Pioneer website has loads of information about the District.

We are all barbershoppers. We love to sing, and we know it enriches lives. Let's all work together, and share with others, both new members and current members at barbershop events. Let's try to sing better, not only for ourselves, but for our audiences. And keep the channels open, so that we can all...

...***"Bring Joy Through Music"***



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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Pioneer District Officers' Corner

Doug Weaver, Financial Development

Hello, Pioneer!

A lot of people have been asking about the fundraising efforts for the Youth Chorus Festival and for THE VOICE at last weekend's convention, so I thought I would send out an update.

First of all, for the district sponsorship of the Youth Chorus Festival, the Parade of Checks brought in almost \$5,000! This is a huge response and will go a long way toward our \$10,000 commitment to the Harmony Foundation. A big thank you to all of the choruses, quartets, and individuals who were part of that effort.

And for THE VOICE, our Pioneer District representative in New Orleans, it was a great weekend of support from their Pioneer barbershop friends. The highlights:

- **Dan Decker**, a longtime Pioneer barbershopper, passed away recently, and his family and friends have contributed almost \$1,500 that will go directly to THE VOICE.
- THE VOICE had a table set up in the lobby of the Frauenthal Center all week end. On Friday they collected \$560 in donations. On Saturday, after I announced that a private donor would match whatever was raised that night, the Pioneer faithful responded with donations of \$2,160! That has been matched. Another \$1,350 in IOUs was pledged by quartets and choruses. As those funds come in they will be matched as well.

As you can see, the barbershoppers of the Pioneer District have once again stepped up to make things happen to help encourage the next generation of singers.

What still needs to be done? THE VOICE has recently discovered that transportation costs in New Orleans are higher than anticipated, so if you would like to help with that, I am sure that it would be much appreciated. Donations can be sent to **Roger McCaskey** of the TOWN & COUNTRY CHORUS, and Roger will get those funds to THE VOICE.

Once again, on behalf of the Board of the Pioneer District, thank you for the huge response in Muskegon.

Mike Ridenour, Chapter Support and Leadership Training

Leadership Academy is on the schedule for January 17 at Central Michigan University in Mt. Pleasant, MI. Please encourage your chapters to send your new officers, old officers and future officers to this important training. We need to build depth in our leadership. We will also have a great day of vocal training and fun singing lined up. It will be a fun day for everyone seeking relief from cabin fever! Please get it on your calendars! Any questions, just e-mail me at flyinandtyin@gmail.com.

Fall 2014 Pioneer District Convention

The Fall 2014 Pioneer District Convention took place on October 17-19, 2014, in Muskegon and Holland were co-hosts. With headquarters in rooms in the Shoreline Inn, the street from the lovely old Frauenthal Center for Performing Arts, where the performances took place.



Convention returned to Muskegon the first time since 1961. Muskegon hosts. With headquarters in rooms in the Shoreline Inn, the street from the lovely old Frauenthal Center for Performing Arts, where the performances took place.

Fifteen choruses and fourteen quartets competed, and we were additionally entertained by two local girls' ensembles and by THE VOICE, our exciting new Pioneer youth chorus, which has 24 members, a repertoire, a rich sound and a slot in the Midwinter Youth Chorus competition in New Orleans next January. Our last district representative was in 2011.



THE VOICE performing at Fall convention, Muskegon (Photo by Aaron Wilson)

Competition in the quartet contest was close in the top three slots. The winner... and new District Quartet Champion is...TONAL ECLIPSE. They scored 73.1%, singing "Once Upon a Time," "Just in Time," "Rock-A-Bye Baby," and "Emaline." (See their story later in this issue.)

Silver medal went to NOW PLAYING with a score of 71.9.

ROLLS VOICE finished third, with a score of 69.7. That also won them the Senior Quartet championship and an invitation to New Orleans to represent the district at the mid-winter senior international contest.

The other five finalists, AXIOM, OLDE THYME HARMONY QUARTET, EVENIN' GENTLEMEN (who also won the Novice award), INTRIGUE, and SHADES OF GREY, all scored in the 60s.



TONAL ECLIPSE: Matthew Root (T), Mark Spear (L), Kerry Foley (Bs), Philip Spencer (Br).



NOW PLAYING: Dave Ebersole (T), Chris Berry (Bs), James O'Dell (L), William Stutts Jr. (Br)



ROLLS VOICE: Bruce LaMarte (T), T.C. Conner (L), TR Gerard (Bs), David Gillingham (Br)

The chorus contest was a duel between Grand Rapids and Mt. Pleasant, with the GREAT LAKES CHORUS, directed by **Jamie Carey**, coming out on top with a score of 74.1 %. (They also were the Pioneer District Most Improved Chorus and had the most men on stage, 39.) They will represent the district at International next July in Pittsburgh. Their song set included “So Long, Mother” – with suitable military attire – and “Looking at the World Through Rose Colored Glasses.”



The GREAT LAKES CHORUS

Mt Pleasant scored 73.4.



MOUNTAINTOWN SINGERS

The remaining thirteen choruses were closely clustered - above and below 60%. They included Plateau 2 champion Flint, and Plateau 3 champion Traverse City.

Altogether, there were 352 contestants on stage. There were 786 full and single-event registrations.



All chorus directors being acknowledged.

Friday afternoon attendees could partake of the wisdom of three speakers – **Jamie Carey** on vowels, **Warren Hettinga** on healthy singing with resonance, and **John Brockmann** on a beginner's guide to reading a score.

Or one could sip a beer – at the Smash Wine Bar in the basement of the theater, or in the Third Street Grille in the Holiday Inn.

Our Society representative to the convention was Barber-shop Harmony Society President-Elect **Don Fuson**.



Don Fuson

The JOE BARBERSHOP CHORUS was directed by **Justin Miller**, Gold-Medal Director of both the WESTMINSTER and MASTERS OF HARMONY Choruses. Despite Justin's choice of two non-polecats ("In the

Good Old Summertime" and "Kentucky Babe"), his reputation led 33 men to participate.



Cliff Dake, Tom Blackstone, Dave Spizarny, and Doug Weaver Friday afternoon at the Smash Wine Bar & Bistro.



Justin Miller warming up the JOE BARBERSHOP CHORUS.

Warmups and photos occurred in the attached Beardsley Theater.

There was an AHSOW room, and a Tag and Hotdog room, as well as a pancake breakfast Saturday morning was available in the bowels of the USS LST 393, a nationally renowned veterans' museum that transported tanks and amphibious assault vehicles from shore to shore in WWII through Vietnam.

The Master of Ceremonies Friday night was **Don Lucas** of the 1953 District Quartet Champions EXTENSION CHORDS, who had many delightful old stories to relate. Don Fuson and **Doran McTaggart** filled out the emcee roles.

A new event occurred – a massed sing with 350 barbershoppers invited onto the

spacious stage to sing “Sweet and Lovely” and “Heart of my Heart.” The directors for these songs were chosen by drawing from a hat, and included **Jonathan Woolf** and **Matt Tipton**, each manfully climbing high to be seen by those in the back row.



The MASSED CHORUS.

The Saturday night program concluded with the singing of “That Old Quartet of Mine” by the Quartet Champions Association (QCA), under the direction of **Bro Giles Hanover**. But singing continued in the Hospitality Rooms in the Holiday Inn.



QCA Chorus (Photo by Aaron Wilson)

Thanks to the Convention Team (**Roger Lewis, Phil Sielski, Jay Bylsma**, et al) who certainly had a full and well-organized set of events for the Pioneer District Fall Convention:

- Three Master Classes on Friday.
- Guided walking tour around downtown Muskegon with Kristin Knop from the Muskegon Convention & Visitors Bureau.
- Pancake Breakfast Saturday morning on the USS LST 393.

- Joe Barbershop Chorus, with Justin Miller directing "Kentucky Babe" and "In The Good Old Summertime." Learning tracks were provided by **Paul Ellinger** and **John Cowlshaw**.
- Dog/Tag contest/parties, with wives and family members as judges.
- Massed Chorus. After chorus contest...open to all barbershoppers.
- "Evaluation Under Glass" The Great Lakes Chorus (Grand Rapids) agreed to open up their evaluation to the public.
- 50-year barbershoppers. Saturday night immediately after the intermission, 50+ year members welcomed each new member with 50 years of service this year into this prestigious fraternity.



50+ year members welcome new 50 year BHS members.



Pancake breakfast on USS LST 383

Dog-Tag Room

Organizer **William Stutts, Jr**, provided a list of "ten good, solid, not crazy tags that you can do" on Pionet:

<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/PioNet/conversations/messages/6086>

'Ology quartet

This year continued the tradition of 'Ology quartets, with the participation of BOB-GEORGOLOGY [**George Normandie** (T), **Jamie Carey** (L), **Rob Pettigrew** (Br), **Bob Wallace** (Bs)]

'OlogyQuartets are a Quartet Champions Association (QCA) activity that is administered by CHORDIOLOGY.

Big Screen

Joe McDonald took over Big Screen responsibilities this convention from re-located **Greg Humbel**. A new option was made available – single slide submissions. They ran with all the others on the Big Screen at six-second intervals.

Weather Excerpt from Paul Howe's Convention Report

Travel to and from Muskegon provided a gorgeous sampling of fall colors in Michigan. When the clouds parted and let full sun through, the colors really popped to a brilliant display crimson, orange, amber, yellow, and green.

Reports – Chapters

Battle Creek

The CEREAL CITY Chorus presented a Dinner/Barbershop Show at Convis Township Hall on October 24. It included a dinner and music by the Chorus, THE HARMONY HOUNDS, SECOND ENDING, and other guest performers.

Flint

by Bill Karas VP Marketing

The Flint ARROWHEAD Barbershop Chorus has been on the move.

The chapter held its annual “Chicken Dinner Fund Raiser” at the Flint Masonic Temple on Sunday, October 12, 2014 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The chicken dinner is considered one of the finest in Genesee County and came with potatoes, stuffing, trimmings, drink, and a slice of delicious homemade pie for dessert. Our members waited on the guests and served food. Periodically we came together, whether as a chorus or quartet, and sang for the guests.

We served 250 meals last year, but we were really jumping this year with 430 guests attending, thanks largely to a comprehensive marketing plan. “Calendar of event ads in six newspapers, a radio PSA, flier distribution by members and a NBC Channel 25 morning show appearance with TV anchorman **Joel Feick** interviewing President **John Noteware** followed by a performance by a chapter quartet, it all helped,” states **Bill Karas**, VP of Marketing. Noteware observed, “While it was tough getting up at 4:30 a.m. to be there at 5:20 a.m. for a 6 a.m. appearance, it was worth it! A portion of the monies we earn will go to support local charities.”

Then there was the convention. We put 27 of our own guys on stage, including two of our three newest members. We are proud to have received one of the highest scores we’ve seen under our current scoring system, winning us the Plateau II championship and ranking us third overall. It is gratifying when hard work pays off, but we’re not done; we just have to set some new goals and keep working!

In celebration, we are inviting men in the community to join us this year for our “Community Christmas Chorus” festive sing, “No Strings Attached.” Sheet music and learning tracks will be loaned to facilitate guests’ learning and improve performance.

We will perform at Crossroads Village on Saturday, December 6, 2014 at 7 p.m., as well as at several area convalescent homes and extended care facilities. We will also

join together for our own Christmas Party at the Brick Street Bar and Grill in Grand Blanc on Tuesday evening, December 9, 2014 at 6 p.m. where members will bring Toys for Tots in support of that charity. We are hoping to increase membership long-term as we touch hearts with our music.

Many of our board members will attend the Pioneer District Leadership Academy on January 17, 2015 in Mt. Pleasant. This will be followed by a chorus membership drive "Open House" on Tuesday, January 20 7:00 p.m. at the chorus' rehearsal hall at the Courtland Center Mall in Burton.

We will close out January by retreating en masse to the Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center on Higgins Lake in Roscommon, MI. We arrive Friday afternoon for some fun and food, spend Saturday working on new music and our craft, and leave Sunday morning after breakfast, tired from rehearsing but refreshed and ready for the upcoming year!

Gratiot County

by Ken Best

The MIDSTATESMEN had two very fun and successful shows Saturday, October 4, entitled "Wheel for Tunes." It was great seeing several members from other chapters in attendance. WAVELENGTH and MAJESTYX were fantastic.

We used a different concept as to what songs we sang on the show. Instead of a pre-selection of songs for the show, we worked hard on all of our songs including a few polecat songs. We put all 16 on a list in the program with a number beside each song. Then we had a wheel with 16 numbers on it and spun the wheel for each song we performed. We added some very funny skit stuff to keep it moving along. We had four quartets within the chapter that did a great job also - THE REAL MEN (made up of all basses), THE WHOLE NOTES, A.B.S.Q and THE SUITABLE UNION which includes **Ken Smith**, a member for 67 years. He started singing when he was 12 years old.

Grosse Pointe

by Harold Keys

The Knights of Columbus and the Grosse Pointe LAKESHORE Chorus presented a Night of Harmony and Friendship - Dinner and Show on September 5, at St. Mary Queen of Creation, in New Baltimore.

Tickets were sold to capacity — 220 people. The Knights of Columbus prepared the dinner, and the Grosse Pointe LAKESHORE Chorus provided the singing and harmony.



Grosse Point Chorus singing at Night of Harmony and Friendship dinner show.

Hillsdale

What has the TOWN AND COUNTRY CHORUS been up to? Well, we did a sing-out at the Hillsdale County Fair in September. We sang at the Pioneer District convention. And we are all excited to be learning new songs for this Christmas season which are coming together very nicely.

Holland

The chapter stayed very busy co-hosting the Fall Pioneer District Convention in Muskegon.

Huron Valley

by William Stutts, Jr.

August 2014.

"They're Singing in the Streets!!!!!"

Huron Valley took to the State St. side of Ann Arbor to share the love of singing in public. People came with excited curiosity to hear what dulcet tones would spring forth. We brought a lot of smiles to a lot of faces. There was even an opportunity to sing for a lady that had just arrived in Ann Arbor on her first day and we sang "Heart of my Heart" in Nickels Arcade. Very acoustically awesome in that space. She and her friends loved it!

September 2014

"Let's Put on a Show"

The HURON VALLEY HARMONIZERS combined with the FLORAL CITY HARMONIZERS in Monroe and put on a joint show at the River Raisin Centre for the Performing Arts on September 20. It was a great show showcasing each chorus and highlighting the awesome sound of the combined chorus. Quartets that sang in the show were HVH pickup quartet, FULL VALUE and the show headliners, NOW PLAYING.

"Get me to the Church on Time"

HVH pickup quartet FULL VALUE entertained the folks at the Webster Church Fall Festival on September 27. They performed a full 30-minute set inside the Webster Church. It is a small church that has awesome acoustics. They also serenaded on the grounds of the festival.

"You Make me Feel So Young"



New member
Nick Mont-
gomery.

On October 14, HVH welcomed our newest member, **Nick Montgomery**. He is a high school student that looked us up and has really enjoyed coming to rehearsals. We welcome him with open arms and open mouths for singing.

October 2014

"I'll Have Another!"

HVH sponsored a wine tasting at the Spotted Dog Winery in Saline on October 4. This is an annual fundraiser that combines wonderful song and great wine. The HV HARMONIZERS sang the night away while people sampled and bought wine. It is a wonderful event because there is still a performance but it is far more casual than a regular show. FULL VALUE showed us how to perform a Singing Valentine, to **Dawn Au-Buchon**. NOW PLAYING headlined the evening with their songs that they were preparing for contest in Muskegon.

"Size Matters Not"

Huron Valley competed in the Pioneer District Fall 2014 chorus contest and fielded 12 gentlemen on the risers. Do not let the size fool you. They came and brought a performance that filled the Frauenthal Theatre in Muskegon with great sound. After it was all said and done, they finished 6th out of 15 choruses. Great job guys!



HURON VALLEY HARMONIZERS



NOW PLAYING

W i l l i a m

Stutts, Jr and **James O'Dell** from Huron Valley were joined by **Dave Ebersole** and **Chris Berry** as NOW PLAYING competed at the Pioneer District Fall 2014 convention. They earned a 2nd place finish with a 71.9%. A personal best for that quartet!

"Down on the Farm"

On October 21, the HURON VALLEY HARMONIZERS entertained the crowd at the last farmers' market of the season at Cobblestone Farm Market in Ann Arbor. People enjoyed hearing that wonderful four part harmony! What a great way to end the season at Cobblestone!!!

Kalamazoo

The MALL CITY HARMONIZERS presented "From Sea to Shining Sea" Saturday, September 13 at Dalton Recital Hall on the Western Michigan University campus. Guest quartets were MAJESTYX and META-4.

They are now preparing for their holiday show, Harmony Holiday...a Celebration!

by Michael Sobel

The spirit and sounds of the Christmas holidays will all be harmoniously brought together as the Kalamazoo MALL CITY HARMONIZERS and the Battle Creek CEREAL CITY Chorus join with two Sweet Adelines choruses...the MID LAKES CHORUS of

Plainwell and the Battle Creek Sweet Adelines Chorus...to present *HARMONY HOLIDAY...A CELEBRATION!*, on Saturday, December 13 at Kalamazoo's Comstock Community Auditorium.

This awesome combination of musical talents is our first-ever four-chorus holiday concert! There will be two shows that day...at 3pm and 7pm. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. There will also be an Afterglow following the evening show, at \$5 per person.

The MALL CITY HARMONIZERS is following its altruistic holiday tradition by donating their net proceeds from this concert to the WMU-based *Broncos For Heroes*, who send "care packages" to service members stationed overseas.

Lansing



On Thursday, the anniversary of 9/11, the Lansing CAPITOL CITY CHORDSMEN presented a FREE patriotic musical program honoring Veterans, Police, Fire, and Emergency Responders. It included barbershop chorus music by the CAPITOL CITY CHORDSMEN, bagpipe playing by **Terry Carroll**, and trumpet playing by **Will Reid** and **Michael Liberato**. The evening also featured representatives of our five Military branches and Boy Scout Troop 180 and a special pinning ceremony of all Veterans and those currently serving in the Military and retired and active Police, Fire and First Responders in attendance. There were more than 400 people in attendance. (Hosted by Gorsline Runciman Funeral Homes)

On Tuesday, September 16, the Lansing chapter was honored to welcome near barbershop legend and BHS 2009 hall of fame inductee, **Burt Szabo**. During the time he attended Michigan State University in the early 1960's, Burt sang with the chapter and served as the first director for the fledgling chapter chorus. Prior to that time the primary activity was quartet singing and "woodshedding."



Burt Szabo

Livingston County

by Jason Hall

The Livingston LAMPLIGHTERS have continued their efforts with the Supercharging program throughout the months of August and September by singing out often.

Our focus in October has been our annual show, Livingston Lamplighters Greatest Hits, November 9, at 2/42 Community Center in Brighton Michigan. Our Guest Quartet is the Pioneer Districts 2014 Collegiate Champions, G-FOURS with 10% of our ticket sales being used to purchase Thanksgiving food baskets to be distributed through the Livingston County Veterans Affairs.

Monroe North

The Monroe FLORAL CITY HARMONIZERS and the HURON VALLEY HARMONIZERS teamed up on Saturday September 20 to present Monroe's first stage show in many years. The show included songs sung by each chorus alone, by the combined chorus, as well as chapter quartets FULL VALUE, META-4, and more. The performance was at the River Raisin Centre for the Arts in Monroe. The Afterglow followed at the Big Blues Event Center in Monroe, MI.

Mt Pleasant

The MOUNTAINTOWN SINGERS presented *Acapellapalooza III*, November 1 at Central Michigan University. It featured MOUNTAINTOWN SINGERS, THE VOICE Youth Barbershop Chorus, the Harmony Explosion Workshop Chorus, and special guest mixed quartet DOUBLE DATE.

Pontiac-Waterford

The BIG CHIEF CHORUS was delighted to sing the National Anthem at the Tigers-Mariners Game, August 15. The crowd of 42,385 fans erupted with applause, which was about their only chance to cheer, as the Mariners trounced the Tigers. It has been eight years since our previous performance.

The chorus's 70th annual show was "Big Chiefs on Broadway," November 1, at Waterford Mott High School. Guest quartets were RUSTY PIPES, 2012 Seniors Quartet Gold Medalist, Sweet Adelines quartet ALLURE, and five chapter quartets.

The BIG CHIEF CHORUS is back on Facebook at <http://tinyurl.com/nok6xub> There you will find, among other entries, photos and videos of our Tiger visit, the chapter picnic, and a video by our past and future guest quartet, INSTANT CLASSIC. Thanks to **Wayne Oberstadt** for most of the work.

Through October the chorus and its quartets have sung 86 gigs to 47,979 people. (Oh, of course the Tiger game helped!)

Rochester

The Rochester GUARDIANS OF HARMONY 2014 show, *Show Biz!*, was held Saturday, October 4, at Stoney Creek High School. The chorus's selection of ten songs was intermixed with songs by RIGHT ON Q, CLASSIC FIT, LIMITED EDITION, and star guest



The BIG CHIEF CHORUS on the big screen in Comerica Park singing the National Anthem at the Tigers -Mariners game. (Photo by Greg Moss)

quartet, INSTANT CLASSIC. **Doran McTaggart** emceed the show whose script was written and narrated by **Joe Maxwell**. **Matt Tipton**, **Mike Hartrick**, and **Al Fisk** directed the chorus. The afterglow continued the fun and good music at Steiny's Tavern in Shelby Township.



The GUARDIANS OF HARMONY singing at the afterglow.

Saginaw Bay by Ralph Brown

We are proud of **Dave Szutkowski** who was called up to the stage at the Convention in Muskegon to be recognized and join "The Fifty Year Member Class of 2014." He joined in 1965 and has been one of the most active members in the Society as well as an active member of the Saginaw Bay chapter. For some time now he has held down the sole Tenor part which is no simple task as most of us know.



YESTERDAY'S MEMORIES at Dead Creek with Dave on the left.

Over the years he has also been in various competing quartets and is still doing the foursome with YESTERDAY'S MEMORIES.

Sault Ste Marie by Bob Shami, Music Director

At last week's meeting, I was able to announce the winner of the prestigious "Unsung Greater-Tuna Tunaward" for 2014. This was the last remaining award to be announced for this year's crop of "Tunaward" recipients. I am happy to announce that this year's winner of the "Unsung Greater-Tuna Tunaward" is: **Kevin Collar**.

To read a short write-up of the reasons behind Kevin receiving this recognition, (as well as a listing of all of this year's Tunaward winners) please visit <http://www.northlandchorus.com/awards/annual-tunawards.html>

Traverse City

On October 14 the chapter presented their Friends and Family performance! "It was a great opportunity to see our competition package, enjoy some free food, and talk with friends." The show was at the Presbyterian Church.

Upper Yoopers Barbershop Chorus (UYBC)

Pete Stephens-Brown is organizing a new chapter in Marquette, named DA UPPER YOOPERS' Barbershop Chorus (UYBC).

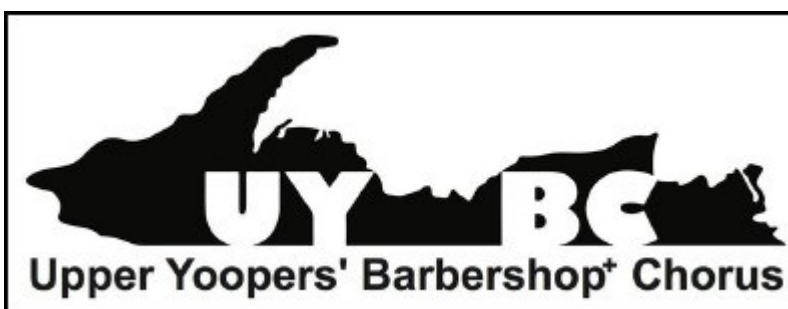


Peter Stephens-Brown

A promotion and organizational meeting was held Tuesday, September 23 in Marquette's Peter White Public Library. "We had a great first meeting!! We exist!!! We are a small Chorus, and will soon have growing pains. All the new guys got a chance to sing three tags and a few tunes tonight! Thanks to Escanaba's REMNANTS chorus members and THE NEXT GENERATION QUARTET who took the time (and gasoline!) to sing us into existence! You sure made it look easy!

Thanks to **Dan Bezaire** (PIO District President), **Shawn Thomas**, **William Stutts, Jr.**, and **James O'Dell** for 'attending' via GroupSkype! Your music and words gave us support, and we appreciate your efforts, and look forward to 'meeting'/meeting you again!

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uses, our music, rehearsal room rental, and initial advertising will all be needed.

This initial funding included contributions from District barbershoppers thru GoFundMe. <http://www.gofundme.com/b6q37s>

The group got off to a fast start. The organizational meeting was covered by the local press, including a video of the group singing. ("Upper Yoopers already want to hear that Barbershop sound!" <http://www.upmatters.com/story/d/story/new-local-barbershop-chorus/29041/gynqkvPhNESuUt7dHYo9fw#.VCL96ucdHhA.facebook>)

Next, they hired a 20-seat bus to attend the Escanaba chapter's barbershop show, September 20, which included MASTERPIECE as their headliner quartet.

Rehearsals are Thursdays at the Unitarian Universalist Meeting House on the shores of Lake Superior seven miles south of downtown Marquette.

The chorus has already received "a legitimate invitation to perform in late October!"

We are already thinking of who we can bring next week, and we'll spend a few minutes a day in front of our mirror(s), mostly checking our mouth positions, getting in tune with ourselves. We'll even listen and sing along at home with our new learning tracks, courtesy of Pioneer District! Thanks, PIO!

As reported at the House of Delegates meeting, Marquette is outside the boundaries of

the Pioneer District, but Land of Lakes has graciously released them to the Pioneer District. <https://www.Facebook.com/upperyoopers> or <http://tinyurl.com/nnly5kt>

Reports – Quartets

Evenin' Gentlemen

The quartet sang August 16, at the Top Gun Show at Calvary Baptist Church in Canton, Mi, and the next day at Heritage Park in Farmington.

Hi all,

I'm speaking for my quartet, EVENIN' GENTLEMEN. I want to say that we had a blast at District Convention. We got great feedback from those that are friends of ours and also those we may have never met before.

We achieved our first goal and that was to make the cut for Saturday Night, then we did what we hoped to do and that was to be the 2014 Novice Champs.



EVENIN' GENTLEMEN: Roger Boyer (Br), John Paul (Bs), Keith Opal (L), Terry Webner (T)

Thank you, thank you, THANK YOU very much!!

Keith Opal, Lead
EVENIN' GENTLEMEN
2014 Novice Champions

4GVN



4GVN at Kelly-Fisk Farm Festival.

4GVN performed Sunday, September 7, at the 29th Annual Kelley-Fisk Farm Festival, presented by the White Lake Historical Society. They began their hour-long program in the barn and then moved out across the grounds. Small, but appreciative audiences listened, and several men were responsive to the question, "Where do you do your singing?"

Limited Edition

LIMITED EDITION helped the Edison Boat Club celebrate their 100th anniversary on August 3, 2014. The Club was founded in 1914 for Detroit Edison employees and their

families on the site of the Detroit Edison power plant, (where Conner Creek emptied into the Detroit River), and just across from the northeast end of Belle Isle.

LIMITED EDITION helped its bass, **Charlie Perry**, celebrate his 64th birthday at his pig roast, Saturday, September 6.

The quartet also sang at the 38th Milford Historic Homes Tour, September 21. It was the 4th year that LIMITED EDITION has performed at this event. The quartet was challenged to learn a "privy song" for the privy diggers next year. "My Broken Heart" from Elvis's "Love Me" was the best they could do this year.



Charlie's son Isaac maneuvering the 150 lb. pig over the coals

Patch Chords

by Doug Pearson



The PATCH CHORDS

I guess we all know that Death and Taxes are inevitable. As for the PATCH CHORDS, we've been singing now for 40 years , so there does seem to be a lingering element of certainty. At any rate, we have been working on our longevity by maintaining a pretty full schedule of performance activities during the year. Recent gigs have included joining the chorus at the Grand Ledge Opera House and the Band shell in Williamston as part of two successful chapter shows; a 60th Anniversary celebration in Eaton Rapids; an 80th birthday get-together in Hartland; another birthday lunch celebration in Lansing and -- most recently -- a job we always enjoy performing for our friends (that even includes Bud) at the Battle Creek Chapter's Cabaret extravaganza.

Reports – District Events

Pioneer District Chorus Top Gun, August 16

The D.O.C., Flint, and Rochester choruses received coaching at the second Top Gun from **Rich Knight**, **Dave Campbell**, and **Paul Ellinger**. That evening, they put on a free show at Calvary Baptist Church in Canton, MI.

Bush League, August 22-23

Ten quartets competed at Gaylord and were judged by **Al Fisk**, Singing, **Evan Boegehold**, Music, **Roger Lewis**, Presentation, and **Dave Cowin**, Administrator.

Winning the event was TONAL ECLIPSE, with a score of 69.8. (Matt Root, Tenor, Mark Spear, Lead, Phil Spencer, Baritone, Kerry Foley, Bass)

The BARN BOYS was second with a score of 66.2. (Aaron Pollard, Tenor, Zac Maas, Lead, Chris Cordle, Baritone, Alex Arlin, Bass)

OLDE THYME HARMONY QUARTET scored 64.7 for third place. (Jacob Welty, Tenor, Don Horton, Lead, Tim Oliver, Baritone, Tom Smeltzer, Bass)

Tied for fourth place were: MOUNTAINTOWN CONNECTION, EVENIN' GENTLEMEN, YESTERDAY'S MEMORIES, THE WHOLE NOTES, REVELIERS, BY DESIGN, and DOUBLE O FOUR.

Baker Family Corn Roast, August 25

by John Baker

The 41st Annual GLC / Baker family Corn Roast was held August 25 in Jenison. **John** and **Shirley Baker** had a fridge-full of corn, hotdogs unthawing, and a crock pot out for beans. **Al Smith** held a 50/50 drawing which benefitted the Grand Rapids Veterans Home.

Changing Young Lives through Song, November 1

by Joe McDonald, Camp Administrator

This new program was aimed at kids in 7-12th grade (or maybe a little younger), was very affordable and very well staffed with great barbershop clinicians – **Ben Harding** and **Dan Wessler**.

At the end of the workshop, the kids got to sing on the big stage show that featured DOUBLE DATE, THE VOICE Barbershop Chorus, and the MOUNTAINTOWN SINGERS.

Canada Night, November 7

The Detroit-Oakland Chapter once again hosted a party for our Canadian brothers. Sixty-nine barbershoppers showed up at the Stitt American Legion Post #232 in Dearborn Heights for a fine meal and lots of singing.

Four mini-choruses sang. The four judges chose the Windsor chapter as the winners. They received the “new” Old Oakland Bucket to relish for a year. Oddly enough, the other three choruses all tied for second place (D.O.C., the “Big Grosse Guardians,” and Wayne). Quartets included YESTERDAY'S COFFEE, SERAPHIM, INTRIGUE, and EVENIN' GENTLEMEN.



Dave Montera presenting the Old Oakland Bucket to Eric Best, Ass't Director of SUN PARLOUR CHORUS, the 2014 Canada Night Mini Chorus.

Reports – International

Harmony University

from August 7 Livewire

From an opening session highlighted by a charming children's choir, to a "best ever" general session celebrating the art of woodshedding, to a closing show featuring quartets and choruses of all stripes, Harmony University 2014 was truly a week long to be remembered. The Belmont University setting lived up to its billing as lovely, accessible and complete in its appointments, and the temperate weather surprised and delighted everyone.

By any measure, the premier barbershop education event was a winner:

- Total enrollment passed 600 students, plus faculty and staff
- More music educators than ever, with more than 25 attending
- More young singers than ever before, with more than 70 students enrolled in Next Generation and Young Women in Harmony choruses
- More choruses attending, with full contingents arriving from Calgary's Western Hospitality Singers, Ottawa's Capital City Chordsmen, San Marcos' Marcsmen, and Asheville's Land of the Sky Chorus, totaling 111 students in Chorus College

Harmony University Reports

by Charlie Martin, Assistant Director-In Training, Lansing

I thought I would give you all a summary of the experience I had at Harmony University. I drove down with Bruce Hunting who many of you know. He lives up north near the bridge now and sings with the Mountain Town Singers. He drove three hours to my place and then eight hours to Nashville.

There were about 650 attendees from all over the world, up from last year by 28%, and they believe that it will grow another 30% next year. Nice campus with lots of colorful landscaping. Everywhere you looked there was someone with an international medal around their neck. And me with a brace around my neck. These are world class performers and world class instructors. Boy did I feel overwhelmed.

Every day started with a general session. These included a polecat, a first class warm up, a different song each day (they were sent to us weeks in advance so we could learn them), a new tag every day, and daily announcements. Can you imagine 650 voices singing as a chorus? By the way, these sessions are on YouTube. <http://tinyurl.com/ksdklkx> I plan to use these as part of rehearsals once we have them on DVD.

I saw a lot of folks using the latest technology, like tablets and smart phones, at the general sessions and in class. Even laptop computers. I will be using the new tech stuff too. I found a few good apps for those who have a smart phone or tablet. There are lots of good warm up exercises like Vocal master that you can use anytime and anywhere.

And I especially like <http://www.barbershoptags.com/> . It has all the classic tags already loaded and you can search for more. You can even copy your favorite one's onto your favorite list easily. They have a large variety of pitch pipe and piano apps too. I use Pitch Perfect and My Piano.

My day started at 8:30 with the general session and then on to my first class, Making a Sound Difference (Sound Management 2). Awesome class. Then lunch and my next class, Conducting. Ask me about the independent hand movement exercises. Try drawing a square with your right hand and a triangle with the other at the same time. My next class was Music Theory. Intervals, triads, 7th chords, augmented, diminished, etc.,etc. Then on to my most interesting class, Interpretation Demystified. Much more involved than I thought it would be. One day the instructor coached the Academy quartet. You know, this year's International Collegiate champions! At one point he stopped them and told them that it would be nice to have an actual chord there. Whoa!!! I didn't hear it but the baritone fessed up to singing the wrong note. WOW! what a class that was. The supper meal came next; then on to my last class, How to Teach What You Know. I learned a lot from this class, but don't expect me to transform overnight into super director. It's going to take a while. That class ended at 9:30 that night. Then on to ice cream and tags. My neck required me to hit the sack early, while most everyone else stayed up singing.

After the supper meal Thursday, Friday, and Saturday they had top international medal winners, both quartets and choruses, entertaining us with jaw-dropping performances. They had Sweet Adeline's, a little girls chorus, youth (boys) chorus and more. LUNCH BREAK, MASTERS OF HARMONY, and other quartets wowed us with unbelievable chords that permeated the air and gave you goose bumps. I heard it said by a number of people that these shows were better than the International competition because they were free to use material that didn't fit the rules of competition.

I sincerely hope I can bring to you all the enthusiasm and information that was all around me down there. I will need your help in doing and being the best I can be for the chorus. Many of you have given me feedback and I very much appreciate that. And please think about joining me next year. You don't have to load up on classes like the Director's College curriculum. There are a lot of other very interesting classes to choose from. Just go to the Society's website and look around. Go to the education tab and see the online classes.

Thank you for your support.

by Paul Ellinger

In response to James Hall's encouragement for sharing "goings on", Harmony University 2014 at Belmont University was in a word amazing! It was also the largest HU number of attendees in years. Belmont is a beautiful campus with everything being so much closer together. I don't think I walked more than 90 seconds to any destination. I was honored to be on faculty again this year, so I personally wasn't able to take

classes, but all I heard all week was people raving about the classes they were taking, regardless of what classes they were taking. Regardless of how much barbershop experience you have, everyone learns at HU. For example, three other guys and I were making undertones over and over again on a tag and that prompted a conversation with **Steve Scott** who said that even though undertones can be heard live and even in a recording they do not show up as being recorded or registered on the computer via a spectrograph (overtones do show up). The thought is, and not all theorists agree, that undertones are phantom tones that are created by our minds. Freaky.

Not so much into theoretical freakiness? Then check out this online session about woodshedding by **Paul Olguin** (pronounced Ol'-Geen). He got a standing ovation and it likely will change your perspective on woodshedding altogether. Here is the link <http://tinyurl.com/k9rz7tc> or just type in the word "woodshedding" on YouTube.

Now, I'm not a big tag person, but if Paul Olguin, **Hugo Feugen** or Dave and Joey (both 30ish gentlemen) are anywhere nearby, I thoroughly enjoy myself because they are such knowledgeable, encouraging, smart, and all-around great people. Go to HU and you will be able to sing with these guys too!

In short, you just can't go wrong at HU and now with it being so much closer in Nashville (about eight hours from most places within Pioneer) and flights only being \$250 round trip through Delta, it is a great way to spend a week.

Many call HU "The best week in barbershop" and I'd have to agree!

by Olde Thyme Harmony Quartet



Jacob posting on his hands.

OLDE THYME HARMONY QUARTET got a standing ovation at Harmony University for their original song "What's It Gonna Take To Make You Smile" with their surprise ending."

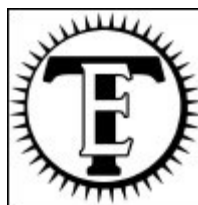
Jack Slamka

In the Sunshine district competition, October 10, **Jack Slamka** (Bass of Pioneer District's Gold-Medal quartet POWER PLAY, for you newcomers) sang in a quartet called THE GULF COASTERS. [**Timothy McShane** (T), **Rod Johnson** (L), **Bart Plescica** (Br), and Jack Slamka (Bs)] They placed first in the Seniors Quartet contest with a score of 68.6, singing "I Don't Know Why (I Just Do)" and "Ain't Misbehavin'." They will represent the SUN district in New Orleans.

Interview – Tonal Eclipse



Your editor interviewed our new Pioneer District champions, TONAL ECLIPSE. Here is their story.



Matthew Root (T), Mark Spear (L), Kerry Foley (Bs), Philip Spencer (Br)

We started singing together in January 2014. We met through singing tags late into the morning at the district contest, usually being some of the last men standing. The distance between us has made it quite difficult to get together, especially during the horrendous winter we had. We try to get together two Sundays a month but sometimes it ends up being just once a month. We usually invade Matt's parent's house in Paw Paw for the day. (They haven't complained too much about the squawking.) On a serious note, if it weren't for the Roots' hospitality in letting us rehearse in their home we wouldn't be where we are today.

Most rehearsals start with a couple tags to get synched as well as to warm up a little. We will usually pick a song to dissect and polish. Slowly working our way through, we will duet any hiccups until they're correct. Then on to the next song with the same process. Don't get the idea that we are all serious. I would say at least 1/3rd of our rehearsal is spent laughing till we almost pee ourselves. At heart we are a quartet that just wants to have fun joking around and singing some songs, but we want to sound good doing it.

Our first performance was as a chapter quartet on the South Bend chapter show in June. Next up was Bush League Contest in Gaylord in August where we took home the Brass Gaboon as the 2014 Bush League Champions. We had one more show before contest when we sang as a chapter quartet on the Kalamazoo show in September. Our first performance as the 2014 District Champions was on the Battle Creek Cabaret Show October 24.

We haven't had much coaching yet as a group but are definitely looking at putting some serious time into that before International Qualifier competition in the spring. Mark previously sang Lead in MACH 1 and GRAND PRIX. More recent to TONAL ECLIPSE Mark sang Baritone for eight years with the 2005 District Champion Quartet THE PARTY.

Kerry is a 27-year member with the Society, starting when he was only 15. Kerry has sung in quartets and choruses within three different districts. He has sung in three different Pioneer Quartets and was Bass in the 1998 Pioneer District champion UPSTAGE

SOUND.

Matt sang with FOUR PART DIGITAL SURROUND SOUND with his uncle throughout high school. He also sang Tenor in the 2009 Bush League Champion Quartet SMALL TOWN SOUND. He is currently singing in two active quartets, TONAL ECLIPSE (of course) and FOUR GOT TO SHAVE.

Phil is a first generation barbershopper. His first experience with barbershop music was through a "Rockin Barbershop" event at Mona Shores High School in Muskegon in 2006. He previously sang Lead in the Collegiate Quartet FOUNTAIN STREET 4.

We are definitely looking forward to the opportunity of singing in the many communities within the Pioneer District. We will be in contact with **Evan Boegehold** for some youth promotion and singing at high schools as well.

We are extremely honored and overjoyed to be the 2014 District Champs. Thank you to the Pioneer District for supporting us, and cheering us on. We look forward to seeing and singing for you all again very soon.

The Society for the Promotion and Encouragement of Italian Cooking in America

by John Cowlshaw (Originally posted in the May, 2004 *Smoke Signals*)

Listen up, all you Italian chefs. The SPEICA competition is coming and you will be judged in three categories, cuisine, presentation, and cooking.

The **cuisine** judge will be evaluating how well you cook in the Italian style. You'll be expected to use pasta, antipasti, Asagio and Parmigiano cheeses, pestos, cold-pressed olive oil, and fresh vegetables and spices. At least 35% of the dishes should have the requisite tomato sauces. The various courses and dishes should complement each other, such as choosing a wine that matches the dishes you've prepared. Use dynamic variety, alternating mild dishes with strong, pungent dishes. Look here - you can cook Tex-Mex or French or nouveau cuisine all you want with your friends, but for competition you must cook in a manner that exemplifies and does honor to the Italian style of cooking.

The **presentation** judge will be evaluating how you present your meal to the diners, including your engaged manner, bright eyes and friendly smiles, your tempo in the delivery of the various courses, your use of color, a pleasing table setting including flowers, the manner in which you offer the wine. If your waiters are costumed, they should fit the type of dishes chosen. Judging begins at the moment the diner is seated with menu. In summary, the presentation judge will be asking how effectively you have brought Italian cuisine out of the cookbooks and into the diners' hearts, causing them to exclaim, "Mama Mia, what a meal!"

The **cooking** judge will be evaluating your ability to cook the ingredients. The pasta

should not be mushy. The vegetables should be crisp. The wine should be mellow. The individual tastes should synchronize together. You don't want some of the asparagus spears to be undercooked while others are overcooked, but rather each dish should have a "unit taste." Of course, your cooking expertise affects your score in presentation and cuisine also, since proper cooking enhances the presentation and the recognition of Italian cuisine. In Italian cooking, we are proud to say, the combination of all these elements will create what we like to call "expanded taste."

Some advice to new chefs. You won't be judged on the difficulty of the recipes, so choose recipes that are within your skills and abilities. Better to cook a simple spaghetti well, than to fail at a polenta or risotto.

Some chefs are still having trouble distinguishing the categories and thereby understanding the basis of their resulting scores. Perhaps it would be helpful to use a simple musical analogy. Our musical brothers, (the "barbers of Seville," we might say) have obviously used our judging system in formulating their own, (replacing our Cuisine, Presentation, and Cooking with their Music, Presentation, and Singing), and from which I therefore will quote so that you may more easily understand the fine art of culinary judging.

Music

The Music judge evaluates the song and the arrangement, as performed. He adjudicates the musical elements in the performance—melody, harmony, range, tempo, rhythm and meter, construction and form, and embellishments—and the degree to which the musical elements of the song and arrangement display the hallmarks of the barbershop style.

Presentation

The Presentation judge evaluates how effectively a performer brings the song to life—that is, the believability of the theme in its musical and visual setting. He responds to both the vocal and visual aspects of the presentation and evaluates everything about the performance that contributes to emotional impact upon the audience.

Singing

The Singing judge evaluates the degree to which the performer achieves artistic singing in the barbershop style. This is accomplished through precise, in-tune harmonizing, a high degree of vocal skill and a high level of unity and consistency within the ensemble. Mastering these elements also creates a feeling of fullness, "ring" or expansion of sound throughout the performance.

— Ciao —

History

History revealed!?

by John H Baker IV – Pioneer District Historian

This past year, two of our chapters celebrated their 75th anniversary, or did they? Detroit was founded first, on July 30, 1939 and Grand Rapids fourth, on November 1 of that year. Grand Rapids is honoring that founding with a dinner and an evening of barbershop on November 1, 2014, recognizing those who pioneered 75 years before them.

So what about #2 & #3? Well, as it stands in Michigan history, the first four chapters formed in our state were Detroit, followed by Lansing, Flint, and Grand Rapids.

The problem with this sequence? With so many chapters popping up in the United States, the Society, still in its infancy, had no real record-keeping. It wasn't until 1941 that S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. secretary Wodicka sent out billings or invoices, requesting each chapter to pay \$3 to register and making them an officially chartered chapter. The \$51 that was collected from the 17 responders was applied to the 1941 National Convention.

It was assumed that **Carroll P. Adams** (one of the first Michigan District Officers) would make sure that Detroit was first to register and the first to receive its charter east of the Mississippi. However, Wilmington, DE. and Chicago, IL. were given that honor in the granting of charter dates. And Saginaw Bay, Muskegon, and Lansing were given 1940 founding dates.

Hence, that is why only Detroit and Grand Rapids have celebrated their 75th anniversary in 2014. Next year, it will be Saginaw Bay, Muskegon, and Lansing's turn.

On another note, 2015 will mark the 75th anniversary of our Michigan or "Pioneer" District. This coming spring's convention will also be the 75th anniversary of the first Unofficial Quartet contest and the beginning of Déjà vu for our district. But that's another story!



SAWDUST FOUR, 1940 State Champions.

A Voice From the Past

Many old audio documents are so fragile that playing them would destroy them.

A physicist named **Carl Haber** heard the drummer for the GRATEFUL DEAD say that the archives of the world's aboriginal music were deteriorating. Haber realized that his instrumentation work at CERN could be applied to photographing the tracks on cylinders and disks to recover the original sound.

In 2003 Haber published "Reconstruction of Mechanically Recorded Sound by Image Processing." This led to his building a device to do it, called IRENE, (The name is based on his first experiment which recovered "Goodnight, Irene" from a '78 platter.)

In 2010, from a wax disk, for example, Haber recovered Bell saying, in 1885, "Hear my voice, Alexander Graham Bell." It was the first time anyone alive had heard what he sounded like. The librarian in charge of preserving that wax disk had never expected in her lifetime to actually hear it.

The oldest sound that "archeophonists" have recovered is of a folk song in Paris in April of 1860. As far as anyone knows, that was the first recorded sound. The singer embedded his voice in soot on a piece of paper. He never heard it. The means for playing back sound weren't invented until 1877, when **Thomas Edison** recorded himself on tinfoil. Haber managed to play the recording. For his work in audio preservation, Haber received a MacArthur Fellowship in 2013.

For more, go to the full story at:

http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2014/05/19/140519fa_fact_wilkinson

Media

Wavebox Singing

Paul Ellinger now has a Facebook site on Wavebox singing.

<https://www.facebook.com/WaveboxSinging> or <http://tinyurl.com/plau57o>

"Wavebox Singing (and Wavebox Music) marries both left brain and right brain approaches, both the technical and the ethereal to allow performing to be what it was meant to be; easy and moving. Ever been coached and felt like you had to remember 18 things and feel like you have to keep 18 balls in the air? It shouldn't feel that way, because it's all one ball."

Four Parts, No Waiting

Investigates the role that vernacular, barbershop-style close harmony has played in American musical history, in American life, and in the American imagination. Starting with a discussion of the first craze for Austrian four-part close harmony in the 1830s, Averill traces the popularity of this musical form in minstrel shows, black recreational singing, vaudeville, early recordings, and in the barbershop revival of the 1930s. In his exploration of barbershop, Averill uncovers a rich musical tradition--a hybrid of black and white cultural forms, practiced by amateurs, and part of a mythologized vision of small-town American life. Barbershop harmony played a central -- and overlooked -- role in the panorama of American music. Averill demonstrates that the barbershop revival was part of a depression-era neo-Victorian revival, spurred on by insecurities of economic and social change. Contemporary barbershop singing turns this nostalgic vision into lived experience. Arguing that the "old songs" function as repositories of idealized social memory, Averill reveals ideologies of gender, race, and class. This engagingly-written, often funny book critiques the nostalgic myths (especially racial myths) that have surrounded the barbershop revival, but also celebrates the civic-minded, participatory spirit of barbershop harmony. The contents of the CD have been

replaced by a companion website with helpful links, resources, and audio examples.
(From the Amazon web site.)

Barbershop on NPR

August 14, NPR aired a six-minute story on barbershop as a passionate avocation. You can hear **Kevin' McClelland's** quartet sing the tag to "Somewhere", "Heart of my Heart", and then his chorus singing "Just a Kid named Joe." <http://n.pr/1yz6HaM>
Good national exposure!

Danny Fong

The marvelous Danny Fong has released another song, "My Sugar is So Refined," as arranged by the Hi-Lo's. <http://www.patreon.com/creation?hid=1038004>
For comparison, listen to the Hi-Lo's at <http://tinyurl.com/qhz7ju5>

Transitions

Bruce Allard



Bruce Allard, 74, of Petoskey, died May 30, 2014. He worked as a claims representative for Aetna and Travelers Insurance for 34 years. Bruce was an avid hiker and had hiked all 46 high peaks of the Adirondack Mtns of New York State. Once he moved to Northern Michigan, he became a member of the Harbor Springs Chapter of North Country Trail Association.

Bruce loved singing. He competed in many BHS chorus and quartet competitions, at the district and international level, over a span of 40 years. He was a member of the HARMONIE MEISTERS of Gaylord, MOUNTAINTOWN SINGERS of Mount Pleasant, was a past member of RACING CITY CHORUS of Saratoga Springs and the UPSTATE HARMONIZERS of Utica, NY, and sang with the Northern Michigan Chorale in Petoskey.

John M. Bolton

John Bolton of Chesterfield Twp passed away August 13, 2014 at the age of 69. He was a nine-year member of the Grosse Pointe chapter.

Glen Russell Clark



Russell Clark, age 87, died September 1 in Grand Blanc. He was a member of the Flint ARROWHEAD CHORUS.

He proudly served with the U.S. Navy. He was employed by AC Spark Plug Division from 1952-1987. He served in many capacities with the Flint Model Railroad Club.

Dale Edward Cousino



Dale Cousino, of Rockwood, MI, died October 5. He was a member of the Monroe North Chapter. Dale was with Old Kent Bank for 20 years, an Insurance Salesman with Prudential for over 20 years and lastly a Black-jack Dealer at MGM Casino in Detroit.

“The Monroe North Chapter is sad to report the loss of Dale Cousino. Dale was a 25 year member of the FLORAL CITY HARMONIZERS and was very active in the planning of activities for the chapter, along with serving on the Board of Directors for most of his 25 years in barbershop” (Chris Berry)

Cristy J. Davis



Cristy Davis, age 92, of Jackson, died on August 12, 2014. A member of S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. and the Hillsdale TOWN AND COUNTRY CHORUS, Cristy was always free with a song, joke, or story.

Cristy sailed the Great Lakes aboard two freighters prior to U.S.C.G. Merchant Marine Pacific Theatre service during WWII, primarily aboard the USS Cape Perpetua. He relocated to Jackson, MI in 1949, where he worked in the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company powerhouse until retirement in 1983.

Daniel G Decker

Dan Decker, age 90, of Williamsburg MI died August 28, 2014. He was a member of the Traverse City Chapter.

Dan was a Navy pilot and he loved singing barbershop, skiing, fly fishing, hunting for morel mushrooms, anything to do with the Michigan State Spartans, playing cribbage, hunting, and his camp at Ranger Lake in Canada.

Perry T. Foor



Perry T. Foor, 68, of Hillsdale, passed away, October 9, 2014. He was a member of the Hillsdale TOWN AND COUNTRY CHORUS.

He was a graduate of Adrian College where he played football and baseball. He was a former Methodist minister and most recently was a financial advisor with Summit Financial. He was an avid golfer and Lions fan.

Ray Guerin

Ray Guerin died ~September 28 in Arizona. Ray was an active member of the Pontiac chapter in the 1970s. He was a member of the HARMONY KNIGHTS [Cliff Douglas (Bs), Ray Guerin (Br), Lyle Howard, (L), and Ed Lilly (T)] which won the 22nd Boyne City Bush League contest in April, 1968.

Kenneth B. Helder

Was a long-time member of the Holland Chapter and passed away August 10, 2014.

Fred Kienitz



Fred Kienitz and his wife Joan at Frankenmuth in 2012.

Fred Kienitz of Fenton Michigan died September 5, 2014.

Fred worked as a teacher and then principal for Carman/Ainsworth Community schools, serving as an administrator at several elementary schools for 26 years.

Fred had loved singing since age 3, which led to his joining a quartet while at Seminary. At 18, he joined the Barber-shop Society, where he remained a member for 65 years. He sang in the Flint ARROWHEAD CHORUS, several popular quartets (including SOUND OBJECTIVE (with Cliff Douglas, Ron Gillies, and Fred McFadyen) which did a lot of successful entertaining in the Michigan-Indiana-Ohio area, and he served as a director, sought-after quartet coach and chorus president, among many other positions.

His distinction and enduring membership was recognized in 1998 by his induction into the Pioneer District Hall of Fame. Beyond his great love for singing, Fred loved traveling, cooking and fishing, hobbies which he could share with his family.

Howard L. Masters



Howard Masters, age 89, of Warren passed away September 22, 2014. Howard retired from Sears where he worked as a parts man. He was a member of the Grosse Pointe LAKESHORE CHORUS and GOSPEL QUARTETTE. He also enjoyed doing woodworking, was an all-around repairman, a fair-weather golfer, and especially enjoyed sugar-free vanilla ice cream.

“A long-time Grosse Pointe and Pioneer singer, a Lead big of voice and heart, Howard was active in quartets for many years, and may be remembered within the district as the Lead of the 1991 District Seniors champs, FRIENDS INDEED.” (Steve Pauling)

“So sad to hear of the passing of Howard Masters. When I first started singing barber-shop, I met Howard at the Grosse Pointe chapter. He was always so kind and supportive to us "kids" when we really didn't know what we were doing yet. I remember him singing so many tags and polecats with us at rehearsal and even more at the pub afterwards, each week. Howard was just a great guy and will be missed.” (Toby Shaver)

John Jay Meyers



John Meyers, 79, of Traverse City, died Thursday, August 28, 2014. He was a member of the Traverse City CHERRY CAPITAL CHORUS.

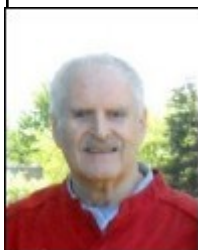
A graduate of the College of Business at Eastern Michigan University, John earned the distinction of working on the building of the Mackinac Bridge in 1957. He was everything U of M. Go Blue!!

Thomas John Peil



Tom Peil, age 62, of Bay City passed away, August 10, 2014, following injuries sustained in an accident. He was an active member of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church where he sang in the choir. Tom was employed with MCV in Midland, where he worked as an electrician until his retirement in 2012. Tom's many hobbies included wine making, bowling, bird watching, going to amusement parks, and watching Detroit sports. Tom sang Lead with a number of quartets from the Saginaw-Bay Chapter.

David Smith



David Smith died September 28, 2014, at the age of 70, in Fenton, MI. He was a member of the Flint chapter.

Pioneer District

THE VOICE

THE VOICE is our Pioneer District youth chorus, and our representative to the Youth Chorus competition at the MidWinter Convention in New Orleans January 7 to 11, 2015.

Muskegon convention attendees loved them. If you missed that performance, or their performance in Mt. Pleasant at the November 1 MOUNTAINTOWN SINGERS' show,

you can hear them sing "Come On, Get Happy" on Facebook.

<http://tinyurl.com/kkdexur>

"I cannot tell you how proud we are to be part of the Pioneer District. THE VOICE Chorus performed very well this weekend and the support from this District was overwhelming. These 24 young singers had a great experience this weekend and felt the love and support from this District. From singing tags to the support on stage and your unbelievable generosity will get these kids to New Orleans in January. The entire District from the Board to the Chap-



ters and the individuals who stepped up to help this young Chorus get off the ground was amazing. On behalf of **Aaron Pollard** the Director, the Pollard's, Gibson's, and the entire Youth Chorus. THANK YOU!!!"

District Hall of Fame

The Pioneer District Hall of Fame inducted two new members this year, **Paul Ellinger** and **Brian Dunkel**, the first new entrees since 2011.

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



Paul Ellinger receives plaque. (Photo by Aaron Wilson)

Paul sings Lead in CHORDIOLOGY and has made numerous presentations on Wavebox Singing and Supercharging Your Chapter. He is currently in charge of Membership Development in the District.

Brian was chapter president in Lansing for many years and sings Bass in SIDEKICKS. Additionally, he has served in several offices in Pioneer District, including President, and is currently in charge of Contest and Judging.



Brian Dunckel receives plaque from Mike Hansen as he enters the Pioneer Hall of Fame.

House of Delegates, October 17, 2014 (excerpts)

BHS representative **Don Fuson** spoke.

The Executive Committee reported that a dues increase was necessary to forego our continually declining balance (\$80K, down from \$96K a few years ago). Annual income and outflow for the district is in the ballpark of \$50K. Early registrations will increase from \$35 to \$45, and single event tickets from \$15 to \$20.

The Leadership Academy will be January 17 at Central Michigan University.

David Calland is our new Harmony Foundation representative, replacing **Sean Devine**.

Dave Montera will replace **Cliff Dake** as Director of Music and Performance.

Bush League has altered its annual date from the last Saturday in August to the last Saturday in September.

Windsor's Sendoff show: **Doran McTaggart** pointed out that district contribution has remained constant for 37 years, and needs to be supplemented by more support from the American chapters, both by participation and by donations.

Donations are sought both for our Youth Chorus rep, THE VOICE, and to honor our district's commitment to Harmony Foundation which supports the Youth Chorus program. **Paul Teska** will also be listed as a donor due to his fundraiser success in March.

And finally, a new chapter is in embryonic form in Marquette, MI. That is outside the boundaries of the Pioneer District, but Land of Lakes has graciously released them to us.



President Dan Bezaire opens the HOD meeting.

Troubadour Business

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, containing a direct link to the Pioneer District web site where you can to read it online or download it. http://pioneerdistrict.org/troubadour/Troubadour_Menu.htm

Letters

A fabulous article about the Soo and an equally fabulous newsletter [August 2014 Troub]. Thanks for doing that! And what an enormous amount of effort and information the entire newsletter contains! Congrats on a superb job! I have passed word of it on to the chapter members and have added a link to the article on the "In The News" page of our website.

Bob Shami

Regarding **Gilbert Steinman** [May 2014 Troubadour]: I don't believe that he sang with Monroe North Chapter. He sang with the Monroe Floral City Chapter. I sang with them from 1964 through 1982, and we practiced at Grace Lutheran Church, in Monroe. After I left, the Monroe Floral City Chapter joined with the Toledo Chapter to form the STATE LINE CHORUS and they practiced at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Temperance. I know that he sang Lead, right next to my Dad. Sorry that I can't give you closer dates, but I know it was the 70's and early 80's.



Dick Metz

Upcoming events/Calendar

2014

Nov 22,	Michiana Metro Lighthouse Chorus fall performance, "A Sentimental Journey." At the Wesley United Methodist Church in Niles.
Dec 14,	Wayne Harmony Town Annual Christmas show, Livonia Library

2015

Jan 6—11,	Midwinter Convention, New Orleans	
Jan 11—18,	Harmony at Sea. Midwinter 2015 Cruise	
Jan 17,	Leadership Academy, Mt. Pleasant	
Jan 23,	7:30, Uncle Sam Night, Knights of Columbus Hall, 2401 Columbus Drive, Windsor	
Feb 21,	2 & 7:30 pm, D.O.C. 76th Annual Show, Clarenceville High School, Livonia	
Apr 24—26,	Spring Convention in Battle Creek, McCamly Plaza. Host: Battle Creek	
May 29—31,	Great Lakes Harmony Brigade, Okemos	
Jun 12,	Send-Off Show, Windsor	
Jun 28 - July 5,	BHS International Convention Pittsburgh	
Sep 25-26,	Bush League, Gaylord	
Oct 16—18,	Fall Convention in Kalamazoo Radisson; Host: Hillsdale	

2016

Apr 22–24,

Spring District Convention Grand Rapids Crowne Plaza,
host: Grand Rapids

Oct 14–16,

Fall District Convention in Kalamazoo; host: The QCA

Promotional Flyers

