



## Society and Pioneer Direction for 2015

### Membership

Recruiting new members, and retaining what we have, is vital. Some of the strategies developed at the Society level include the Story Tellers initiative, where chapters and individuals share their stories to help spread the joy of making music; a new Membership Application, already online; a new designation of membership: Member-At-Large; a general overhaul of Membership Services.

Another aspect of membership is Outreach. Formerly, we used such terms as Youth In Harmony, Youth Outreach, etc., but we are now expanding the concept of Outreach to include other groups, such as seniors, and baby boomers. Part of this initiative includes making our chapters more visible in our communities, not just through singing and performing, but *servicing* our communities. I will speak more toward that a little later.

Keeping and attracting members really centers on one key person in the chapter: the Chorus Director. We can provide opportunities for our directors to improve their skills and develop strategies to enhance everyone's musical experience (members and audience).

### Harmony University

I'm sure everyone knows by now that HU has moved from our long-standing home in St. Joseph to Belmont University in Nashville. But there is much more to HU than just the brick-and-mortar facilities there; there is an increasing number of courses being developed for online delivery. For example, there are videos on the Society website offering training for Secretaries and Treasurers. Future offerings include a 6-part, 12-hour Director Training course, and David Wright's History of Barbershop (one of the "must-take courses" at HU).

### New Music

We had 29 new publications in 2014. We had 34 new learning tracks made available. In the first quarter of 2015, the Society plans to publish ten new arrangements, plus a new Polecat II book. (I'll let you in on a secret: one of the songs is "Hello, Mary Lou.")

### We Sing, We Serve

Our focus as barbershoppers has always been on singing, performing, and competing, and that will never change; it's what we do. But we want to reach out more to our communities. We want to be known as people who like to help others.

At the Leadership Forum in Nashville last November, the group of 90 or so men were divided into two groups, each with its own bus. The *We Sing*

bus went out into the community and performed at a couple of different locations. The *We Serve* bus went to an area that was damaged by a horrific flood a few years ago and collected mounds of debris. What do both of these things have in common? *We are bringing joy to others.*

Many of you in your chapters already do stuff like this, whether you help with a local school music program, or perform for free at a seniors' residence. I suggest that there is much more we can do. Every community has areas that could use our help. Coats for Kids, local Food banks, and so on, are always looking for assistance. Why can't we do this as barbershop chapters? There are many benefits to this; we are bringing help, and joy, to others; it makes us feel good about ourselves; it increases our standing and visibility in our communities; it may even help with membership. How? Maybe the guy who may be a marginal member, the guy who doesn't sing very well, the guy who comes only every other week, this guy now has more purpose and focus being part of an organization that is *doing* something that he can really be a part of.

I will issue a challenge to all Pioneer chapters: let's see how many cans of food we can bring to Battle Creek this Spring Convention. I'm sure the local food bank would be glad for our help, and we would truly be "Bringing joy through music".

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



## TROUBADOUR

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## PIONEER DISTRICT INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONS



### CHORUS CHAMPIONS

1953 GREAT LAKES CHORUS (GRAND RAPIDS)



### QUARTET CHAMPIONS

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



### 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**

### **From Brian Dunkel, Director of Contest & Judging**

Need a little something to get you through another cold, wintry week? The Pioneer District Convention in Battle Creek is just twelve weeks away, and as usual, we have a couple of top-notch activities already lined up!

Friday afternoon FOUR TIME International Quartet Gold Medalist Joe Connelly will teach a class called "The Quartet Experience" at 3 p.m. If you have been a quartet singer, are a quartet singer, or want to become a quartet singer, you don't want to miss this! Plenty of barbershoppers arrive in time for lunch- so why not come early, meet some new friends, sing a bit (or a lot), and even take in the HOD meeting before the classes begin!

On Saturday morning the Joe Barbershopper Chorus will serve as the Mic Tester for the Chorus Competition, in which we will determine our 2015 Pioneer District Chorus Champions. Plan to be a part of that chorus under the direction of Joe Connelly. Joe is not only a four-time gold medalist on the quartet side of our hobby, but he has also directed on the International stage! Don't miss this opportunity to sing for a barbershop legend! Perhaps we can even set a new record for the size of the chorus! Stay tuned for more details including the JBC songs....

### **From Jim McMahan, Pioneer District Secretary**

This is a message primarily to chapter secretaries. However, if you are not the chapter secretary, but you know one---be sure he gets this CRITICAL message!

Every chapter has an obligation to submit three documents annually to the Society through the "Financial Filings" link on your chapter's webpage within the [.ebiz](#) website.

First, let's deal with a nomenclature issue. Many of you feel that you "filed" the necessary documents with the State of Michigan, or with the Internal Revenue Service or Canadian Tax Authority. In fact, I have found evidence that many of you have done so.

What you really must do is to "archive" the existence of those documents with the Society to prove that you are doing the legal tasks essential to the continued existence of your chapter, and by inference, the Society. Therefore, you will see me use verb forms of the word "archive" from this point forward.

There are three documents that you should have archived in 2014:

- Your 2014 Certificate of Continued Existence (COCE)---which should have been submitted to the State on or before October 1, 2014). (NOTE: The Ontario District Secretary has told me that Canadian chapters do not have a comparable obligation.)

- Your 2013 report to the IRS (US chapters---990N or 990M), or your 2013 report to the CTA (Canadian chapters—T2 Short or T1178 Short). Reports to the IRS should have been submitted to the IRS on or before May 15, 2014. (NOTE: The Ontario DS could not confirm to me that there was an income level below which Canadian chapters had no reporting obligation.)
- Your annual review of your chapter’s financial records for FY 2013. This document should have been prepared and archived on or before May 15, 2014.

When I last checked, only five Pioneer chapters archived these three documents during 2014---Detroit-Oakland, Kalamazoo, Lansing, Mt. Pleasant, and Saginaw Bay.

Some additional comments must be made about your annual financial review. Understand that a “review” is not an “audit.” (Those are expensive.) Also, it is not just a statement of your chapter’s starting and ending balances, plus totals of your income and expenses for the year. However, there is a form for summarizing that data, and it may be a part of the review document.

A “review” is an independent examination of the management of the chapter’s finances for the year. It should not be performed by the chapter treasurer, but by individuals who were not involved in the chapter’s finances. The reviewers could be members with some financial savvy, or members of another chapter, or even bookkeepers in a nearby non-profit organization that wants to engage in mutual back-scratching.

Failure to submit a COCE to the State of Michigan for three years in a row can result in the loss of the chapter’s incorporation status. That can expose the chapter’s officers and members to possible lawsuits against them as individuals.

I am sure there must be penalties for failure to submit tax returns to the IRS or CTA. Your chapter treasurer is more qualified to tell you more about that topic than I am.

The ultimate penalty for failure to submit the previous two documents is related to insurance. The firm that provides insurance coverage for the Society has asserted that it may not provide third-party liability coverage for chapters that are not in compliance with federal, state, or provincial laws!

The overall principle behind archiving of documents is to give the Society’s leadership the confidence that everyone is doing his part to protect the Society’s status as a 501(c)(3) organization, and to allow us to continue to do what we do best---SING!

## **Midwinter International Convention, New Orleans, January 6 – 11**

Our District reps, ROLLS VOYCE and THE VOICE, drew praise for their performances at BHS Midwinter in New Orleans.

ROLLS VOYCE; **Bruce LaMarte**—Tenor, **TC Connor**—Lead, **“Doc” Gillingham**—Baritone, and **TR Gerard**—Bass were 12<sup>th</sup> out of 26 with a score of 70.3, singing “Honey/Little Lize Medley” and “Being With You.”



The Voice in performance at Youth Festival. Photo courtesy of Lorin May

THE VOICE, our popular Youth Chorus, placed in the “Outstanding” category at the eighth annual International Youth Barbershop Chorus Festival. Listen to their charming self-description on YouTube at <http://tinyurl.com/lcrn58m>. The 24 young men were supported financially by the district.

51 photos of THE VOICE are available on pg 11 at;

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/harmonizermag/sets/72157648060954943/>

### Seniors Quartet Competition

SATURDAY EVENING POST, a quartet from Colorado Springs, bested 26 other groups to capture the gold medals in Saturday's International Seniors Quartet Contest.

Singing "Tin Roof Blues" and "That's A-Plenty," the quartet earned the highest score ever posted for the Seniors contest, an 81% score that would be comparable to semi-finalist quartets in the open class International championships. (For comparison, Pioneer District's RESISTING-A-REST was the Gold-medalist in 2010 with a score of 74.2.)

All four singers are past medalist and champion-level singers.

- Bobby Gray, Jr., age 57, tenor
- Allen Gasper, age 59, lead
- Brian Beck, age 74, bari
- Tom Wilkie, age 55, bass

You can hear them sing “Tin Roof Blues” on YouTube at <http://tinyurl.com/pdzohky>

SATURDAY EVENING POST competed in the International open competition in 2004, and came in 5<sup>th</sup> with Scott Delude singing tenor. Brian Beck sang bass, Bobby Gray Jr. sang baritone, and Allen Gasper sang lead.



To compete in the Seniors Quartet Contest,

- all singers must be at least 55 years old, and
- cumulative total of ages of quartet members must be at least 240 years.

SEP must have been eagerly awaiting Wilkie's turning 55. Brian Beck at 74 satisfied the rest of the age requirement, raising their sum to 245 years. Beck has medaled in various quartets in all four voice parts.

**From Doc Gillingham:**

Dear Pioneer friends,

On Saturday, January 10, 2015, ROLLS VOYCE competed in the International Senior Quartet Contest of the Barbershop Harmony Society in New Orleans, Louisiana.

We came away with a 12<sup>th</sup> place finish (tied for 12<sup>th</sup>) out of 26 quartets. Our experience in New Orleans, however, transcended the contest. We came away with yet another step in the journey of this quartet. We learned on Friday just how far we had come on this "journey" when we met with our coaches, **Cindy Hansen** and my son, Garrett, and sang through our contest set at 11:00 in the morning. How gratifying it was to hear such positive feedback and to hear the results in our singing! We came away with a greater sense of camaraderie in the quartet.

Tom, Bruce and I brought our wives, Tina, Dodie, and Linda, respectively, and they provided the warm fuzzy nurturing and encouragement that we needed and "hung out" with us. On Friday night, Garrett, the quartet, and wives dined at a local Cajun restaurant called Mulate's. **Jeff** and **Sue Spires** later joined us for great food and conversation. The great company and food were one thing, but the entertainment really caught our attention! There was an outstanding Zydeco band playing and people were dancing up a storm in the middle of the restaurant doing waltzes and some fancy versions of what I would call the "two-step". There were young and old out on the dance floor from age 12 to 80---what a nice blending of generations. The accordion player was a real feature in the band. Not only was he excellent, but it turns out that he had hand-made the instrument which, by the way, could only play in F, Bb and Eb). Great for barbershop, we thought!

We came away knowing that this wonderful hobby of barbershop will continue to flourish because of the hundreds of young men we saw and heard at the Youth Chorus Festival on Friday afternoon. Our own Pioneer youth chorus, THE VOICE, delivered a stunning performance under the capable and inspiring direction of **Aaron Pollard**. It was so inspiring and gratifying watching these young people emote their love for barbershop. We came away in awe of the overwhelming display of talent in the Barbershop Harmony Society after the Friday and Saturday Championship shows with LEMON SQUEEZY, MAIN STREET, FOREFRONT, and the incomparable MUSICAL ISLAND BOYS.

But, most of all, we came away with an appreciation of all the folks in the Pioneer

District who supported us both financially and verbally, be it face to face, by email, by text, or social media. Thank you so much, Pioneer District. ROLLS VOYCE has exciting performances ahead and we are excited about continuing the harmonic journey!

**From TR Gerard**

Hello Pioneer,

Wow, what a whirlwind weekend! Lots of fine food and music. Really didn't have time to see the city like I would have liked, but it was such an honor to sing on the international stage with ROLLS VOYCE! I want to convey a heartfelt thanks to **Tom Connor**, **Bruce LaMarte**, and **Doc Gillingham** for the privilege of competing with them by my side. A very special thanks to our coach **Garrett Gillingham** who showed up for almost every rehearsal with boundless energy and encouragement!!

As we waited back stage, we could hear Pioneer District members chanting out individual names out in the audience! I can't tell you what a rush that was. Special thanks to the Pollards who greeted us with hugs right after our performance!! And an extra special thanks to those chapters for their financial support. It is very much appreciated. We'll be singing at the Lansing Chapter Installation on the 24th. Hope to see you all soon! We'd love to sing for you!

**Youth Barbershop Chorus Festival**

The Youth Barbershop Chorus Festival was held on Friday with seventeen high school and college men's groups from across the continent performing.

The Plateau winners were:

- Plateau AAA Champion - THE RECRUITS
- Plateau AA Champion - SOUTHERN GENTLEMEN
- Plateau A Champion - ONTARIO YOUTH A CAPPELLA

The CHANDLER HIGH SCHOOL MEN'S CHOIR was honored with the AUDIENCE FAVORITE award.

The list of sponsors of the Youth Chorus Festival (\$10,000 or more) included "The Pioneer District," "In Honor of **Paul Teska**," and "**Doug and Lynn Weaver**."

Full Youth Chorus score sheets are online at <http://bit.ly/2015youthscores>.

**From Aaron Pollard:**

THE VOICE had an amazing experience. We really feel that we put our best out on the stage and we couldn't be more proud to bring Pioneer the Outstanding rating and the silver pins. It was truly overwhelming to see all of the support from the Pioneer District and we can't wait to get back to work building the youth movement and hopefully doubling THE VOICE for Midwinter 2016!

**From Craig Pollard:**

Dear Pioneer District,

THE VOICE Youth Chorus had a fantastic trip to New Orleans! We received an "Outstanding Chorus" rating along with silver pins, and a standing ovation. We were very proud to represent Pioneer!

It was a wonderful experience for us: singing tags with international champs, workshops with the great arranger **David Wright**, well known composer **Kirby Shaw**, and MUSICAL ISLAND BOYS, participating in the mass youth chorus, singing on a fabulous stage, and great evaluation sessions.

One of the highlights occurred during our last rehearsal when **Tim Waurick** came in to listen to us and wish us luck! Many of us sang tags with Tim into the wee hours of Sunday morning, went back to our rooms to pack at 5:00 a.m., and board the van back to the airport at 5:30 a.m. – true barbershoppers through and through!!

Our performance is now freely available. There will be an upcoming permanent link, but for the time being, you can navigate to it by:

- Go to The Barbershop Harmony Society website
- Click on "Go to Full Website"
- Click on "New Orleans"
- On next screen, Click on "New Orleans" again
- Click on "Midwinter Webcast"
- Click on "Login Here" (half way down the page)
- Enter email - [apollar6@emich.edu](mailto:apollar6@emich.edu) Password - WZY24H
- Click on "Youth Chorus Festival part 2"
- Click on THE VOICE under the picture

Thank you again for all of your support and helping us live out this dream. Next January – it is on to Reno!

**Some posted responses:**

**Don Slamka:** Great performance by the Pioneer District's youth chorus, The Voice!!! You guys nailed it and made us all very proud. Congratulations on a great job and a big thanks to all of the chapters and individuals that had a hand in getting these young ambassadors of barbershop to New Orleans. A great day for Pioneer! Ho!

**Jeff and Susan Spires:** The guys were great. Pioneer can be very proud.

**Sally Ellis Burns:** Way to go! You were awesome!

**Greg Humbel:** SOOOOOOOOOO Much Energy!! Great Job guys!!

**Doug Weaver:** They were amazing! So proud of our guys.

**Karen Reid Moran:** Watching the Midwinter webcast and The Voice had a GREAT performance. Good going guys!!

**Jill Pollard:** So proud of all of you - fantastic performance! You not only represented the Pioneer District well in your singing, but also in your interaction with everyone you met at the convention. I appreciate that everyone was on time and prepared for all that you did. It was wonderful to have been a small part of the chorus "behind the scenes" with each one of you. Thank you!

### **Slamka News from Mid-Winter**

from Greg Humbel

GULF COASTERS Senior Quartet added a little more excitement at Mid-Winter. **Jack Slamka** (Bs), (2003 Gold medal POWER PLAY) joined forces with **Tim McShane**, (T) (1988 Gold medal with CHIEFS OF STAFF), **Rod Johnson**, (L) (1974 Gold medal HAPPINESS EMPORIUM), and **Bart Plescia** (Br) (still looking for a medal) to qualify to represent Sunshine District and did a very fine job placing 10<sup>th</sup> in the Seniors Contest, singing "I Don't Know Why, I Just Do" and "Ain't Misbehavin" and scoring 70.9. It was nice to see Jack and Kitty again; they were having a blast.

**Michaela Slamka's** quartet CLASSRING was invited to sing on the Saturday night show. She is Mike's daughter and also the Tenor of DOUBLE DATE, the World Mixed Quartet champion. Everyone loved them.

A sound-bite-sized recap of the convention is at <http://tinyurl.com/ocggg2x>

A **Caribbean Cruise** with THE MUSICAL ISLAND BOYS followed the Midwinter Convention. The Lead didn't come on the cruise and **Tim Warwick** filled in and was terrific. A group from Canada called MEN OF HARMONY was there and a small group from THE GUARDIANS OF HARMONY from Rochester sang also." (Bob Wallace)

## **Reports – Chapters**

### **Alpena**

from Earl Elowsky, President

Things have been rather quiet for the HURON SHORE CHORUS this past year. We currently have ten members including our director, **Ted Johnson**. (Ted has been Judge for the 88th District Court for the past 31 years and could not run again because of age limitation.) The only performances for 2014 were at the 40 Mile Point Light House Festival in the Rogers City area and at the Christmas Community music fest at the Rogers City Theater on December 11. Various performers and choruses perform at this event. We are somewhat limited in what we can do for a show. Our last real show was when the MOTOR CITY SINGERS came up and participated with us some years ago now.

### Battle Creek

The CEREAL CITY BARBERSHOP CHORUS, in conjunction with the Battle Creek Sweet Adelines, the MALL CITY HARMONIZERS (Kalamazoo), and The Mid-Lakes Sweet Adelines Chorus held its Harmony Holiday Celebration Show at the Comstock Community Theater on Saturday, December 13. There were two shows, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m., with an afterglow following. It was a great opportunity to hear a lot of Christmas music in a great auditorium.



Battle Creek officer installation.

The chorus also sang at The Fountains in Kalamazoo on January 25, a 50's theme, and will sing at Wyndham Retirement home in Kalamazoo on February 16.

### Benton Harbor-St. Joseph

from Milt Zoschke, YIH-VP

The Benton Harbor/St Joseph Chapter could use a director that wants to build a Chorus in North Berrien County.

Also, I would be interested in knowing if the District might plan a Festival for Youth in our area. We have high schools and accommodations that could easily make this possible. We need a push to continue to work toward a chorus of size.

### Detroit Oakland Chapter



D.O.C.'s GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS Chorus — at Detroit Zoo, Wild Lights

Friday, January 9, was our Annual Ladies Night at Detroit-Oakland Chapter. Thanks again to **Jim Kunz** for arranging this party at Red Run Golf Club and for acting as host for the evening. We spared little expense in bringing in **Dave Montera**, District Music & Performance Director, to perform the installation of officers for 2015. **Joe DeSantis** and **Mike**

**Kramb**, BOTY co-winners for 2013, announced the Barbershopper of the Year for 2014. The plaque was presented to **Roger Boyer**.

Jug Night: On Tuesday, January 27, the Monroe North Chapter invited chapters to

come to Monroe North for a "Jug Night" party to raise money for District quartets to attend the International convention. They met at Monroe Missionary Baptist Church. Joe DeSantis arranged car-pooling. Get a full report under Reports-District, page 33.

The chorus is in final preparation for its annual show on Saturday, February 21 at 1:59 pm and 7:29 pm.

**Flint**



75th Anniversary sing-out at Courtland Mall.

Nov 26 That's it! All done! No more! Last night was the last rehearsal of our Christmas Chorus, and we're ready to spread some cheer across the county with four new voices added. In a matter of a few short weeks, **Mike Thompson, Lawrence Cummings, Liam Smith, and Jerry Hill** took the challenge to learn fourteen songs in the barbershop style, and they are ready to perform with us. I don't mean to tell Santa his

business, but I think they all deserve to be on the nice list! Their debut performance was on Black Friday at the Courtland Center Mall.

WNEM Channel 5 caught us singing December 11 at Genesys Regional Medical Center in Grand Blanc. <http://www.wnem.com/video?clipId=10942205&autostart=true>

The Flint ARROWHEAD Barbershop Chorus was well-represented at the Mid-Winter Convention in New Orleans with two of our members competing on the international stage, covering both ends of the age spectrum. **Tyler Wells** competed with 23 other young men in the International Youth Barbershop Chorus Festival as a member of THE VOICE Barbershop Chorus. And **TC Conner** sang Lead with his quarter, ROLLS VOYCE. And while



Crossroads Village Church sing-out.

they have "left the nest" to attend college, there were two other young men singing with THE VOICE who cut their Barbershop teeth with our chorus - **Brandon Smith** and **Cody Harrell**; we were pleased to have been there at the beginning, and proud to watch your Barbershop careers unfold!

**Gaylord**

The HARMONIE MEISTERS had a number of Christmas sing-outs:

- December 3 at Hilltop Nursing Home, the Roscommon Area District Library, and the Brook of Roscommon.
- December 8, in Petoskey at American House, Mallard Cove, and Independence Village.
- December 15 in East Jordan & Boyne City at Grandvue Nursing Home, The Brook of Boyne City, and Litzenberger Place.
- December 16 in Gaylord at Alten Zimmer, Aspen Ridge, McReynolds Hall, Otsego House, Tendercare Nursing Home, The Brook of Gaylord, and Saturn Book Store, finishing up at 5 p.m. with Pizza.

Officer Installation & Ladies Night was Sunday, January 18, at BJ's Restaurant in Gaylord.

This past summer, the Meisters provided \$225 each in scholarships for three young people to attend the "Harmony Explosion" at Central Michigan University. The three students who attended the event in July were: **Jordan Menne** of Gaylord High School and **Alphonse Buckley** and **Meredith Mason**, both of Gaylord St. Mary's High School. All three of them were grateful for their wonderful music experience. Jordan came to a HARMONIE MEISTER'S rehearsal and personally thanked the chorus and Vice President **Bob Dittmann** who made the arrangements. Jordan and **Alysse Masko** both attended in July of 2013. On a separate night, Alphonse and Meredith came by rehearsal and thanked the group. They also stayed long enough to share some of their experiences and sit in with the HARMONIE MEISTERS at rehearsal. The chapter is hoping to send at least two students to the 2015 event.



Jordan Menne with VP Bob Dittmann.



Meredith Mason and Alphonse Buckley with Harmonie Meisters' president, Dean Deliyianides.

### Grand Rapids

from John Baker

Saturday, November 1 found the Grand Rapids Chapter celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a spaghetti dinner. Eighty friends and family of present and past alumni, including family of the Chorus Eternal members came. The newly crowned International Representatives GREAT LAKES CHORUS sang at the end of the evening following chapter quartets OLDE RULES and SHADES OF GREY. Even three of the first International Chorus Convention Champions from the 1953 Great Lakes Chorus were present, **Ted Wietke, Ed Bloom, and Al Bytwork** came to join in song and memories – both in the mind and on the walls of the rehearsal hall at Second Congregational.



Three members of the 1953 International Champion GREAT LAKES CHORUS: (l to r) Ted Wietke, Ed Bloom, and Al Bytwork.



The hall at 2nd Congregational Church filled for the spaghetti dinner.

The chorus' Annual Holiday Show, "The Secret of Christmas," was presented on December 6 at [St. Cecilia Music Center](#). They were joined by the Grand Rapids Sweet Adelines chorus. An afterglow at the Highlands Golf Course Clubhouse topped off an evening of joyous harmonies.



The Great Lakes Chorus joined by alumni at the 75th anniversary celebration.



**Gratiot County**

from Kenneth Best

Gratiot County Chapter has decided to use a circus/carnival theme for our October (2015) show. We are asking everyone for song ideas for our show. If you have an idea for a song we could use then please shoot it on out to me. We need to finalize our show package by the end of February.

A couple years ago during the society's 75th anniversary we had the pleasure of participating in a combined chorus that performed on each others shows. We all benefited from this experience by being able to perform in a large chorus of approximately 75 guys. Our fans that attended our shows also appreciated the sound that a large chorus can produce.

The reason I am bring this memory back is because we thought that it would be a fun idea to invite our brothers in song in surrounding chapters to be in our show with us. SO YOU ARE INVITED.

Like what was done when we formed the combined chorus, everyone is welcome who is willing to make the commitment to learn the music (that we would provide) and attend a few rehearsals as we get close to show time. We would be honored to host many of you as we welcome our good friends the 2007 Pioneer District Champs CHORDIOLOGY as our featured quartet.

If you are interested, please let me know and I will put you on a communication email list.

**Grosse Point**

from Harold Keys

The chapter held a combination Jug Night/Ice Cream Social/"Alumni" Night on Tuesday, February 3 at the Grosse Pointe Congregational Church, in Grosse Pointe Woods. Several chapters were present.



Grosse Point Chapter at the Macomb Mall.

## Hillsdale



The chorus sang December 9 in Hillsdale.



The TOWN AND COUNTRY chorus sang at the Christmas 2014 Food Pantry Benefit in Coldwater, Michigan.

## Holland

from Jay M. Blysm, President

Gilda's Club in Grand Rapids is an important program that offers support to cancer victims and their families as well as grief support for children. Part of its considerable funding comes from "Laughfest", a week-long festival of many dozens of comedy shows and acts, last year headlined by **Jay Leno** and **Lily Tomlin**. As you can see, this is a significant event.

Last year, the Holland Chapter participated with the HOLLAND CHORALE and the GILBERT AND SULLIVAN SAVOYARDS and put on a successful show in support of

Laughfest. This year, there are not enough soloists/duets from the Chorale for a full program. So the Holland Chapter has taken the lead to support Gilda's House and Laughfest and are asking any chorus or quartet in the District to participate in our show. We have two quartets, the WINDMILL CHORUS and for or five solo/duet acts. We need one or two more quartets to make a "really good shew." The date is March 7, 2015, in the evening at the First Reformed Church in Holland (a nice venue).

To learn more about Gild's Club and Laughfest go to [www.gildasclubgr.org](http://www.gildasclubgr.org).

**Huron Valley**

from William Stutts Jr. Assistant Director, Huron Valley Harmonizers

On November 4, 2014, the Huron Valley Harmonizers welcomed **Greg Stuk** as a new member!

On November 23, FULL VALUE sang appropriate turn of the century songs for the Ypsilanti Town Band at Greenwood United Methodist Church in Ann Arbor. The concert is geared to perform pieces that originated from 1890-1920. Quartet members include **Zak Stratton** (T), **Jim Windak** (Bs), **Jason AuBuchon** (L), **George Jackson Jr.** (Br).



Jim Windak welcomes new member Greg Stuk.



FULL VALUE.

There was some spreading of Christmas cheer at the 6th Annual Lucy Ann Lance Hometown Christmas Radio Show on December 6. The program was performed at the Travis Pointe Golf Course clubhouse. FULL VALUE performed "Slow Rockin' Christmas" and "I Wish I Could Be Santa Claus" with William Stutts Jr. subbing for George Jackson Jr. on baritone.

The HURON VALLEY HARMONIZERS ended 2014 with a performance at the Brecon Village Assisted Living facility in Saline, MI.

On January 3, 2015, HURON VALLEY HARMONIZERS member, **Paul Teska**, joined the chapter eternal after his battle with esophageal cancer. He was a member that had a great passion for singing and would love to sing one out. He was loved at Huron Valley and also around the Pioneer District with his participation with the GREAT LAKES HARMONY BRIGADE. His biggest accomplishment for Barbershop was conducting a fundraiser last March that raised over \$11,000 in support of youth choruses going to New Orleans in January, 2015. We will miss you Paul!



HURON VALLEY HARMONIZERS at Brecon Village Assisted Living facility in Saline.



Paul Teska.

We have a member that has been "shopping" for a long time. **Dick Ender** has made it to 60 years in the Barber-shop Harmony Society. Way to go!!!

FULL VALUE sang and strolled all over downtown Saline for the 2015 Saline Winterfest. on Jan. 24, 2015.

On January 27, the HURON VALLEY HARMONIZERS entertained the crowd at the American House in Pittsfield, MI. The performance was so good that they asked for two encores! It was followed by eating and singing at the Red Robin restaurant nearby.



Dick Ender receiving 60 year membership card from Jim Windak.

### Kalamazoo

During the holiday season, Kalamazoo's MALL CITY HARMONIZERS joyfully joined together with three other SW Michigan area choruses...for the first time ever!...to present our four-chorus *Harmony Holiday...a Celebration!!!* concert to the people in our area. We were joined by the Battle Creek CEREAL CITY CHORUS and two Sweet Adelines choruses...the MID-LAKES CHORUS of Plainwell and the BATTLE CREEK SWEET ADELINES CHORUS. The two shows on December 13 were presented to great and enthusiastic crowds at the beautiful and newly-remodeled Comstock Community Auditorium in Kalamazoo. The shows included both chorus and quartet performances and were extremely well-received by all who attended. The grand finale was a four-chorus rendition of "Oh, Holy Night".

For Kalamazoo, who has had a long-time tradition of selecting a worthwhile, local organization to support during the holidays, we are very happy this year to have donated our net proceeds to *Broncos For Heroes*, an “offshoot” of the ROTC program at WMU. They prepare and ship “care packages” to military personnel from Michigan who are stationed overseas. On January 29, we presented them with a very nice check to help them in their ongoing, very worthwhile efforts.

And, speaking of the military, the *Mall City Harmonizers* were also proud, last September, to participate in the semi-annual *Talons Out Honor Flight*, where veterans of WWII fly to Washington D.C. for the day to visit the WWII Museum there. We were at the Kalamazoo International Airport *very* early one Saturday morning to sing some patriotic songs for 80+ heroic veterans prior to their boarding their flight to D.C. What a wonderful...and very fulfilling...experience that was for all our members! We plan to do the same for their flights during 2015.

**Lansing**

from James Hall



Christmas show

Our second Christmas show at the Charlotte Performing Arts Center is now just a memory (it was our third total show there), and I feel it was successful in most aspects. We had a full, two-hour show with four quartets, plenty of chorus music, an audience sing-along, and it all happened in a beautiful auditorium.

We were honored to have Santa himself as our emcee and it was neat that each of our quartets wore a different Christmas-themed outfit. Some of our chorus members wore red Santa hats, reindeer horns, or other touches in addition to their own holiday neckties. We got many positive comments from people in the audience. Overall, we earned a nice profit and had a great time.

Thanks to **Kevin Lenneman** for creating the show framework, **Don Horton** for writing the script and acting as Master of Ceremonies, **Steve Warnaar** and **Charlie Martin** for teaching us two new Christmas songs and directing us, our quartets

for their efforts, **Larry Parker** for managing the tickets, **Bill Young** for helping me with show promotion, and all of our members for singing and promoting the show.

**Something Big! On the Mark Dantonio show, December 18**

**Don Terpe** (T), **T.R. Gerard** (Bs), **Steve Warnaar** (Br) and **Garrett Gillingham** (L) sang "I'm Sittin' on Top Of the World" and "Jingle Bells" to Coach **Mark Dantonio** and the voice of M.S.U. football - **George Blaha**. The show was broadcast from Reno's East.



SOMETHING BIG!

You can hear the audio of the quartet singing and see Coach Dantonio and host George Blaha's reactions at [http://www.spartansportsnetwork.com/modules.php?name=Programs&op=program&sp\\_id=9&m1=2](http://www.spartansportsnetwork.com/modules.php?name=Programs&op=program&sp_id=9&m1=2)

Choose the Dec 18 broadcast and then move the slider to the 40:30 mark. The quartet performs until about the 44:30 mark.

**Chapter Annual Dinner and Installation of Officers Jan 24, at Robinhill Hall**

The evening included the installation of 2015 officers, presentation of President's Key Man Award, and presentation of 2014 Barbershopper of the Year, plus entertainment by ROLLS VOYCE. **Larry Parker** was Master of Ceremonies. 2014 Pioneer District Hall of Fame inductee **Brian Dunckel** inspired all with his Installation of Officers speech.



Gary Robert, 2014 Key Man awardee.



Jeff Markham, 2014 BOTY.



Brian Dunckel giving Installation of Officers speech.

### Livingston

Following the chorus's "Greatest Hits" show with G-FOURS November 9 at the 242 Community Center, the chapter had a number of other activities.

On November 25, they delivered Thanksgiving food to the Vets.

They had numerous Christmas sing-outs at: Gia's Salon, December 4; Hamburg Historical Museum, December 14; God's Kitchen at St. Joseph's Church in Howell, December 15;

Four chapter officers attended Leadership Academy: they were, **John Savale**-Treasurer, **Scott Turner**-President, **Jason Hall**-VP Marketing and PR, **Lou Magliano**-VP Music and Performance.



Lamplighters delivery crew with VA representative



Leadership Academy.



Singing at Hamburg Historical Museum.

### Michiana Metro



Fundraiser for the Bristol Police K-9 Unit, November 15.



15th Anniversary cake.

Sentimental Journey, November 22 at Wesley United Methodist Church in Niles, MI. This was a fundraiser for Area Food Banks and also a celebration of the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lighthouse Chorus.



LIGHTHOUSE CHORUS and former barbershoppers sing "Keep The Whole World Singing" at Wesley United Methodist Church.



The FOUNDERS VLQ sing at Wesley United Methodist Church.





MEMORY LANE sing at Wesley United Method-



TONAL ECLIPSE, 2014 Pioneer District Champs sing at Wesley United Methodist Church.

### Monroe North

Jug Night: On Tuesday, January 27, the Monroe North Chapter invited chapters to come to Monroe North for a "Jug Night" party (to raise money for District quartets to attend the International convention. They met at Monroe Missionary Baptist Church. See the full story under District Events on page 33.

### Mt Pleasant

November 1 :

Was a big day for the MOUNTAINTOWN SINGERS. First the Harmony Explosion Workshop, and, in the evening, Acapellapalooza III. DOUBLE DATE, the world champion mixed quartet, performed, as well as THE VOICE, and the HARMONY EXPLOSION WORKSHOP CHORUS.



DOUBLE DATE.

December 10:

We are still basking in the smiles and the expressions of appreciation we were blessed with on Wednesday night when we spent time performing for the residents at the Laurels of Carson City. The following Wednesday we did the same thing at Green Acres Assisted Living and Crestwood Village in Mt Pleasant. Spreading the sounds of Christmas is as good as it gets.

January 25:

10<sup>th</sup> annual [Morey Foundation](#) talent contest. We are so proud to be a part of the Morey Foundation's annual high school talent show this year.

The January 14 *Morning Sun News* story said:

“High School students from four districts in Isabella County will perform a variety of songs [and] will feature student acts from Mt. Pleasant, Beal City, Sacred Heart and Shepherd high schools. Three students from each high school were selected by a panel of judges from the Morey Foundation and MOUNTAINTOWN SINGERS in October.

New this year is coaching by MOUNTAINTOWN SINGERS for the students participating in the contest, similar to judges on “American Idol” offering tips to contestants on the popular show. Students who are participating in the show will be given cash prizes, and the winning school will be awarded \$20,000.”

January 14:

The Chorus gathered for its annual MOUNTIE awards and to install its 2015 chapter officers. This was a blast!

**Pontiac-Waterford**

**The Big Chief Christmas Chorus**

Beyond the memory of any of its current members, the chapter has formed a Christmas Chorus each holiday season composed of its own members plus guest singers enticed by street-sign advertising within the community. Rehearsals each Tuesday in November generate a sing-out season in December, with performances on Tuesdays and Thursdays and the bus trip on the second Saturday of the month.



Oakland County retirees luncheon.

This year, the chorus, its embedded quartets, and five holiday guests sang 26 times to

an estimated 2000 people. The venues included the Waterford Township Hall Santa Arrival, the Lakeland High School show, a sorority, two restaurants (including home stomping ground – Heroes Bar-BQ & Brew in Pontiac), thirteen senior centers and assisted living facilities, four grocery stores, a Walmart’s, a greenhouse holiday art show, a fundraiser at Bowman Chevrolet for March of Dimes, a Rochester Old Peoples Commission meeting, and the annual Christmas luncheon for Oakland County Retirees.

Eight of these performances (an octagig?) occurred during a well-managed bus-capade, Saturday, December 13, when 33 members of the chorus loaded onto our



On board the Christmas bus.

Christmas bus, and spent the day visiting retirement communities, assisted living centers, and grocery stores. In the 1990s, member **Tom Jackson** retired from Director of the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Department and joined the chorus, which facilitated County bus rentals for us, (as well as a weekly rehearsal site, reimbursed by our annual Christmas concert for the Oakland County Retirees). The members sang for 20-25 minutes from a repertoire of twelve songs at each station. Tired by the

end of the day, but it spread the barbershop gospel and picked up a few bucks for the chorus. Thanks to Director **Tom Blue** for his usual eloquence and to our guests this season.

On January 20, the new officers were installed and awards announced.

The chapter and quartets ended 2014 with 116 gigs to 50,684 people.



The 2015 Pontiac-Waterford board.



Duane Roy 2014 receives BOTY award.



Fred McFadyen receiving the William Pascher award.

**Rochester**

The GUARDIANS OF HARMONY were invited to be a part of a non-profit organization networking event, "Get Involved, Get Connected", in November at the Rochester Hills Public Library. The GUARDIANS OF HARMONY established a small presence there. We had created a black, folding easel with a collage of photos and articles about the Rochester GUARDIANS OF HARMONY, and barbershopping. **Don Lewis** contributed some Harmonizers. Two quartets participated, one in the morning, **Jeff Olesen** (L), **Mike Hartrick** (T), President **Bob McCaffrey** (Br), and **Chuck Murray** (Bs), and CLASSIC FIT in the afternoon.



CLASSIC FIT with photo and article collage.

When **Cindy Hansen** coached the chorus last year, she invited/challenged the GUARDIANS OF HARMONY, and many members took advantage of, cruising with the MUSICAL ISLAND BOYS after Mid-Winter and putting on a two-hour show on-board!

**Sault Ste. Marie**

Northland Barbershop Chorus members have manned a kettle outside Sears at Station Mall for years. The group traditionally performs carols the final Saturday before Christmas. On December 20, 35 members sang and accepted donations at the kettle. The chorus performs, and volunteers, in thanks for rehearsing at Salvation Army's citadel on John Street each Monday.



Mickey Contini accepting BOTY award in 2013.

Saying good bye to a special man, we're left with the lasting memory of **Mickey Contini** (on the left), receiving the Barbershopper of the Year for 2013. He joined the CHORUS ETERNAL on December 7.



The Traverse City chorus sang in six different elementary schools in the Traverse City Area.

### Traverse City

December 9:  
Annual Elementary School-Sing

### 2015 Installation Banquet - held Tuesday January 6, 2015 at Boone's Long Lake Inn.



2015 Traverse City officers being installed.

The CHERRY CAPITAL Men’s Chorus kicked off their year with their annual installation banquet. Congratulations to our new President and Barbershopper of the Year, **Nathan Tarsa**.



Cornerstone Society Award recipient Floyd Brooks. (on right)



BOTY recipient Nathan Tarsa. (on right)

### Upper Yoopers Barbershop+ Chorus (UYBC)



[www.Facebook.com/upperyoopers](http://www.Facebook.com/upperyoopers)

Bob and Pete attended the Pioneer District Leadership Academy.

### Windsor

The chorus sang for the fourth (or fifth?) year at the Choirs in Concert fundraising event hosted by St. Anne's Church in Tecumseh.



Windsor chorus at St. Anne's Church.

### Reports—Quartets

#### Bidin' Our Time



BIDIN' OUR TIME with Jim Owens and another HFH worker.

BIDIN' OUR TIME sang for the Habitat for Humanity workers finishing up a house in Waterford, singing to about a dozen workers on their final work day, January 7. The quartet dressed in their finest work clothes (jeans, hardhats, paint, dirt and all).



BIDIN' OUR TIME and HFH house.

**Jim Owens**, Pontiac-Waterford member and Habitat for Humanity volunteer said, "This house was a unique project. It is the first "Habitat for Humanity" project done in conjunction with "Homes for Autism" in the

State of Michigan. The house was totally gutted and rebuilt to accommodate the special needs of an autism group home. Soon the house will become a home to benefit three adults with autism. It also has facilities for a care taker.” The volunteers truly enjoyed the performance by BIDIN’ OUR TIME. The quartet established rapport through their great singing and the interest they expressed in the project.

**Evenin’ Gentlemen**



EVENIN’ GENTLEMEN, Roger Boyer, John Paul, Keith Opal, and Terry Webner sing at *Christmas in Plymouth*.



LIMITED EDITION performing at Suzanne Haskew Arts Center open mic Saturday.

**Limited Edition**

The Village Fine Arts Association operates the Suzanne Haskew Arts Center (SHAC) on South Main St in Milford. Charlie’s daughter-in-law, **Andrea Perry**, is its director. They sponsor an “Open Mic” on the third Saturday of each month. In the converted industrial building, with photos and paintings and posters on the walls, LIMITED EDITION performed a four-set to an enthusiastic audience– “Saints,” “Lullabye,” “When I’m Sixty-Four,” and “Sold.”



LIMITED EDITION socializing with their wives.

**Reports – District Events**

**Paul Teska honored with A Celebration of Life, January 10**

Paul Teska was honored with A Celebration of Life, Saturday, January 10, 2015 at the Nie Funeral Home – Carpenter Chapel in Ann Arbor. Paul died January 3, at the age of 63, after being diagnosed with stage four esophageal cancer in September, 2013.

The chapel was filled to overflowing with about 150 people, who celebrated their memories of Paul, this Johnnie-come-lately to barbershop, and his zest for life.

The group included thirty HURON VALLEY HARMONIZERS and twenty other barbershoppers, who had known Paul in Harmony Brigade or were in other chapters around the region. They arrived from Ohio, Indiana, Ontario, and Michigan as far away as Holland.

The celebrants also included about thirty members of The Bible Church in Ypsilanti, which Paul and wife Chris had recently joined. Its Elders, **Dr. Levon Yuile** and **David Cochran**, led the service.

The barbershoppers sang three songs - "This Little Light/Do Lord Medley," "Irish Blessing," and "Goodbye, World, Goodbye." **Shawn York's** video for Harmony Foundation, "Paul Teska's Story," was shown about Paul's fund-raising concert, which raised over \$11,000 last March for Youth in Harmony. Several friends and family also shared memories of Paul's significant, creative, and amusing impact on their lives.



ON THAT NOTE, John Cowlshaw, (Br), Jim Windak, (Bs), Paul Teska, (L), and Tom Blackstone, (T)

The Paul Teska obituary site is at

<http://www.niefuneralhomes.com/obituaries/Paul-Teska/>  
It includes a video of ON THAT NOTE singing "I'm Gonna Live Til I Die," which became kind of a signature song for Paul.

Video of Paul singing "I'm Gonna Live Til I Die" and "Moonlight Brings Memories" at the Pioneer District Convention in Traverse City, April 19, 2013, are available on YouTube at <http://tinyurl.com/pmhm3dg>; also performing "Cop On the Beat" and "Little Patch of Heaven" on the afternoon show <http://tinyurl.com/kxs36ys> and "Moonlight Brings Memories," and "I'm Gonna Live Til I Die" on the evening show <http://tinyurl.com/m5bcvzj> at the Huron Valley Show, *Chords and Cuisine*.

### Leadership Academy, January 17

This year's Leadership Academy was January 17 at Central Michigan University's Bovee Center. The theme was "Leadership for Legacy" and the focus was on building depth in our leadership ranks.

Instructors included: **Barry George** (Presidents Class, Copyright Laws), **Larry Parker** (Treasurers Class), **Jim McMahan** (Secretaries Class), **Mark Spear** (Tag Singing and Techniques), **John O'Dell** (Marketing Class), and **Steve Scott** (Vocal Pedagogy).



Thanks to **Mike Ridenour**, District VP, Chapter Support & Leadership Training for organizing the event.



Steve Scott demystifying vocal training, with Jason Hall.



Where four or more are gathered....in the Barbershop Name...they will sing tags.

### Uncle Sam Night, January 23

The Windsor Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society sponsored Uncle Sam Night at the Knights of Columbus Centre, Windsor Ontario.

### The Jug Night is resurrected, January 27, February 3

from John Cowlshaw, Joe DeSantis, Dave Anderson, Steve Pauling, and Dave Montera

An historical tradition in which Pioneer chapters gathered to quartet and raise money for SPEBSQSA competitors has been revived—Jug Night.

On Tuesday, January 27, the Monroe North Chapter invited DOC to bring the Jug to Monroe North for a "Jug Night" party (to raise money for District quartets to attend the International convention). They met at Monroe Missionary Baptist Church. DOC brought the Jug, a good time was had by all and money was raised. At the end of the evening **Chris Berry** of Monroe North, who organized the party,



Jug Night party at Monroe North.

kept the Jug and announced his intent to take it to

Hillsdale in the near future.

Then on Tuesday, February 3, Grosse Pointe had scheduled an old-fashioned quartet night, gang sing, ice cream social. And with support from DOC it also became a Jug Night. DOC's **Joe DeSantis** announced that DOC intended to get the Jug to as many chapters around the state as possible and thus sponsor these events, without the restrictive rules that contributed to the Jug's "demise" years ago. Basically, for any chapter that wants to sponsor an inter-chapter Jug Night and raise money for International competitors, DOC will bring the Jug and collect and eventually distribute the funds. In order to challenge chapters to host Jug Nights and raise money, DOC has pledged to match the first \$100 that any hosting chapter raises at its Jug Night. DOC will also make sure each Chapter that assists in raising funds for the international qualifiers receives appropriate credit (and appreciation) for their donation.

Members from Pontiac-Waterford, D.O.C., and Rochester's GUARDIANS OF HARMONY joined the Grosse Pointe members. The BIG CHIEFS bussed over from Waterford, all twenty-four of them. **John Wade, Steve Pauling, and Art Schulte** led the evening, which was heavy on quartet singing.

"Thank you Grosse Pointe Chapter for hosting an old fashioned quartet night, gang sing, ice cream social, and Jug Night. **John Wade** led us in a gang sing of many old songs that I haven't sung in decades. In spite of crummy Michigan weather, the turnout was very good, I would guess around 60. It really helped that the Pontiac Waterford Chapter brought in a bus load. DOC's Joe DeSantis brought the Jug and a nice contribution was made to help our District quartets get to International. I know that I really had a fun time . . . So which chapter will host the next one?" Dave Anderson, The GUARDIANS OF HARMONY.

**Two Gold-Medal quartets soon in Michigan**

D.O.C.'s 76<sup>th</sup> annual show, *America Sings!*, features OC TIMES (2008 International Quartet Champions), Saturday, February 21 at 1:59 pm and at 7:29 pm at Clarenceville High School, Livonia. <http://detroitoakland.org/show/flyer15.pdf>

The Lansing show March 14, will feature 2009 gold-medalist quartet CROSSROADS, <http://tinyurl.com/puchxek>.

**Reports – International**

**BHS International, Pittsburgh, June 28 – July 5**



It is only five months away. Be there! It will be an experience you'll always remember. Figure \$800 a person for car travel, registration, hotel, and AIC show for three days, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, returning Sunday. Most of the action is Thursday night (AIC show), Friday (choruses, and quartet semi-finals) and Saturday (Quartet finals).

## History

**Mike Slamka** has put together one song, "Without a Song" by four different quartets, THE BUFFALO BILLS, THE SUNTONES, BLUEGRASS STUDENT UNION, and KEEPSAKE to show how barbershop has evolved over the years. <http://tinyurl.com/p5wlj6e>

**David Wright's keynote address** in New Orleans, "The Future History of Barbershop" is available at: <http://tinyurl.com/kcfk748>

## Thinking of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary

from Jim Styer

The district celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the spring convention in 1990 in Battle Creek. **Betty Cash**, the daughter of Society founder **O.C. Cash**, attended, appeared on area TV shows and participated in a celebration program in the Stouffer's hotel lobby. She unveiled a 65-foot-long wall of greeting cards from the United States and many other countries around the world. Among the cards was "Our Golden Year," a song written for the district by **Enar Pederson** of New Orleans. It was sung by the HARMONY HOUNDS. Then, Betty Cash sang tenor on the tag of "Johnny Doughboy" with the HARMONY HOUNDS. And she generally spread joy throughout the weekend.

## Transitions

### Mickey Contini



Lewis Joseph Stuart "Mickey" Contini passed away on Sunday, December 7, 2014 at the Sault Area Hospital. Mick was born in a railway car (his favorite story) in Ignace, Ontario. A life-long resident of the Sault, a graduate of the University of Western Ontario and the University of Toronto, the former Director of Education of the Sault Ste. Marie Board of Education, and the former President of the Retired Teachers of Ontario (RTO) and the Ontario Public School Men Teachers' Federation, Mick spent 35 years as an educator in the Sault, including as the Director, and as a Superintendent, Principal and teacher, and served the community as a member of numerous charitable boards and committees. A talented athlete and an avid hockey and baseball coach, hunter, barbershop singer, and pool player, remembered by his family for his wonderful sense of humor, and for the grace with which he bore many years of debilitating arthritis. He was especially proud of being a member of the Ontario Teachers' Curling championship team in 1969.

He was also a past chapter president, and one of the earliest of the barbershoppers in our chorus, but dropped out for a number of years for professional reasons. He came back after retiring, and added much to our chorus' progress as a mentor, guide and singer. He also served on our board for many years, in many capacities.

**Marcel “Ed” DePoorter**



of Clarkston died December 8, 2014 at the age of 84. Ed was a member of the Pontiac chorus in the 1970s and its President in 1973. He was a mason by trade and also built, owned, and operated the Four Seasons Inn in Davisburg.

**William “Bill” J. Maurer**



died at the age of 87 in Rochester Hills, MI, January 17. Bill was a teacher who advanced to become Principal at Brooklands, North Hill, and Woodward Elementary Schools. He and wife Gayle were very active at St. Irenaeus Catholic Church and were very giving of their time and talents through their countless hours of volunteer service to many community clubs and organizations. Bill was an active member of the GUARDIANS OF HARMONY Barbershop Chorus (Rochester Chapter). The Guardians are very heartbroken over the loss of one of our own, Bill Maurer and his lovely wife Gayle. May God find a safe resting spot for them in paradise.

**Paul Teska**



Paul Teska died January 3, age 63, after being diagnosed with stage four esophageal cancer in September, 2013. See full story in Reports – District Events.

**John B. Webb**



Former longtime Lansing Chapter member John Webb, 72, of Bay City, formerly of East Lansing, retired engineer, died December 17. John was a gifted musician and was member of the Bay Concert Band, Bay Chorale, Michigan State University Alumni Band, as well as being a barber-shopper. John moved to Bay City about ten years ago, and thereafter, sang with the Saginaw Bay HARBOR SOUNDS CHORUS.

He was a veteran and served his country with the US Army as a Traffic Analyst during Vietnam. John was a proud Michigan State Spartan and received his BA in business administration and was in the marching band as well.

John retired from Michigan Bell as an outside plant engineer after 23 years of dedicated service and was a member of Fremont Avenue United Methodist Church. John enjoyed fishing, singing, playing his euphonium, and spending time with his friends.

**Pioneer District**

**The Voice - Pioneer's Youth Barbershop Chorus**

“Thanks to all of the men of Pioneer District for your generous donations. All of our bills have been paid! We will do you proud!!” From the young men of THE VOICE

**Dottie McDermott**

from Terry Webner, Gentlemen Songsters Chorus, Detroit - Oakland Chapter



It's with a sad heart that I'm reporting that **Dottie McDermott**, 84, the wife of the late Robert (Bob) McDermott passed away yesterday. Bob was past President of the District, the author of our Pioneer District history, and a member of the Detroit - Oakland Chapter. Obituary at <http://shar.es/1bVqxV>

**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](http://pioneerdistrict.org/troubadour/Troubadour_Menu.htm)

**Upcoming events/Calendar**

**2015**

- Feb 21, 2 & 7:30 pm, D.O.C. 76th Annual Show, Clarenceville High School, Livonia, with OC TIMES
- Mar 7, Holland chapter’s participation in the LaughFest, a fundraiser for Gilda’s Club.
- Mar 14, Lansing Show, 7 p.m., Wharton Center, with CROSSROADS
- Mar 29, Huron Valley’s Chords & Cuisine, 2 p.m., Stony Creek Methodist Church, Ypsilanti.
- Apr 11, Sault Ste. Marie's Northland Chorus Show, with A MIGHTY WIND
- Apr 24—26, Spring Convention in Battle Creek, McCamly Plaza. Host: Battle Creek
- May 16, Town and Country Annual Spring Show
- May 29—31, Great Lakes Harmony Brigade, Okemos
- Jun 12, end-Off Show, Windsor

Jun 28—Jul 5, BHS International Convention Pittsburgh



Jul 26—Aug 2, Harmony University, Belmont Univ. Nashville, TN

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**

The Detroit-Oakland Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society  
presents its 76<sup>th</sup> Annual Parade of Harmony

# America Sings!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2015, at 1:59 pm & 7:29 pm

SCHMIDT AUDITORIUM — CLARENCEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL  
20155 MIDDLEBELT ROAD, LIVONIA, MI

*Featuring*



**O.C. TIMES**  
*2008 International Champs*



**BACKBEAT**  
*Northville High School*



**THE GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS CHORUS**  
*2003 Pioneer District Champs*

Tickets: \$20.00 in advance  
\$22.00 at the door

Order Today!  
Call (248) 559-7082

Lansing Chapter  
S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A.  
announces a show....

**CELEBRATING  
75  
YEARS  
of Barbershop  
Harmony!**




Also Featuring these  
other fun quartets:  
Knockin' On Heaven's Door  
Olde Thyme Harmony Quartet  
Fascination! Parts Unlimited  
and

**The Patch  
Chords**

**STARRING The Capitol City Chordsmen**

Also STARRING: **Crossroads**  
2009 International Quartet Champs!!

Saturday, March 14 2015, 7 p.m.  
Wharton Center for Performing Arts at MSU.  
Tickets \$22 All Seats Reserved,  
Order your tickets now!

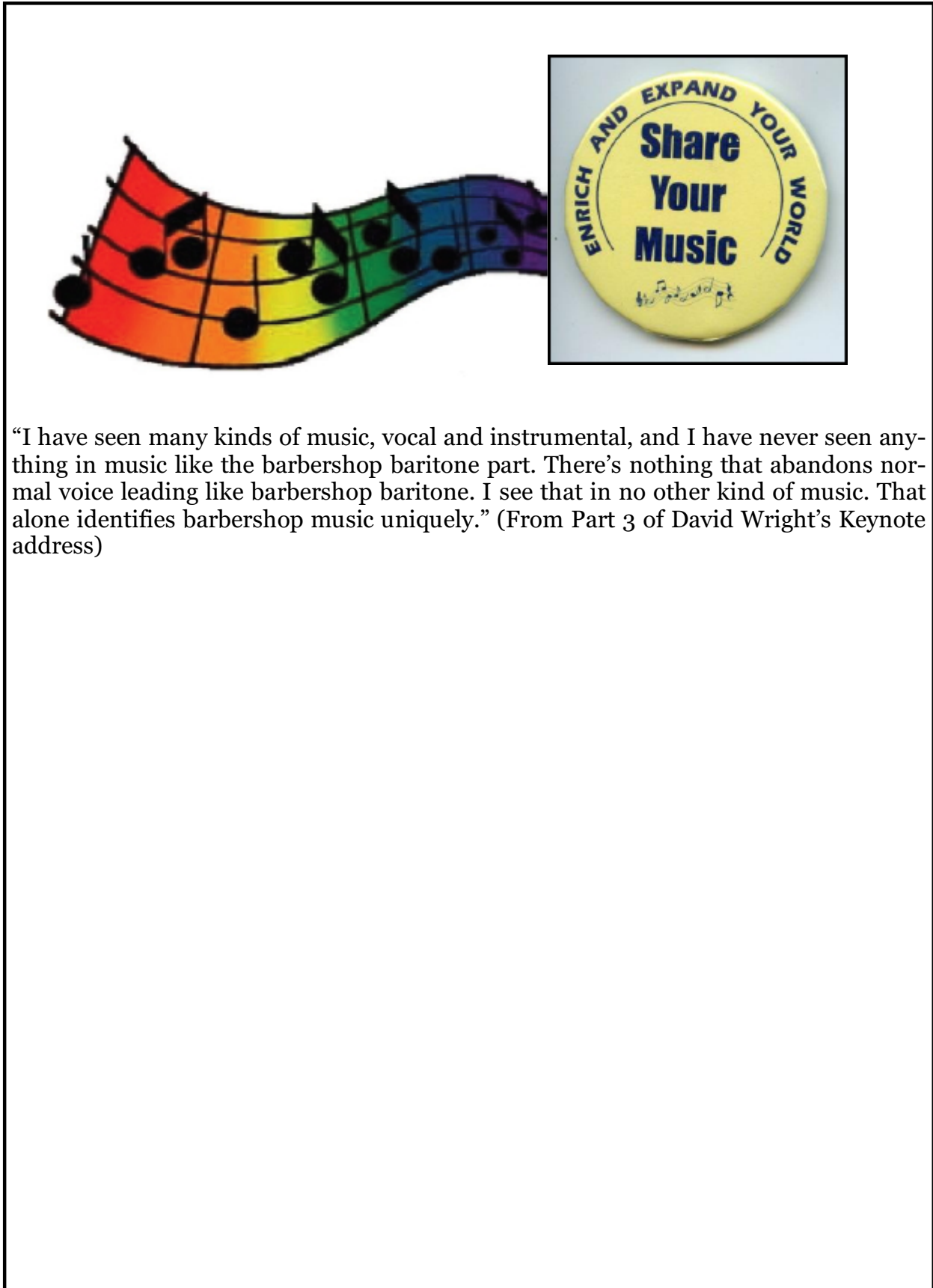


**Great Lakes Harmony Brigade**

*May 29-31, 2015, Okemos, MI*

- Making new singing friends
- Chorus concert events





“I have seen many kinds of music, vocal and instrumental, and I have never seen anything in music like the barbershop baritone part. There’s nothing that abandons normal voice leading like barbershop baritone. I see that in no other kind of music. That alone identifies barbershop music uniquely.” (From Part 3 of David Wright’s Keynote address)