

# TROUBADOUR

## Top Gun is Top Notch



There is an annual event that takes place in Pioneer District that many of us may not know about. That event is Top Gun. What is Top Gun you ask? It is a coaching opportunity for the top quartets in Pioneer District to hopefully prepare them to qualify for international competition.

The Top Gun concept was the brain child of Larry Ajer and was started in Southwest District to prepare quartets for international competition. One of those quartets, a first-timer by the name of ACOUSTIX, used that coaching experience as a spring board and went out and won the 1990 international contest.

This year, Top Gun was held in Pioneer District the weekend of March 13. It kicked off Friday night with the three quartets who were invited to the "school." They were current district champion TONAL ECLIPSE, 2012 district champion MAJESTYX, and 2010 district champion RIGHT ON Q.

Instructors for this year's school were **Tom** and **Tim Woodall**, **Kevin Duncel**, and **Roger Lewis**. Quartets rotated through instructors and then got to present their song package to the entire group at the end of the day on Saturday.

The proof of the concept was the results of the International Quartet Preliminaries in Battle Creek. MAJESTYX qualified for international with a 76.8, their highest score in competition thus far. TONAL ECLIPSE made a two percentage point increase over their last effort and scored 75.1, just missing the cutoff. RIGHT ON Q could not overcome some vocal problems. All in all Top Gun can only have a positive impact on the entire district.



## 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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## Spring Convention



The Battle Creek chapter hosted the 2015 Spring Convention of the Pioneer District. Convention Center was the McCamly Plaza Hotel, and the competitions were held in the W K Kellogg auditorium. Thirteen choruses and fourteen quartets competed.

Our new District Chorus Champion is Mt. Pleasant's MOUNTAINTOWN SINGERS, with a score of 73.9. With 27 men on stage, they delighted the audience with "The Way You Look Tonight" and "Come Fly with Me." Hillsdale's TOWN AND COUNTRY CHORUS was second, with a score of 66.8, and they were also the Plateau 2 Champion. Grosse Pointe was third. The average chorus scores keep increasing, this year being 63%.



MAJESTYX (L to R) Pete Westers—Tn, Jamie Carey—L, James Masalskis—Bs, Steve Wheeler—Br

Eleven quartets competed in the quartet competition. MAJESTYX won with a score of 76.8, and will be representing us at Pittsburgh. They sang "There's a Rainbow 'Round My Shoulder," "Forgive Me," "Mona Lisa," and "Fit as a Fiddle." TONAL ECLIPSE was second, with 75.1, missing the automatic qualification to Pittsburgh by about a percentage point. ROLLS VOYCE was third (71.5) and is also our



ROLLS VOYCE (L to R) Doc Gillingham—Br, TR Gerard—Bs, Bruce LaMarte—Tn, TC Connor—L

new District Seniors Quartet Champion. The remaining Saturday night performers were fairly closely bunched around 66.6 – WINDFALL, RIGHT ON Q, DETROIT SOUND MACHINE, OLD RULES, and EVENIN' GENTLEMEN. There was also an out-

of-district qualifier, RED ZONE from the Dixie and Central States districts. (Their bass, **Adam Scott**, is from Society headquarters and arranged **Leonard Cohen's** "Hallelujah" that is gaining popularity with quartets.)



MOUNTAINTOWN SINGERS acceptance set on Saturday night.

There was only one contestant in the Pioneer District Collegiate Quartet competition, but FRONTIER's score of 75.1 left no doubt in our minds that they will represent the District well at the Harmony Foundation Collegiate Quartet Contest in July. They are composed of Director **Aaron Pollard** and three other members of THE VOICE Youth Chorus.

Of note: almost half of the songs performed by quartets at this convention have been Harmony Brigade songs.



Ed Bittle

Extra-District visitors included lanky ex-basketball playing, 12-year barbershopping **Ed Bittle**, the new Barbershop Harmony Society Board liaison to the Pioneer District, and **David Calland**, our new representative from Harmony Foundation.

**Jamie Carey** led the JOE BARBERSHOP CHORUS thru "Sweet and Lovely" and "Wait Till the Sun Shines, Nellie."



Dave Calland

310 contestants crossed the stage, many of whom returned to the stage at the end of the chorus contest to sing two barberpole cats in Pioneer's second Massed Sing - "Let Me Call You Sweetheart" and "Heart of My Heart."

Thanks to **Roger Lewis** and **Dick Schlee**, Convention Chairpersons, and the Battle Creek Chapter, for hosting the event. Thanks to emcee **Doran McTaggart** for a mind

that exudes funnies like a ticker tape. And thanks also for pronouncing **Evan Boegehold's** name correctly.

Thanks to **James O'Dell** for the new Pioneer 75th anniversary logo which is featured on the front page of this quarterly edition of the *Troubadour*.

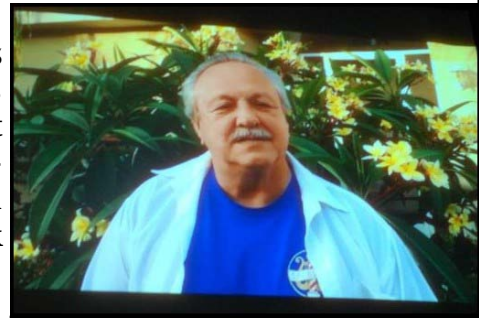
**Joe McDonald** organized the Big Screen and included some funny cartoons of District officers (I don't usually....but when I do....).



Carl Dahlke presenting Glenn Van Tassel Heritage Awards.

Two **Glenn Van Tassel** Heritage Awards were presented: to **Scott Turnbull** of IVY LEAGUE, and to **Jack Slamka** of POWER PLAY.

GREAT LAKES CHORUS performed a western set as they sang away the District Chorus Championship trophy to Mt Pleasant. (With **Doug Weaver** as **Black Bart**)



Jack Slamka receiving his Heritage Award by video presentation.

Three classes were presented:

**Harry Haflett** of HOT AIR BUFFOONS – “Adding Comedy to your Performance”

**Brian O'Dell** of FOREFRONT – “How to Become a Better Performer”

**George Gipp** of REALLY? ARE YOU KIDDING ME? - “Covering the B.E.A.N. (Believable, Effective, Appropriate, Natural)”



GREAT LAKES CHORUS performing Western set.

The GREAT LAKES HARMONY BRIGADE (well, about a third of those expected at the gathering in Okemos May 29 -31) performed two of this year's selections – “Zing! Went the Strings of my Heart” and “Your First Day in Heaven.”

**William Stutts, Jr** continued the tradition of Tag rooms, and added a new feature - the two top Rib Ticklin' tag quartets performed on the Saturday night show.

Eight choruses held Hospitality Suites where quartets strutted their stuff Saturday night. A new young mixed quartet made a splash singing several SUNTONES favorites. They are called THE HEIGHTS, playing on the variance of height between Tenor **Joelle Laginess** and Bass **Toni Jones**. Their set included “That Old Black Magic,”



“Bye Bye Blues,” and “Watch What Happens.” Toni, **Chris Potka** (Br) and **Jacob Carroll** (L) sing in the Grosse Pointe LAKESHORE CHORUS. Sweet Adeline Joelle sings with VOICES IN HARMONY from Ypsilanti under **Lynne Peirce**. She also sings bass with a Sweet Ad quartet called PARTY FAVORS. You can find out more about them on Facebook at <http://tinyurl.com/o9gfuvh>.



Tag quartet #1



Tag quartet #2



THE HEIGHTS

## House of Delegates, April 24, Excerpts

President Dan Bezair led the meeting.

The Hal Leonard Corporation is publishing and distributing worldwide our 100 top barbershop arrangements. They have released about 50 arrangements so far. This has extended our music sales up 266%.

Harmony Foundation (HF) representative to Pioneer **David Calland** reported on contributions to HF. About 5% of Pioneer members have contributed \$198,000 to make our District a gold medalist, although that percentage is below the 16% of all BHS members that contribute.

District Secretary Jim McMahan reported that most chapters have filed the reports required by the IRS and the State of Michigan, but last year only five chapters completed the archiving of those documents, plus their annual financial reviews, with the BHS. Failing to file the first two documents can place their 501(c)(3) status in jeopardy with governmental agencies.

It was reported that a new chapter in Marquette has now been licensed to operate as a BHS chapter. The chapter chorus is known as the UPPER YOOPERS chorus. This is the first new chapter in Pioneer since the Mt Pleasant chapter was established as the MOUNTAINTOWN SINGERS chorus.

**Doug Smeltz** of JAD reported on the development of his concept of a Senior Chorus competition. Each district is asked to form a senior chorus (members 55 and older)



and get scored during a 2016 competition. The top five district choruses will be invited to perform at Midwinter convention in January 2017.

**Aaron Pollard** is our new Pioneer District Director of Youth in Harmony.

**Doran McTaggart** distributed tickets for the fund-raising Send-Off gathering in Windsor June 12. He encouraged more participation from the USA; usually only about a third of 400 participants are from the “south side.”

**Doug Weaver** will be contacting chapters for contributions to the district’s support of the Youth Chorus festival. This is separate and additional to any specific support for our own representative – THE VOICE.

Last year, Pioneer members’ contributions to Harmony Foundation resulted in \$5000 being returned to the Pioneer District and its chapters.

There was a cautionary note that chapters should get the \$50 rider when they request their third party liability certificate if they plan to have non-BHS singers on their show stages.

Three types of chapter grants are available from the BHS. Requests for these grants must be made through Harmony Foundation.

## Reports—Chapters

### Detroit Oakland



DOC guest night.

The Chapter’s 76<sup>th</sup> annual show, “America Sings”, featured OC TIMES, 2008 International Quartet Champions, and BACKBEAT, Northville High School’s Male A Cappella Group, plus The GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS Chorus with CO-DA HON-

OR, EVENIN’ GENTLEMEN, and NIGHT SHIFT.

D.O.C held their guest night, Monday, March 9, and it attracted five guests. “As part of the program, we demonstrated how we introduce new songs to the group with “Home on the Range.”



FORUM SHOPPERS were on the Paul W Smith radio show on WJR. (L to R) Andy Savel—Tn, Dave Montera—Ld, Bill Giovan—Bs, Marv Skupski—Br.

## Flint

The Flint ARROWHEAD Barbershop Chorus presented its 2015 Spring Barbershop Show "Hee Haw Harmony" on Saturday, May 9. Guest performers included DOUBLE-DATE, and a Flint Banjo Ensemble.

## Grand Rapids

The GREAT LAKES CHORUS is preparing for its 2015 annual show on May 16, "How the West Was Sung." They're also working hard, getting ready to represent the District at the International Chorus Contest in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in July, 2015.

## Grosse Pointe

from *The Pitch-Pipe*, Harold Keys, editor

Chapter Officers Installation Night was February 17 at Sajo's in Clinton Twp. Dinner was served prior to the installation, and singing followed.

Two performances started the 2015 season:

- A show with the Sweet Adeline's to help support the St Clair Theater Guild.
- Singing at the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of Defer Elementary School in Grosse Pointe.

## Hillsdale

The TOWN AND COUNTRY CHORUS sang at the March 15 service of South Woodbridge Pentecostal Church of God, in Camden.

It is preparing for its May 16 show, "A Cappella Showcase," featuring guest quartets GQ and INSTANT CLASSIC.

## Holland

Holland Chapter's Laughfest Songfest was cancelled.

Sometime ago I wrote to the Pionet to alert you to, and welcome you to, the WINDMILL CHORUS' hosting of Laughfest Songfest supporting Gilda's House in Grand Rapids with MAJESTYX as the headliner. Because of a scheduling conflict, we learned the venue had not been properly secured by the Laughfest folks and we either had to cancel the event or sing at someone's wedding. The song the Windmill chorus was going to sing ("Ever Since We Got that Waterbed, We've Just Been Drifting Apart") and BREAKTIME's rendition of "Liar's Medley" were enough to cause the wedding party to un-invite us. I pass along Laughfest's apologies for the confusion.

Jay M. Bylsma  
President  
Holland Chapter

“Elvis Has Entered The Building,” a barbershop tribute to the late, great **Elvis Presley** was the Holland Chapter's annual Tulip Time Festival Show on Saturday, May 2, in Holland's Beechwood Church. The show, complete with a prominent Michigan Elvis Tribute Artist as Master of Ceremonies, **Steve Hunt**, extended a Festival barbershop tradition unbroken since the 1960s.

## Huron Valley

from William Stutts Jr, Assistant Director, HURON VALLEY HARMONIZERS

### Singing Valentines (Feb. 13 & 14)



Happy “Singing Valentine” recipient.

Huron Valley performed around 30 Singing Valentines over two days to lovebirds all over Washtenaw County. As you know, it is one of our favorite days in Barbershop. One of our new members, Bob, got one for his wife, Anne. She thoroughly enjoyed it!

### Jug Night (February 25)

Huron Valley joined the Monroe North FLORAL CITY HARMONIZERS as they passed the jug to the Hillsdale chapter. The chapter that has the jug will come unannounced to a chapter meeting and give it to the new chapter. The purpose is to raise funds for district quartets going to International. We had fun coming along for the ride.



Monroe North director, Chris Berry, passes the Jug to Hillsdale director, Don Slamka.



Hillsdale, Monroe North, and Huron Valley chapters have a ton of fun singing.

### Washtenaw Agricultural Council Banquet (March 19)

Huron Valley had the opportunity to entertain the fine people at the Washtenaw Agricultural Council Banquet in Chelsea. The banquet had around 200 people that came and watched the performance. That is awesome!

## Chords & Cuisine 2015 (March 29)

This is Huron Valley's annual cabaret show. We feature a hearty pasta meal and home-made desserts prepared by the members. Even with Michigan State playing that afternoon to vie for a spot in the Final Four, we had a packed house. Along with the HURON VALLEY HARMONIZERS, we had some wonderful quartets to fill out the performance. Our chapter quartet, FULL VALUE, performed "Your First Day in Heaven" from the Great Lakes Harmony Brigade package.

We were also joined by a quartet that always entertains very well, ALGORITHM, who recalled warmer weather with "Summertime."

We also had a Sweet Adelines Quartet from the VOICES IN HARMONY chapter, named PARTY FAVORS.

Our show was headlined by the 2007 Pioneer District champs, CHORDIOLOGY. As you see, they love to participate with the audience!

One aspect of the show is that out of the 13 guys on stage, 6 had never performed in the C&C show before. Thank you NEW members!!!!!!



FULL VALUE



ALGORITHM



PARTY FAVORS



CHORDIOLOGY





The Chords & Cuisine crowd enjoying the show.



Huron Valley Harmonizers at Chords & Cuisine.

### Brookhaven Manor, April 7

On April 7, the HVH serenaded the residents of Brookhaven Manor in Ann Arbor, after which they ate and sang at the nearby Max & Erma's.

### Great time in Battle Creek!!!



DETROIT SOUND MACHINE

Convention is always a great time but something awesome happened in Battle Creek. HVH member, **George Jackson Jr.**, competed in his first real competition quartet -- DETROIT SOUND MACHINE. The goal for this new quartet was to make the cut into Saturday night. They did that and then some. Ending with a score of 66.9 and placing 6<sup>th</sup>. Huron Valley and the entire Pioneer District feels proud for them! Good job guys!!!

### Making Growth

Huron Valley is having a great stretch of gaining some new members!!! Here are the most recent ones.

- Sean Montgomery
- Bob Snyder
- Cameron Reddy

We are getting a good flow of guests and there might be a few more down the road. Onward & upward!!!!

### **Kalamazoo**

from Michael Sobel

This year the Kalamazoo MALL CITY HARMONIZERS is proud to announce that we're

celebrating our 75<sup>th</sup> year of singing for the people of greater Kalamazoo. Our chorus was founded here in 1941 (even *before* Pearl Harbor, that year!). (Wow...we've all been singing for a *really, really, really long time*...and loving every minute of it.)

### Honor Flight, April 25

On Saturday, April 25, the Kalamazoo MALL CITY HARMONIZERS chorus was again honored by the *Talons Out Honor Flight* organization in being asked to sing for the WWII veterans who were getting ready to board their 7 a.m. flight to Washington, D.C. to visit the WWII Museum there. This event happens twice each year out of Kalamazoo Airport...we also sang for the flight last October. It's a very fulfilling honor for fifteen of us to be there and to pay tribute to these American heroes, most of the sixty veterans in their late 80's and early 90's. We sang our Patriotic Package, including the "Armed Forces Medley," "America the Beautiful," and "God Bless America," with many of them, most in wheelchairs, coming over to sing along with us. What a great way to start a very long day...going from there over to Battle Creek to compete in the Chorus competition a few hours later.



MALL CITY HARMONIZERS sending off the Talons Out Honor Flight. (Photo courtesy of Remember Your Life Photography)

They had also asked us to sing for the next Honor Flight, this one out of Grand Rapids, on Saturday, May 16, but we turned that one over to the GREAT LAKES CHORUS who are looking forward to the same wonderful experience that we have had. (And also to add to a long day for *them*, as well, as that's the day of G.R.'s Annual Show, *How the West Was Sung!*)

Our chorus has been invited to sing again, on September 26, at the next Kalamazoo flight.

For more information on the Talons Out Honor Flight, go to:  
[www.TalonsOutHonorFlight.org](http://www.TalonsOutHonorFlight.org).

## **Lansing**

Lansing Show, March 14  
by John Cowlshaw

Wharton Center is Michigan's largest performing arts venue, and a step inside the huge structure Saturday night, March 14 showed why. It was the site of The CAPITOL CITY CHORDSMEN'S show, "A Sentimental Journey – 75 Years of Barbershop Harmony," referring to the history of the Lansing chapter, founded in 1940.

Under the direction of **Steve Warnaar**, the 33-man chorus sang songs that represented the decades in that lifetime. In-house quartets included OLDE THYME HARMONY QUARTET, PARTS UNLIMITED, KNOCKIN' ON HEAVEN'S DOOR, and PATCH CHORDS. Guest quartets included a Sweet Ads quartet from the SPIRIT OF DETROIT chorus – FASCINATION! and CROSSROADS. It was CROSSROADS, of course, that drew so many barbershoppers from across Michigan. They sang eight songs in the show, and four more at the Afterglow. (The Afterglow was seven miles away at Robin Hill Catering, and **Zaven Melkonian** and I would like to personally thank Dolores, my cell-phone-resident Google map girl, for guiding us thru the streets of Lansing.) **Fred Farrell, Mike Slamka, Jim Henry, and Brandon Guydon** sound stronger than ever. What gusto, historical deference, fast lips ... and bulk... they have! Slender baritone Brandon joked that there was a half a ton of harmony on the stage with him. Jim Henry cracked most of the jokes. "People ask how four guys from four different states found each other ... and the answer is quite simple – eHarmony.com"



CROSSROADS



FASCINATION!



Lansing show afterglow with CROSSROADS singing.

A memorable aspect of the evening was that six past directors are still living and were present to tell some stories and share directing of the final number. They are: **Ken Gibson, Doc Gillingham, Pete Stephens-Brown, Mike O'Donnell, Jamie Carey, and Jessica Thompson.**



CAPITOL CITY CHORDSMEN ...cool!



## Singing Valentines

by Ted Rahl

Lansing's newest quartet, sang their first Singing Valentines Friday. People had seen chorus members on TV and contacted a member of our quartet about the Singing Valentines after learning that reservations were closed. Since the other quartets had more than they could handle we decided to provide singing valentines for the late-comers on Friday. We sang from Chelsea and Mason to several in downtown Lansing and ended the day on the MSU Campus. We only wished we all could have sung on Saturday. But what a harmonious day we had.

Singing Valentines were also delivered by FOR HEAVENS SAKE, TAKE NOTE, and PATCH CHORDS.

PARTS UNLIMITED (**Charlie Martin, Kevin Lenneman, Bill Osterhouse, Bob Fox**) promoted SVs on the Wharton Show and on the "Michael Patrick Shields in the Morning Show."

## Livingston



Livingston quartet presents a singing valentine.



Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living at the University of Michigan Health System.



DOCTORS OF SONG at the Community Connect event, February 7, Parker Middle School.



## Pontiac-Waterford

### Singing Valentines

4UR PLEASURE got its feet wet performing four Singing Valentines to 46 people, in Farmington, Troy, and Clawson.

BIDIN' OUR TIME had thirteen gigs to 283 people over the three-day period. They included restaurants, schools, hospitals, senior living centers, and individuals.

LIMITED EDITION had eight gigs to 244 people. Several gigs were particularly interesting. It was a tearful response to "God Bless the USA" by the veterans at the American Legion in Wixom.

They were hired by the Director of Body Language Yoga in Clawson to sing at the party that followed a "couples Valentines Yoga session." Needless to say, everyone was melted out.



4UR PLEASURE (L to R) Jack Teuber, Jim Owns, Bob Wallace, Walt DeNio.



4GVN singing at MyFoxNews.

The quartet picked up **Chuck Murray's** 10-yr-traditional gig at MacPhee's Restaurant in Ortonville, with many friends present. And they sang at a private Valentines dance on the second floor of a private home in Clarkston. Couples danced as the quartet sang.

4GVN performed on MyFoxNews, Channel 2, Detroit, February 4, to an estimated 800,000 viewers. They were on for almost 10 minutes, singing to anchor **Deena Centofanti** and talking about barbershop.

### St Patrick's Day at Canterbury-On-The-Lake

The chorus continued its tradition of singing at Canterbury on the Lake for St Patrick's Day, March 17. **Freddie McFadyen** led the group of 30 thru a set that included some Irish songs, and quartet presentations by 4UR PLEASURE, 4GVN, and LIMITED EDITION. The formal program in the Chapel was followed by the customary green beer in the parlor.



BIG CHIEF CHORUS singing on St. Patrick's Day at Canterbury-On-The-Lake.

## Saginaw Bay

from Ralph Brown

### Installation Dinner, April 18

Do you remember SMOKEY AND THE BANDITS? They entertained our district for years back in the 70's, 80's and 90's. **Bill Grumbley**, **Jack Ware**, **Doug Beaver**, and **Bob Deming** were one of our district's most popular comedy quartets and they would sing anywhere for any chapter at a reasonable price - usually for free! Bill Grumbley is celebrating

his 70th year as a barbershopper. Bob Deming (Bass in the quartet) has 52 years. The Society confirmed that there are only five guys with greater longevity!

We celebrated Bill and installed our officers on April 18 at Ole Tyme Broadway Restaurant in Bay City. After the great meal, we were entertained by the HARBOR SOUNDS Chorus and quartets.

### Bill Grumbley

Over seventy years ago William "Bill" Grumbley was invited to a barbershop rehearsal in Bay City, Michigan and it was love at first song. A quartet was singing "Good Bye My Coney Island Baby" and Bill was rapt as the chords rang and the hair stood up on his arms. Thus began a long wonderful ride on the Barbershop trail that led him all over Michigan and in surrounding states and Canada.

He has sung with quartets that have been champions and near champions. Four of his most celebrated quartets were THE SOLITAIRES (1954 Bush League Champs), DELTA AIRES (1964 Bush League Champs), ORIGINAL CHOICE, and for over twenty years, the comedy quartet SMOKEY AND THE BANDITS.

Bill is a treasure trove of stories, from singing on a show with the Buffalo Bills, to a chance at singing on the Dinah Shore TV Show.

We hear these words too often, 'I wish I had discovered barbershop when I was younger'. This was not the case with Bill. He started before he was age eligible to join our Society.

The local Chapter rehearsed in an establishment that served alcohol, but no food, so he was technically not allowed in the place. Undeterred, he jumped in with both feet and sang nearly every day. In later years it became seven days a week. It was often ten to twelve hours per day. He ate, drank, and breathed barbershop, especially when he was singing with a quartet.

If you are looking for the epitome of barbershoppers, you need look no farther than Bill.



1954 SOLITARES, Bill Grumbley, D. Grunder, Bob Tracy, M. Musolf.



1964 DELTA AIRES, Bill Grumbley, Herb Benjamin, Doug Beaver, Len Johnson.

### Sing-out

Did you ever have one of those days? Boy, did you ever have one of those days? We went to sing for the folks at Plainview Assisted Living where we have sung numerous times, but we had a new experience.

When we arrived we were directed to one of the empty rooms to warm-up. Just as we got started with the usual hands over your head and touching your KNEES routine, there was a rap at the door and the facility's Director informed us that they had a problem recently with an infectious disease and health officials required all visitors to wear a surgical mask.



President Dan Bezaire presenting plaque to Bill Grumbley.



HARBOR SOUNDS chorus pranked on April Fools Day.

You can probably imagine the surprise and wonder on the faces of the chorus. Well, they had thought about that so they gave us masks with a hole cut out around the mouth area. Hey, you have to do what you have to do. So we donned our masks and proceeded to the performance hall. The audience didn't appear to be too surprised, but, some gave us quizzical looks. We had done some unusual gags in the past; however, this was legitimate.

After we sang our first song, some of the staff had smirks on their faces and one of them was taking pictures. Then we were told we could

take the masks off.

Oh, did I tell you it was Wednesday, April the first? What a hoot!, the laugh was on us. Isn't this a wonderful hobby?

### **Sault Ste. Marie**

The NORTHLAND Barbershop Chorus and Sault Ste Marie Chapter presented its 51st Annual Show on Saturday, April 11, entitled "Vintage Vinyl." It featured thirteen hit songs from 1957-1967 vinyl recording's golden era, and an original script by **Bob Shami**. Headline quartet was A MIGHTY WIND.

#### From Art Fink

"Vintage Vinyl" – The NORTHLAND Barbershop Chorus' 2015 annual show, April 11, 2015.

"You have no idea what a gem you have in your audience", commented the MIGHTY WIND quartet, about the Sault audience, who called them back for an unusual (for them) encore. Comments from the audience mirrored this reaction, calling the quartet "remarkable," "fantastic," and "terrific entertainers."

Once again, the Sault audience, on April 11, 2015, was enthralled with the latest of Bob Shami's musical stories, this time of an aging curmudgeon, transformed by his love of 50s music and his wife, through an old magic radio and its built-in chorus. Numbers included "My Girl," "In My Room," "Under the Boardwalk," "When I'm 64," "Devoted To You" and others. Our chapter quartet, SOLID GROUND, also contributed solid additions to the story, singing "Pretty Woman" and "A Song From the 50s."

Using three local actors, (one a chorus member), professional lighting and sound teams, plus another terrific script from our team, the packed house gave both the chorus and the visiting quartet, A MIGHTY WIND, (BHS 4<sup>th</sup> Place International Medalists from Dixie district), standing ovations.

A fine time was had by all.

### **Traverse City**

QUAD PRO QUO, WINDFALL and SHORELINERS were out performing Singing Valentines.

Nine a cappella groups performed March 1 at Milliken Auditorium as part of a benefit for NMC Children's Choir. It included QUAD PRO QUO and the local Sweet Ads GRAND TRAVERSE Show Chorus.





QUAD PRO QUO delivered a singing valentine.



WINDFALL, decked out for singing valentines.

### Upper Yoopers Barbershop Chorus (UYBC) from Pete Stephens-Brown

I received word this that our Chapter License application has been signed by three people in two states (and one province in Canada), and is now sitting on a desk in our national Headquarters offices in Nashville, KY! It won't be long, now, and we'll exist! We defer to the wisdom and tough love our trusted and experienced advisors have given us. In preparing for what would have been our first of many annual shows, we have recently learned we do not yet have the critical mass of manpower, legal standing or financial backing required to collect, feed and present four Choruses and an out-of-area Quartet in what was conservatively projected to be a \$10,000 project. We will not present our April 11 SpringFlingSing'15, but will look forward to presenting other shows in the future, when we are more ready. Our current plan is to grow membership, acquire the legal framework and strengthen our financial projections to move forward more dependably.

For all those who had been willing and excited about our potential, Thank You. We hope we will very soon be more worthy. Help us grow and perform for your events! We can still have our first annual SpringFlingSing, just in 2016!

### Wayne

from Scott Casey, director, HARMONYTOWN

Thanks to the successful efforts of **Frank Adams** (Bass) in contacting program host **Karen Drew**, a quartet of HARMONYTOWN singers appeared February 10 on WDIV's "Live in the D." Joining Frank were the world-re known baritonist **Bill McKenzie**, the always stellar **Dan Latimer** on tenor, and **Scott Casey** on lead.

The chorus also performed Wednesday, March 25, at the Village of Westland Senior Community.

## Windsor

"Uncle Sam Night" - what a great evening tonight (January 23) was. The Windsor chapter hosted their 40<sup>th</sup>-something annual event. We had a great turnout, and tonight's chorus competition was a "tie" "again," go figure!! We put up five choruses and sixteen quartets - everyone there had a blast. Thank you to all of our Michigan friends who came to sing, eat, and laugh. Special thanks to Roger our Program VP for putting it all together for us. We Love this event! Below are a few pictures from the event.



In April the chorus performed a fundraiser at Applebee's Restaurant in Windsor. This was a Flapjack Fundraiser A Cappella Sunrise and included a hardy pancake breakfast to go along with our spring show. We had a great turnout and the audience really enjoyed our spring show this year. The SUN PARLOUR CHORUS does this in conjunction with our chapter's Youth in Harmony program, and it is our third year doing so. We always make a substantial donation of the proceeds directly to the music program of one of the area's high schools. This year it was Holy Name Catholic High School in Windsor. What a great day!

We wish to say farewell and thank-you to one of our long standing chapter quartets, JUST 4 KIXX. We, along with I'm sure much of the Windsor and Essex community, appreciate their many years of great entertainment.

## Reports—Quartets

### Evenin' Gentlemen

On Saturday, March 21st the EVENIN' GENTLEMEN of D.O.C. participated in the 4<sup>th</sup> annual "Bestest Concert Ever." Benefitting the Royal Oak Optimists Club and the Royal Oak High School Drama Club, the family event was held at the Royal Oak Farmers' Market. While the musical focus was primarily on four bands, EVENIN' GENTLEMEN provided the concert-goers with several (welcomed) breaks, engaging both young and old with our barbershop style.



EVENIN' GENTLEMEN

During their mike test, the EVENIN' GENTLEMEN "blew out" one of the brand new amplifier/speakers at the venue, attributing it to their hard-hitting "ringers." The sound man explained it away as the unit simply being faulty.

As a family event, kids and adults alike enjoyed ice cream, crazy hair station, face painting, free red carpet photos, barbeque, special beverages ( adult & kids), macaroni jewelry station, and a geode-cracking exhibit by the Miner's Den. Royal Oak band and orchestra members demonstrated their instruments and helped all who wished to try their hand at making music. The Drama Club had cast members of the upcoming presentation of "Cyrano" present and showed their dramatic skills.

EVENIN' GENTLEMEN appreciate being asked to share in this worthwhile community service event.

Saturday evening found the EVENIN' GENTLEMEN at Lake Huron Woods senior living center in Fort Gratiot. Some 45 residents clapped to the rhythms, mouthed the words, tapped their feet, and smiled broadly throughout the performance. The appreciation of our senior citizens makes what we do all worthwhile. The hugs and cookies aren't bad either.

### EVENIN' GENTLEMEN sing for their supper!

On Saturday evening, April 18, the EVENIN' GENTLEMEN (E.G.) joined the DETROIT MEN'S TOGETHER CHORUS (DTMC) to help make DTMC's spaghetti dinner a rousing success! Our Bass, **John Paul** did triple duty singing with the DTMC chorus and a DTMC quartet, as well as E.G. Between enjoying the musical talents of various DTMC members and the chorus and bowls of hot spaghetti and meatballs, EVENIN' GENTLEMEN performed two sets of four songs. A nice warmup for their competition in Battle Creek.



The *Daily Tribune* ran a full page story and picture of EVENIN' GENTLEMEN, available at: <http://www.dailytribune.com/opinion/20150415/community-connections-barbershop-quartet-lives-on-in-south-oakland-family>.

## G-Fours

The Michigan State University barbershop quartet performed a recital at Hart Auditorium at MSU's School of Music April 4, 2015. The foursome consists of journalism senior **Cody Harrell** and education senior **Brandon Smith** as well as **Keegan Connolly** and **Zack Lindquist**. The group has been coached and supported by **John** and **Christine Noteware** of Grand Blanc.



G-FOURS.

[MSU's G-Fours sing "The More I See You"](http://www.dailytribune.com/opinion/20150415/community-connections-barbershop-quartet-lives-on-in-south-oakland-family) and at <http://tinyurl.com/plgepva>

## From the Lansing Chapter

"Congratulations to G-FOURS quartet on their Senior Recital performance this last Saturday at M.S.U. We've been proud to support you these last 2 1/2 years and watch what amazing singers and men you've become. You've really represented MSU, the Pioneer District Barbershoppers, and barbershopping in general in a classy, quality way. Well done Keegan, Zack, Cody and Brandon! And what's next?"

## Majestyx

Great weekend at Top Gun, March 13 and 14. **Kevin Dunckel**, **Tom** and **Tim Woodall** and our mentor **Roger Lewis** all did a great job!!! Made artistic changes to "Forgive Me," "Fit as a Fiddle" and "Mona Lisa" - now to try and get them pounded in before April 24. It was great to get to work side by side with District Champs including RIGHT ON Q and TONAL ECLIPSE. Now let's all go qualify for international!

## Old Thyme Harmony Quartet

OLDE THYME HARMONY QUARTET was the guest quartet in Bay City for their chapter's Installation of Officers and BIG PARTY to celebrate **Bill's Grumbley's** 70th Anniversary as a member of the Society. Bill was Tenor of the very Popular comedy quartet SMOKEY & THE BANDITS, back in the 70's & 80's. This was a FUN night and OLDE THYME HARMONY QUARTET was very honored to be invited as the Headline Entertainment for the evening. It was also nice to see our former Lansing Director **Bob Winters** and once again thank him for the "plaid wool flannel" chorus outfits he promoted so well while our director. I think the stage temperature was 120 degrees in those nice brown plaid suits.

OLDE THYME HARMONY QUARTET participated Friday morning, April 24, in Mason, MI at Steel Elementary school's Annual STEELSTOCK DAY. This is a take-off on



Woodstock back in the 60's. The organizer brings in a variety of entertainment to perform for three 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes and teach them a little bit about the different Music Venues. We sang and promoted barbershop for 25 minutes in each of the classrooms. Then on to Battle Creek for the District Contest.

## Patch Chords

THE PATCH CHORDS, with **Steve Warnaar** subbing for **Larry Parker**, sang for the Strathroy, Canada barbershop chorus on Saturday April 18. The Strathroy FEDERATION CHORUS held a matinee show and an evening show in the the Strathroy District Collegiate Institute. The 350-seat recently-renovated auditorium was nearly sold out for both performances. As featured quartet the PATCH CHORDS performed for both shows as well as the chorus afterglow held at a member's home. The members of the Strathroy Chorus and particularly show chairman **Ron Smith** and his wife Gayle were very gracious hosts.



PATCH CHORDS at Strathroy afterglow.

## Spotlight on a Chapter: Holland

Editors Note: The chapter has a fine website, <http://www.hollandwindmillchorus.org>, thanks to Webmaster **Bill McAndrew**, which has served as a basis for this article, augmented by material from **Bob McDermott's** *History of the Pioneer District*, and by conversation with 25-year member **Art Lane**, and President Bill McAndrew. Bill adds that the web site utilizes a service called "Connected Sound" that specializes in Barbershop web sites. Created by some Sweet Ads, they offer web hosting, free domain name, web design, and conversion of old web pages.



Bill Diekema (3rd from left) enjoys a tag with friends at Holland's charter night in 1945.

The Holland Windmill Chapter has a long and rich history. The chapter was formed in 1945, so it will be celebrating its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary on December 31, this year.

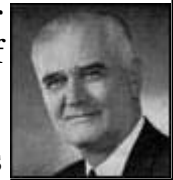
**Willis A. Diekema**, president of DePree Chemical Co., formed the chapter with about 30 local businessmen. The first meetings were held in the old Warm Friend Hotel. The TULIP CITY FOUR quartet joined the chapter, having previously sung only religious music. By 1946 the chapter put on its first show at the high school.



Bill Diekema

Of course, the chapter is famous for "Keep America Singing" which was authored, composed, and arranged by founding chapter member Willis/William A. "Bill" Diekema. The song was introduced at the (1947) Milwaukee convention where it was sung at the quartet finals by the Milwaukee Chapter Chorus under the direction of **Tom Needham**. The Diekema arrangement was adopted later as the official Society arrangement. But the Board granted permission to use such alternate words as "Keep everyone singing..." or "Keep the whole world singing..." instead of "Keep America singing...." This was to come back to haunt the Society in later years, since neither Bill Diekema nor his family wanted the lyrics altered in any way. It was finally resolved in 1992 when the Board adopted a second stanza to incorporate the new words, keeping the original first stanza intact. Diekema was named to the Society's Hall of Fame in 2010. He died in 1988 at the age of 96.

Another big name from Holland was **Clarence Jalving**, a banker. After climbing thru the ranks as District President and then Vice President of SPEBSQSA, he was elected to serve as President in 1960.



Clarence Jalving

**Francis Hodgeboom** was the Director in the 1950s and took the chorus to district championships in 1953 and '54, and attendance at International in 1954, which included singing for President **Dwight D. Eisenhower**. Audiences appreciated the traditional Dutch costumes complete with caps and wooden shoes and even some "soft-shoe" steps in the shoes.

In the 1960s thru 1990, **Myke Lucas** was the director. The WINDMILL CHORUS was district champion again in 1963 and 1993.



1954 WINDMILL CHORUS, international representatives.

In 1998 the chorus went on a 10-day tour of The Netherlands, visited two Dutch chapters, and sang in three shows there. Also in 1998, the chapter purchased the Park Theater in Holland and spent four years renovating it before turning the project over to the Park Theater Foundation.

The WINDMILL CHORUS holds a big show during Tulip Time, sings Christmas carols in downtown Holland, and performs in other cities. The chorus and its quartets sing at churches, nursing homes, and for civic events.

The Holland chapter has also been known for its quartets. Don Lucas's quartet, EXTENSION CHORDS, won the district in 1952.

The CHORD COUNTS, **Myke Lucas** (L), **Marty Hardenberg** (T), **Chet Oonk** (Br), and **Jack Oonk** (Bs) placed 13<sup>th</sup> at 1959 International.



CHORD COUNTS

The FLYING DUTCHMEN, **Jim Lucas** (L), **Dave VanderVliet** (Br), **Dan VanderVliet** (T), and **Tom Bratt** (Bs) placed 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1960 Bush League just four weeks after winning the Michigan High School quartet championship.

In 1994 a new district champion, GENUINE BLEND, emerged from Holland and competed internationally in 1995 and 1996. GENUINE BLEND 1994: **Andrew Clements** (T), **Dan Doctor** (Bs),

**Kirk Wood** (Br), **Mark Garlock** (L). 1994 Pioneer district Champions. **Butch Lieve** (T) (1995-1996) International competition (1994-1996).



FLYING DUTCHMEN

The only active chapter quartet at present is BREAK TIME, with **John Ellis** (Br), **Jay Bylsma** (Bs), **Bill McAndrew** (L), and **Denny Babel** (T).



GENUINE BLEND

The present chorus meets on Tuesday nights at the Holland Town Center. Practices start with a thorough warmup, including light calisthenics. Then the chorus works on current songs, seated and standing. After a break and announcements the director will concentrate on one or two songs, often on the risers. The evening ends with "Keep America Singing." The rehearsal space is a large, well-lighted commercial space with enough room for hundreds of photos on the walls of chorus performances and District quartets, and space for uniform storage and music files.



BREAK TIME



The chapter gets in a bit of quartetting every week when Bill McAndrew, Tagmeister, passes out the tag of the week. After everyone pretty well knows his part, or several parts, all are invited to step up and perform the tag in a quartet. This is very popular, and spur-of-the-moment quartets show their stuff, and entertain for a half-hour or more. Although Myke Lucas is semi-retired from barbershopping, when there's a show, or a big get-together, or at the Grand Rapids Chapter's corn roast in August, Myke assembles a quartet of old district champs, and they still sound great. This includes his brother, **Don Lucas**. They and their co-champs from the 1950s still perform beautifully.



Kirk Wood accepts District's 2008 "Most Improved Chapter" award.

There are 30 members on the rolls, with about 20 being active. The main purpose of Holland WINDMILL CHORUS is to get out and sing for our community. **Kirk Wood** has directed the chorus since June, 2005.

Primary officers are (front, L to R): Jay Bylsma, president; **Chuck Kreun**, treasurer and John Ellis, secretary. Standing behind are (L to R): **Jim Essenberg** and **Victor McBride**, board members-at-large; **Art Lane**, vice-president, chapter development; Bill McAndrew, vice-

president, programs; Mike Oonk, vice-president, music; and **John Peters**, vice-president, public relations. Not pictured: **Phil Sielski**.

Recently, the chorus has been competing each Fall in the district contest, averaging 18 men on stage, and scoring around 60. The chapter's web site includes five chorus recordings.

This year's Tulip Time Show was "Elvis is in the Building" on May 2 in the Beechwood Church of Holland.



Current Holland Chapter Board.



2014 Fall contest.

It included a tip of the hat to **Elvis Presley**, with the MC being an "Elvis" from the Detroit area. He sang two numbers with chorus backup. Holland's own quartet BREAK TIME also performed. The chorus's current songs, chosen for the show, included "Can't You Hear Me Callin'," "Caroline," "April Showers," "Teddy Bear," "All Shook Up," and our two songs with Elvis, "Stand by Me" and "How Great Thou Art."



There was a Singing Valentine program until two years ago. Art says, "But if needed a lot of us old quartetters could come out of the woods. One year we did 175 Singing Valentines. That was with three or four quartets and an ad in the *Holland Sentinel*. We could do that again with some planning." Bill adds, "When we first started doing them, back in the late 90's, they were immensely popular. I personally recall singing over 80 gigs in one weekend. The great recession took a significant toll on our orders, coupled with intense competition from other groups—primarily high school vocal groups. Three years ago we had a total of about 7 orders. After that, we figured it was no longer worth the effort." Any new requests would be handled by BREAK TIME.

In two past years the chapter also has sponsored a Musical Talent Search Contest for high school age students. As an event it was successful; the chance to see kids perform in competition filled a venue with parents and siblings. It was treated like a show and we charged \$10 a head. There are no plans at the moment to do it again.

## Transitions

### Richard G. Brouckaert



Dick Brouckaert died April 9 in Port Huron at the age of 82. Dick served in the U.S. Navy from 1955 to 1957. He retired from General Motors in 1990 after 32 years as an engineer. He volunteered at Port Huron Hospital, was a member of St. Mary Catholic Church in Port Huron and was former commander of the Algonac Power Squadron. He was a member of state champion Grosse Pointe Woods Chapter Barbershop Quartet, loved fishing, boating and was an avid reader.

### David Fitzpatrick



David Fitzpatrick died April 1 in St. Johns, age 60. "It is with heavy hearts that the Lansing Chapter has lost a member, Dave Fitzpatrick yesterday. Dave had an apparent heart attack. Dave was very involved with the Lansing Chapter and barbershop for many years and was most recently involved in his community choir. He will be missed by his friends and family and the people that he touched through singing."

Jeff Markham  
Lansing Chapter President

## Michael J. Jaissle



Mike Jaissle, age 69, died on Sunday, March 1. Mike was a life member of the VFW and he sang in the Guardians of Harmony barbershop chorus.

It is with a heavy heart that I bring the news of the passing of Mike Jaissle into his heavenly home.

Mike has been a very active member in the Barbershop Harmony Society since he joined in 1989. Mike belonged to the Macomb County/Rochester, GUARDIANS OF HARMONY where he served on the board in many positions including President, numerous times.

Mike was a close friend of the Slamka Family and their quartet POWER PLAY who really got Mike interested in Barbershop singing. Later he became the 5<sup>th</sup> man of the quartet RIGHT ON Q and coached them to the District Championship in 2010.

After suffering from heart failure, Mike underwent a heart transplant in October 1999 and got a second lease on life. There he made the best of everyday until the medication led to the failure of his kidneys that eventually took him to a kidney transplant late in 2014.

He was admitted into the U of M Hospital a couple of weeks ago where he was suffering from a fungal infection in his lungs which he couldn't beat. He passed away with his wife Sharon and daughter Carrie at his side while POWER PLAY played from Carrie's phone.

Ken Klein

## James H. Koning



Jim Koning, age 80, of Grand Rapids, died March 15. He had been a member of the Grand Rapids chapter.

## Dick Liddicoatt



Dick Liddicoatt passed away on the March 26 in Lake Orion. Dick directed the Oakland County BARBERY HOST CHORUS in 1966, 1967. He was also a director of the Pontiac BIG CHIEF CHORUS.

He was the Baritone in LEFT OVERS which were District Senior Quartet Champions in 1994.

It was Dick who initiated, in 1965, the "Travelin' Brown Jug," which raised funds during "Jug Nights" to help out quartets representing the District at International competitions.

(Source: Bob McDermott's Pioneer District History, and the Pioneer District web site.)

Born and raised in Fowlerville, he won a baseball scholarship at Western Michigan University, where he earned an accounting degree. He began his successful career with General Motors at Oldsmobile in Lansing, and joined the Lansing chapter. A transfer to the Warren Tech Center began his long affiliation with the Oakland County Chapter's BARBERY HOST, (renamed "The WOLVERINE CHORUS" upon the arrival Carl Dahlke).

He loved hunting and fishing and was a fierce competitor in every sort of contest including a three-peat of the egg toss at Pontiac's Annual Corn Roast.

An instigator of all manner of mischief as part of the Harrisville Harmony Weekend activities: Kids Fishing at the Trout Farm, First Communion at Friedrichs' Bar after your campsite setup was complete, Narrating the legend of Silas McCormick's feud with the Indian Chief whose son shared a romance with Silas' daughter, all of whom now haunt the woods surrounding camp ground, followed by the "Ghost Walk" on the Nature Trail.

He is predeceased by his son Michael and survived by daughters Kathy, Debbie, and Carol.

Fred McFadyen

## Henry W. Malmquist



Henry Malmquist, of Muskegon, age 88, passed away on March 17. Henry was a retired pattern maker from CMI Noren Pattern of Fruitport and a U.S. Navy Veteran of World War II.

Henry enjoyed singing barbershop music and was active in the Muskegon SHORELINE CHORUS for over 50 years.

### William Nevaux



Bill Nevaux died Saturday, March 28, age 87, in Ann Arbor, where he had been living with his son since the death of his wife, Candy, in 2011.

Bill was active in barbershopping over a period of 50 years. He joined the Oakland County chapter of SPEBSQSA in 1965. Two years later they won the district chorus title under Carl Dahlke, and went to International in Cincinnati.

Bill sang in a quartet called THE CONCHORDS for two years. He left barbershopping in 1969 when he moved to Lake Orion. Then he joined the Pontiac chapter about 1979. This led to singing tenor in a quartet called MODEL A FOUR. The last quartet he sang in was JACKPOT.

Bill had seven Men of Note awards. He and Candy were also active in the CHURCH STREET SINGERS.

### Jerald R. Place



Jerry Place died February 5. It is with heavy hearts that the Livingston County Chapter shares the news of Jerry Place's passing after suffering a stroke. Jerry had just renewed his membership in the Harmony Society for the 21<sup>st</sup> year and will be missed greatly.

Stan Lawrence, Secretary  
The Livingston Lamplighters

### William S. Schwedler

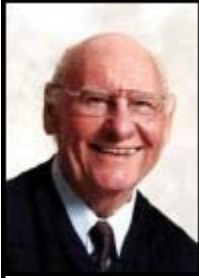


Bill Schwedler, a former barbershopper, passed away Tuesday, February 24, at the age of 79. Bill had been a member of D.O.C. and Grosse Pointe chapters. Back in the 70's, SOC Sweet Adelines put on a performance of the MUSIC MAN. Sue Gleason was MARIAN (the librarian). They recruited some of the barbershoppers for the male characters. Don Cline was PROFESSOR HILL, Carl Dahlke played the ANVIL SALESMAN, and BILL SCHWEDLER was MAYOR SHINN.

John Bober  
Guardians of Harmony



## Marvin J. Skupski



Marv Skupski, age 80, of Westland passed away on March 4.

I want to let you know that I have really appreciated the help I received from Marv throughout the years. I first got acquainted with Marv when I became a chapter secretary in 2001---and quickly learned that I had inherited a chapter that had ceased to exist with the State of Michigan in 1968! Through the awesome assistance that Marv gave me then, we got the problem solved. I continued to have many great working relationships with him for the next 12 years.

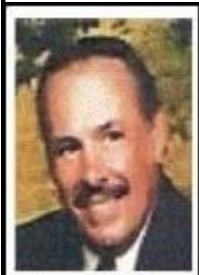
Marv came to my rescue again in 2013 when I took over the District Secretary role just a month before the District convention. Even though Marv had been retired as a District Secretary for several years, he called me and volunteered a lot of tips and guidance on how to do the job---at a time when I desperately needed advice. I am so grateful for the help he gave me then. He was a great guy!

Jim McMahan  
Sec'y, Pioneer District

I too sing the praises of Marv Skupski. The District and Barbershop in general owe a lot to this individual. As a former District President and District Membership VP., I can attest to Marv's dedication and helpfulness. In addition, he was a real gentleman.

Raleigh Bloch

## Maurice L. Swan



Maury Swan, 87, of Battle Creek, died Monday, February 9, at home.

He was a long-time member of the CEREAL CITY CHORUS. He served in the Merchant Marines and later in the U.S. Army. Maurice worked at Post Cereal more than 30 years as a steel laborer in the Sheet Metal Department.

He attended First Wesleyan Church and was a Post 25 year club member. He loved barbershop and gospel singing, golf, reading, crossword puzzles, and was active in S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A.

## Media

### CROSSROADS on National TV

CROSSROADS did our art form proud with their appearance on Fox News on April 11, our BHS anniversary. This 2:30 clip includes the tag to "Your First Day in Heaven."

<http://tinyurl.com/oz5r5xv>

## Forefront...

...opened for The Sing-Off Tour in Louisville, KY on March 25th.

<http://tinyurl.com/q8hy6kw>

## A Cappella How

**Deke Sharon** has inaugurated a new a cappella technical website at <http://acappella.how/>. Resources will eventually include many instructional videos and links from the barbershop world. Take a peek at the framework of what may prove another powerful teaching and outreach tool.



CROSSROADS on the streets of New York City singing on Fox News.

## Pioneer District

### THE VOICE—Pioneer's Youth Barbershop Chorus

from Jill Pollard

Great First Rehearsal today (March 15) on the "Road to Reno" for THE VOICE!! Rehearsals are [generally the third Sunday of each month], 2-5pm at Trinity Church in Lansing.

We would love to add new members – 25 years and under as of Jan. 30, 2016.

## StoryTellers

**Lorin May** and P.R.O.B.E. have organized *StoryTellers*, whose purpose is to get information about interesting doings from the grass roots up to the national level. Pioneer District link is **John Cowlshaw**, who may be calling your chapter for good stories.

## Jug Night

On Tuesday, May 19, Battle Creek will host an Inter-chapter JUG NIGHT PARTY at the First Wesleyan Church, 14425 Helmer Rd S, (one mile north of I-94, exit 95) inviting all past District Champion Quartets to appear, and all chapters to come and join us. Holland, Grand Rapids, Lansing, Kalamazoo, St Joe/Benton Harbor, and Michiana Metro are all easily commutable (we realize Hillsdale has a conflict that night).

Eleven quartets have committed including: ROLLS VOYCE, SHADES OF GREY, and EBB N' FLOW. Editor's Note: EBB N' FLOW bass, **Craig Johnson** qualified with his quartet, THE INSTITUTE, for the international collegiate competition out of the SUN district.

Bring guests, bring families, friends, wives, SO's, girlfriends, -- all of them if you dare. Admission is a **minimum** of \$1.00 per person, all of which will go to the Internation-

al quartet traveling fund and be presented in Windsor at the Sendoff show.

Mark your calendar... more information as we move forward.

Roger Lewis

### **2015 Harmony Explosion Camp July 9-11 at CMU**

Registration is now open at [www.mountaintownsingers.org](http://www.mountaintownsingers.org) . A poster with camp information can be downloaded from the site as well.

Early registration activity is kind of unusual but students have obviously been talking about this event and registrations are coming in. We are seeing requests for scholarship assistance on half of the registrations to date.

We maintain a dedicated scholarship fund that is funded by individuals and chapters that don't have a specific student in mind.

That fund's current balance would cover three "full rides" to camp. We typically require families to contribute something and grant partial scholarships based on need. If you or your chapter wants to contribute to this "statewide" fund it would be welcomed.

The Hillsdale chapter has developed a very successful program to get kids to camp. I'm sure they would share their experience if you ask. They have helped get 38 kids to camp in 2013 and 2014. The MTS have been able to secure a very substantial pledge for scholarships from a foundation that limits its activity to our county. Their stated objective is to "double the size of the camp."

Has your chapter thought about finding "outside" funding sources to send kids from your county to camp? I mean, beyond your own treasury? Now is the time to think about it. Add "Summer Camp" to your next board agenda and have the conversation.

If our local foundation is successful in "doubling" the size of our camp, and they may do it, we may reach our capacity and need to close registration before the posted deadline of June 25th, so I encourage you to start your conversation soon and sing out with any questions you may have.

Joe McDonald

### **Pioneer District Photos**

from James O'Dell

A plethora of Pioneer photos is available online on Facebook at

<http://tinyurl.com/mwllg3r>

Since we cannot attach files to the Pionet, a Facebook link is the easiest way to share photos. Don't worry this link should work for everyone even if you don't have a Facebook page.

## Troubadour Business

We are looking for articles, photos, performances, and ads for the August 15, 2015 issue of *The Troubadour*. Deadline for submission – August 1, 2015

## Letters

Terrific *Troubadour*. I can't remember seeing so much content from so many chapters. Great work!

Mike O'Donnell

Thanks for all your hard work on the new issue. I especially appreciated seeing the note in the calendar about the Windsor "end off show."

I have never had any problems with typos in the Woodshedder. (ROFLOL)

Paul Howe

*From the Editor: Everyone is a critic.*

Great job on the *Troubadour*, guys! Thanks so much!! (I'm on your mailing list. I was a Sweet Adeline for 40 years and during that time I got on the list.)

My dad was **Merle Clayton**, who was Chairman of Judges in Pioneer for many years. Prior to that, he was an HA judge here. Dad passed away 15 years ago but my mom is still living and she turned 100 last June! I try to make it to contests when I can but missed the recent one in Muskegon so I really appreciate your good coverage of that. I also appreciate reading about things that are being done to keep the society going. I'd hate to see it die out. Barbershop is too important a musical art form to disappear, however if it does (die out) I suppose someone in twenty years or so will re-discover it all over again and it will take off like wildfire again.

A barbershop brat,

Margie Kruse, mkruse610@yahoo.com

After several months, I am finally seeing a little daylight. Please pardon me for a personal note:

For those of you who knew me while I was a barbershopper in Battle Creek (1984-2001), and started PioNet 17 years ago -- my mom, **Betty Styer**, died March 8 at age 98 and 5 months. She had always been quite healthy...she died peacefully in her sleep as her heart gave out. She had lived in Sarasota, FL for more than 30 years ...we moved [there] in May 2002.

Now we are trying to decide what to do with family accumulations back as far as 150 years, and mom's 30 years of genealogical research. She started two genealogical societies and we hope to give some of the materials to them. But it's hard going thru such a volume of personal stuff, before we can sell the home.



We are doing well. I had two bouts of cancer, but have been in remission for a few years. Peg, whom many of you knew as a "go-fer" in barbershopping, has been a real support....I have not been singing; but I still watch how the local chapter is doing (well).

If you wish to do anything in mom's memory, donations are being accepted by Inspired Living, 1900 Phillippi Shores Drive, Sarasota, FL 34231.

Jim Styer  
5253 Lake Village Drive  
Sarasota, FL 34235

Hope all is well! Although I'm not in PIO anymore, I will let you know that this weekend I will be competing in SUN with a collegiate quartet called THE INSTITUTE. We'll see after the scores come out if there's anything worth writing about - ha!

All the best,  
Craig M. Johnson  
Bass, EBB N' FLOW

*Editor's Note: THE INSTITUTE qualified for the international collegiate competition with a score of 74.3.*

## Upcoming Events/Calendar

### Great Lakes Harmony Brigade, May 29-31 and GLHB Concert, May 30

Close to 100 singers will be arriving from around the nation and Canada to compete in Extreme Quartetting.

Even if you are not registered to sing, you are invited to the concert Saturday evening, 7:30 to 9:30, at the Okemos Conference Center when the whole chorus will sing the eleven songs they have prepared. Our featured quartets will also sing, the top two finishers in the Fall District Quartet contest: TONAL ECLIPSE and NOW PLAYING. Tickets are \$15. An afterglow will follow the show right at the conference center.

Yours in XQ,  
Mike O'Donnell, Pres.  
GLHB

### 2015

May 16	Hillsdale Town and Country Show, 3 and 7 p.m., Hillsdale
May 16	Great Lakes Chorus Show, 7 p.m., Grand Rapids
May 19	Jug Night, 7:30 p.m., Battle Creek
May 29—31	Great Lakes Harmony Brigade, Okemos
Jun 12	Send-Off Show, Windsor
Jun 23	Dead Creek Picnic, Heritage Park, Frankenmuth, MI, 6:00 p.m.
Jun 28—Jul 5,	BHS International Convention Pittsburgh

Jul 9-11 Harmony Explosion, Central Michigan University  
 Jul 18 Quartet Boot Camp, Okemos  
 Jul 26—Aug 2, Harmony University, Belmont Univ. Nashville, TN  
 Aug 9 Pitch Pipe Classic, Lansing  
 Sep 25—26 Bush League, Gaylord  
 Oct 16—18 Fall Convention in Kalamazoo Radisson; Host: Hillsdale

## 2016

Jan 26-31 Midwinter Convention, Reno  
 Apr 22—24 Spring District Convention GR Crowne Plaza, host: Grand Rapids  
 Jul 3-10 International, Nashville  
 Oct 14—16 Fall District Convention in Kalamazoo; host: The QCA




## Upcoming International Conventions

<i><b>Date</b></i>	<i><b>Location</b></i>
July 3—July 10, 2016	Nashville, TN
July 2—July 9, 2017	Minneapolis, MN
July 1—July 8, 2018	Orlando, FL
June 30—July 7, 2019	Salt Lake City, UT

## Promotional Flyers

**A Cappella Showcase**  
 Town & Country Chorus presents  
**Instant Classic & GQ**

Not your fathers Barbershop  
 May 16th event times 3p.m. & 7p.m.  
 For tickets call (517) 398-1341 Adults \$14 & Youth \$10  
 Hillsdale College Sage Center 81 E. College St.



THE GREAT LAKES CHORUS

PRESENTS

# HOW THE WEST WAS SONG

Saturday May 16, 2015 - 7:00 PM

DEVOS CENTER FOR ARTS AND WORSHIP  
2300 PLYMOUTH RD. SE. GRAND RAPIDS, MI

GENERAL ADMISSION \$15  
SENIORS AND STUDENTS \$12

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:  
[WWW.GREATLAKESCHORUS.ORG](http://WWW.GREATLAKESCHORUS.ORG)





Join us for the Revival of a Barbershop Tradition

## “Jug Night”

Bring your spouses, families, and friends to hear  
and support our best quartets!

“Jug Night” is a fundraiser for our Pioneer District Chorus/Quartets who have qualified for International Competition. You will get to enjoy many of our past district champion quartets and senior champion quartets, plus our International representative chorus – the Great Lakes Chorus from Grand Rapids.

The Battle Creek Chapter is pleased to host this special event on Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7:30 PM, at the First Wesleyan Church, 14425 S. Helmer Road, Battle Creek, 49015.

All chapters are urged to attend . . . and for only a minimum donation of \$1.00 per person. DOC Representatives will be on hand with “The Jug” and will match up to \$100 in donations.

*We look forward to seeing you there!*

*The fun and comraderie of Barbershop inter-chapter events produces a long-lasting positive effect on us all.*

### QUESTIONS?

Contact Roger Lewis at [rjlewiscmc@aol.com](mailto:rjlewiscmc@aol.com) or  
Randy Campbell at 269 968-3877

# Make New Friends & Great Memories!

5th Annual MountainTown  
Harmony Explosion Summer Camp  
3 Days, July 9-11, 2015  
Central Michigan University

For Male and Female Singers Ages 14 - 20  
Learn from Top Clinicians & Teaching Quartet

Get Music & Learning Tracks to Four Songs  
Camp T Shirt - Show Audio Recording  
Eight Meals & Two Nights Lodging  
Perform in a Collegiate Venue Saturday Night

**\$235 per Person**



"This camp introduced me to the world of barbershop, and I love it. The people involved are incredible!" Jenny K.



"I love the camp so much! It feels like I have family here and I barely know these people." Emily M.



"Literally, the only thing wrong with this camp is, it ends!" Micah W.



Joe Cerutti



Erin Odell-Cook

Directors/Clinicians



Double Date - World Mixed Quartet Champs!

Teaching Quartet

Pre-registration Required / Limited Scholarships Available

Registration February 1, through June 25, 2015

Direct Questions or Comments to:

Joe McDonald, Camp Administrator - 989 560 6181

joemcdonald510@gmail.com

Find additional information and register at:  
[www.mountaintownsingers.org](http://www.mountaintownsingers.org)

Sponsor & Host Chapter



Camp Underwritten in part by:



QUARTETS!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SING BETTER?

AS A QUARTET AND PERSONALLY?

IMPROVE YOUR SHOW PACKAGE?

IMPROVE YOUR SOUND?

LEARN HOW TO SCORE BETTER?

All of this and more is possible at the Quartet Boot Camp  
on July 18 in Okemos, sponsored by the QCA and the Pioneer District!

You'll get three sessions of almost 2 hours each with  
top coaches, plus craft sessions that will help you and  
your quartet be better singers and performers.

The cost? Just \$50 per quartet!

Better yet, if you compete in Bush League in September,

We will refund your \$50! What a deal!!

We are limited to 15 quartets due to available space.

To reserve your spot, email Roger Lewis at

[rjlewiscmc@aol.com](mailto:rjlewiscmc@aol.com)



# *Pitch Pipe Classic*

## *Royal Scot Golf*



Pioneer District QCA  
 Quartet Champions Association  
 Barbershop Harmony Golf, Dinner and Show  
 Sunday, August 9, 2015  
 Royal Scot Golf & Bowl  
 4722 W. Grand River Ave.  
 Lansing, MI

18 Hole, 4-Man Scramble w/cart – 11:00 a.m. - Shotgun Start

### 5:00 p.m. Dinner

10 oz New York Strip, Baked Potato, Green Beans,  
 Salad, Rolls, Coffee, Iced Tea and Lemonade

Or

Baked Chicken Breast, Baked Potato, Green Beans,  
 Salad, Rolls, Coffee, Iced Tea and Lemonade

### 6:00 p.m. Show

Quartet Champions Association

Golf, Dinner and Show - \$75.00 per person

Dinner and Show - \$30.00 per person

Show Only - \$15.00 per person

Make checks payable & mail to:

Pioneer District QCA

1416 New York Ave.

Lansing, MI 48906-4538



## Cartoons



Reprinted from San Antonio Capers

