



TROUBADOUR

Happy New Year, Pioneer. Let me start by saying what an honor it is to serve as your 2016-2018 Pioneer District President. For those who may not know me, I'm beginning my 25th year as a member of the Barbershop Harmony Society and have been an active chorus and quartet member for most of those 25 years, singing with the Lansing and Grand Rapids Chapters, as well as a number of chapter-based quartets, and for the last 10 years, in an active mixed quartet.

I still remember my first chapter meeting like it was yesterday, and the feeling that evening of being completely captured by what I had experienced. The music I made and the chords that rang were created with complete strangers, men I had never met before, and yet within a few hours, the music had transformed us all into special friends. There is no other sport or hobby I know of that has that kind of power. It was the music that set the hook, but the friendship that kept me coming back.

As I write these words, I am keenly aware of how very cliché this all sounds, and I'm sure many of you have had experiences similar, if not identical to this – but that doesn't make it less true, less powerful, or less enduring. I have thought a lot about this experience as I start my new role as the leader of our district, specifically asking the question how can we, as a board of individuals who share this passion for barbershop, make Pioneer the place for these experiences to flourish. I believe that the answer is that we need to continually create the opportunities that let these same experiences happen week after week, month after month, at chapter meetings all across this district. Creating Opportunities is the theme of my presidency.

My intent is to work with all of you to figure out the best way to create these opportunities, but be assured that I, along with your board, will work every day to make our district the best it can be – by creating opportunities for our members. I look forward to meeting many of you and working for you to grow Pioneer.

In Harmony,
Mike Hansen



TROUBADOUR

Official publication of the Pioneer District, Barbershop Harmony Society

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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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Midwinter Convention, Reno, NV, January 26-31

Outside the Peppermill Resort (at 4500 feet altitude), the temps at varying times were only in the 30s, 40s, and 50s, and it snowed, but inside, the singing was hot. The convention contained the Seniors Quartet Contest, the Youth Quartet Contest, and the Youth Barbershop Chorus Festival. It also included many guest groups, including The WESTMINSTER Chorus, SATURDAY EVENING POST (2015 Seniors Quartet champion), our own RESISTING-A-REST (2010 Seniors Champion), TROCADERO (2015 International Collegiate Quartet Champion), INSTANT CLASSIC (2015 Gold Medalist), FOREFRONT, MAIN STREET, and LEMON SQUEEZY.

Seniors Quartet Contest

HIGH PRIORITY sang last of the 25, but finished first with the gold and a score of 76.3. Pioneer's ROLLS VOYCE finished in the medals with a 5th place bronze and a score of 72.2.



ROLLS VOYCE L. to R. Bruce LaMarte, T.C. Conner, T.R. Gerard, David Gillingham.

You can watch their performance (a screen capture) at <http://tinyurl.com/j9zdkoe>.

Youth Barbershop Chorus Festival

Seventeen choruses competed, divided into three plateaus by age:

- ♦ Plateau A – 17 and under
- ♦ Plateau AA – 18 to 20
- ♦ Plateau AAA – 21 to 25

The twenty-five men of Pioneer's THE VOICE competed in Plateau AA singing "Titanium," <http://tinyurl.com/zj9v7s5> "I Have Dreamed," <http://tinyurl.com/hnjwdmn> and "I Love Being Here With You" <http://tinyurl.com/htrwulp>. They "finished at the top of the Outstanding category ... 1 point from Superior (top category ... which only 3 choruses of 18 earned)! Congratulations to directors, Aaron and Cory!

Debbie Warnaar

The snowstorm delayed their return, giving them a chance to stage a fun sing-off with the *Chandler High School Men's Chorus*, and to relax back at the hotel.

To all of the singers in THE VOICE - You are the best! You proudly represented the Pioneer District not only on stage, where you were absolutely "Outstanding" (two standing ovations), but also in everything you did at Midwinter. I saw such a polite and caring group of young men, from your support for ROLLS VOYCE, to teaching tags to new friends of all ages, to your patience when our flight was cancelled, to being very thankful to all of those who helped you. I was very proud to be a chaperone for this group!!



THE VOICE clowning for the camera in Reno.

A very, very, VERY special thank you to the Weavers who got us hotel rooms when we were stranded, to the Burnses who fed all of us Sunday evening, to the Andersons who helped pay for meals on Monday. The support system for this chorus was AMAZING!! And thank you to Vicki who worked so hard with the airlines to get us all home!

Jill Pollard

Deke Sharon (the so-called Father of Modern A Cappella, thanks to *Glee*, *Pitch Perfect*, and *The Sing-Off*), <http://tinyurl.com/jcuwz42>, was honored with an Honorary Lifetime Membership in the Barbershop Harmony Society. After accepting his award, <http://tinyurl.com/hhflr2z>, he sang "Sweet and Lovely" with OC TIMES <http://tinyurl.com/j9xxbqk>.

Westminster Chorus is a three-time International Chorus Champion (2007, 2010, and 2015), and the 2009 'Choir of the World' Pavarotti Trophy winner. They performed, shared the stage with the All-Chapter Chorus, and engaged with the Youth Chorus Festival participants.

Complete Reno results, including the Convention Program, are at <http://www.barbershop.org/all-conventions/reno/>

Next year's Midwinter is in San Antonio, TX, Jan 17 – 22, 2017.

Reports – Chapters

Detroit Oakland Chapter

The GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS caroled at Providence Park Hospital December 16, a tradition since the facility opened.



The GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS at Providence Park Hospital.

From Hi-Notes:

Friday, January 15, 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 had **Roger** and **Sue Lewis** for the evening. Roger, as past District President and past international president, performed the installation of officers for the chapter. **Roger**

Boyer, BOTY winner for 2014, announced the Barbershopper of the Year for 2015. The plaque was presented to **George Burkett**. Roger also presented his "Participation" award for the member who was present in the majority of our rehearsals and other events. This award went to our editor, **Tom Uicker**. After the awards presentation, we had dancing to a live band.

The chapter now meets at Royal Oak Middle School, 709 N. Washington Ave, Royal Oak.

Flint

The Flint ARROWHEAD CHORUS ended their summer with a Loons Baseball Game August 6 in Midland where the chorus sang the National Anthem. Later in the fall the Chorus held their annual Flint Masonic Chicken Dinner fund raiser on Oct 11. The Chorus waited tables and sang in mass several times for those attending. Also members broke out in quartets and VLQ's singing at patron's tables resulting in many smiles.



A quartet from the ARROWHEAD CHORUS singings at the Flint Masonic Chicken Dinner fundraiser.

The New Lothrop VFW, in celebration of Veteran's Day, invited the Chorus to their membership dinner to provide entertainment at the New Lothrop VFW Hall on Nov 8. The Chorus is always honored to perform for those who proudly served this great country of ours.

Talk about a busy Christmas season! Our annual Christmas Chorus was convened in early November when we invited men from the area to sing with us and learn Christmas Carols. During the season our guests and Chorus conducted thirteen sing outs. This included Christmas Caroling at ten Senior Centers, a surprise Flint Farmers Market "Flash Mob" event, and a public performance at Crossroads Village Chapel.

It also included a performance December 5 at the Mott Applewood Estates for the runners in the annual 5 K Flint YMCA Santa Run fundraiser. There were an estimated 800 participants - young and old, runners and walkers, some pushing strollers, some running with their dogs, and some of the dogs were even wearing antlers! We serenaded them all with Christmas favorites. And the fun continued when we descended on the Flint Farmers' Market, where we noticed some of the "Santas" just standing and enjoying us. Lots of smiles today!



ARROWHEAD CHORUS at Flint Farmer's Market.



ARROWHEAD CHORUS sings at annual Christmas party installation dinner.

Our members Christmas Party was held in Grand Blanc December 8 where our newly elected 2016 Board members were installed by **Dan Bezaire**, Pioneer District President, who traveled from Windsor to be with us. We really appreciate Dan taking the time to share this special occasion with us.

John Noteware, our Chapter President for the past two years, was awarded our Barbershopper of the Year Award by Chorus members. Everyone present sang a rendition of "Hail to the Chief" (Barbershop style) as he was given this prestigious award. Again, Congratulations John! And thank you for all you do.



John Noteware receives BOTY award.

We began 2016 with the singing of our National Anthem and the Canadian National Anthem at the Flint Firebirds' hockey game at the Dort Federal Credit Union Arena in Flint January 3. While the Firebirds lost to the Sault Ste Marie hockey team, a great game and song were enjoyed by all who attended.

Our annual Chorus Retreat was attended by 31 chorus members January 8 - 10 at the Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center on Higgins Lake. Most of the time was spent rehearsing our 2016 Spring Show music. This is where the Chorus Board held their first Board meeting. This year the Board established membership, financial, and singing goals as part of their Business Plan.

Our Spring Show will be held at the Flint Powers High School auditorium on Saturday, May 21, 2016 at 6 p.m. This year's show will highlight not only Flint style "Coney Islands" (served at the Afterglow) but wonderful music from this era. Mark this date on your calendar now gents. We would love to see you and your families there!

Lastly, guys, mark our annual Chapter's Frankenmuth "Dead Creek Picnic" on your calendar for Tuesday, June 28, 2016.

Special thanks to **Herb Judd**, Chorus Secretary/Photographer for his wonderful photos.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Karas
Chorus Marketing/PR

"I was honoured and pleased to be invited to the Flint Chapter's Christmas Party/Installation Night. A great night of singing and fun. Another dimension of the evening was that the chapter combined the evening with a toy drive for Toys For Tots. People brought toys to the venue, and I think there were at least three bags that were taken away that night. What a wonderful example of the We Sing We Serve initiative! 'Way to go, Flint!'"

Dan Bezaire

Grand Rapids

The GREAT LAKES CHORUS and the GRAND RAPIDS CHORUS of Sweet Adelines presented their holiday show, *Music For The Holidays*, December 5 at St. Cecilia Music Center. Quartets included OLD RULES, QUATERNITY, SHADES OF GREY, and MAJESTYX, and, from the Sweet Ads, MIXED BARI'S, SANTA'S HELPERS, X-POSITION, and PERCOLATE.



GREAT LAKES CHORUS and Sweet Ads fill the stage at St. Cecilia Music Center for their holiday show.

On December 9, the chorus sang the national anthem for the Griffin hockey game at the Van Andel Arena. "We're still their lucky charm, they won 4 to 1." New Marine recruits were sworn in at halftime, and afterwards the GLC sang "God Bless America" to them.

On December 14, the Great Lakes Chorus held its Officer Installation at Brann's Steakhouse & Grille.

December 21 · Brewing up Harmonizing Partnerships - Great Lakes Chorus Partners with Harmony Brewing Co.

From local bars to movie theaters, craft beers have taken over taps across America. At the front of the national craze is Grand Rapids, MI, the city named Best Beer Town by readers of USA Today, and coincidentally the home of both Harmony Brewing Co. and the Great Lakes Chorus chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

The similarity of names and a chance encounter resulted in what can truly be called a Harmonizing Partnership. Not only had the Har-



GLC at Harmony Brewing Company's Harmony Hall.



GLC sings the National Anthem at the Griffins hockey game.

mony Brewing Co. launched its newest location under the name of Harmony Hall, but the Great Lakes Chorus was searching for ways to raise funds for its competition at the 2016 Nashville International Convention. The Great Lakes Chorus, under the direction of James Carey, performed at Harmony Hall, packing the house. For the performance the chorus earned a percentage of the sales for the night. Thank you Harmony Brewing Co. and all those who joined us

for the event! Cheers!



GLC installation dinner.

Gross Pointe

The Knights of Columbus and the Grosse Pointe LAKESHORE CHORUS presented A *Christmas to Remember* December 4, in New Baltimore, Michigan.

The Grosse Pointe Chapter has recently revived its Gospel Chorus after about three years of inactivity. So far, we have one tenor, two leads, three baritones, and three basses. We are looking for more members, especially leads and tenors. If anyone is interested, please contact JamesLead63@yahoo.com.

Huron Valley

from William Stutts, Jr.

November 11. Saluting our veterans

A pickup quartet saluted our veterans by performing the "Armed Forces Medley" and "The Star Spangled Banner" at the Plymouth/Green Rd Applebee's in Ann Arbor. Beforehand, they also performed at the VA Hospital. I would highly recommend having a performance at an establishment that caters to Veterans on that day. Here is a link to the YouTube video. http://youtu.be/WmNu3_xgsqQ

November 14. Indiana Harmony Brigade 2015

HVH Asst. Director, **William Stutts Jr.**, participated in the Indiana Harmony Brigade in November. At a Brigade, all the competing quartets are randomly selected. His quartet, WORTH NOTING, consisted of **Randy Rogers** (T), **David Queen** (L), and **Bill Van Emburg** (Bs). After two rounds of competition, they came out on top of 20+ random quartets. Here is a link to their Friday night performance of "Ebb-Tide."

<http://youtu.be/k4Nnbvi29eU>



WORTH NOTING at Indiana Harmony Brigade.

December 2. Another new member!

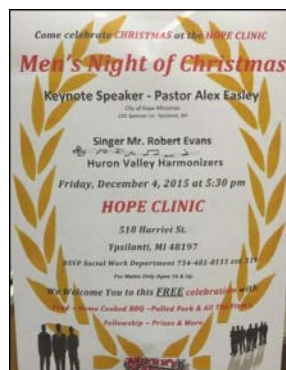
We would like to welcome our newest member, **Don Levitt**.



Jim Windak welcomes new member Don Levitt.

December 4. Men's Night of Christmas

Huron Valley performed at the Men's Night of Christmas at the Hope Clinic in Ypsilanti, MI.



December 7. Singing with Santa at the mall!

Huron Valley was spreading Christmas cheer by performing on the 7th Annual *Lucy Anne Lance Hometown Christmas* at Briarwood Mall in Ann Arbor. The event got a familiar singer to join in.

December 15. Ypsilanti Historical Society

Huron Valley performed at the Ypsilanti Historical Society Open House. We even got another new singer who is trying out the tenor line.



HVH trying out new tenor. No, it's the one with the long hair.



HVH performing at the Briarwood Mall in Ann Arbor.

Kalamazoo

from Michael Sobel

Harmony Mercenaries Invade Kalamazoo!

Thousands of people attended Kalamazoo's 30th annual New Year's Fest, welcoming in 2016 with 28 individual performance acts and 77 performances at 11 downtown venues. Among them, the Kalamazoo MALL CITY HARMONIZERS Chorus, under the direction of **David Woolf**, who were fortunate enough to be selected by the local media as "one of the twelve acts not to miss."

This performance was particularly special as it was the pilot for a newly developed concept of chapter partnering called Harmony Mercenaries. The concept involves developing an army of "singing mercenaries" from local chapters including chorus members from Grand Rapids, Lansing, Muskegon, Holland, Battle Creek, and Kalamazoo who, having mutually learned a package of popular songs, are available to support each other's chorus or quartet performances whenever needed! The Kalamazoo chapter was extremely pleased with the initial results shown by the Harmony Mercenaries program, under development and leadership of Grand Rapids Chorus Director **Jamie Carey**.

Michael Sobel, Kalamazoo's chorus president said: "We were honored to offer the first opportunity to try out this exciting new concept, and were wowed by its success! Our chorus doubled in size and we put over 40 men on stage! Combined with a fantastic turnout of singers and a packed house at each of our three 45 minute performances, we started off 2016 with a BANG!"

Lansing

December 30. The Chapter Holiday Luncheon was at Tony M's.

January 16. The Chapter Annual Dinner and Installation of Officers

Was at Robinhill Hall. The entertainment for the evening included chapter quartets and featured FRONTIER. **Roger Lewis** performed the Installation of Officers. Additionally, the President's



Harmony Mercenaries sing with MALL CITY HARMONIZERS.



Officer Installation for the Lansing Chapter.

"Key Man" and "Barbershopper of the Year" awards were presented.

2015 Barbershopper of the Year - Rich Harlow

No joke, Rich is being awarded this honor for his hard work writing scripts and making significant contributions to the success of the various chapter shows. His gentle,



Rich Harlow, on left, receives BOTY award.

if not slightly warped, sense of humor as he emcees many chapter shows, has contributed greatly to the success of those shows as well as the comedy routines of his quartet, the PATCH CHORDS.

2015 President's Key Man - Kevin Lenneman



Kevin Lenneman, on left, receives Key Man award.

Baritone Section leader and Music and Performance VP. Kevin is always hard at work behind the scenes - working hard to make the chorus better.

March 12 is the Lansing Show, at the Wharton Center for the Performing Arts. Called *Main Street USA*, it will feature International medalists and funny men MAIN STREET. All seats are reserved, first come, first served and are \$22 each. Call 517-372-7464.

Livingston

November 23. Thanks to some generous donations at the door, local businesses, and private donors...and VG's turning a blind eye to our crazy shopping...we are able to donate 34 complete meals to our Livingston County Veterans and their families who need a helping hand this Thanksgiving season!

December 22. Ladies' Night in Brighton. We sing EVERYWHERE, even in the middle of Main Street!

Michiana Metro

November 21. *Hooked on Harmony*

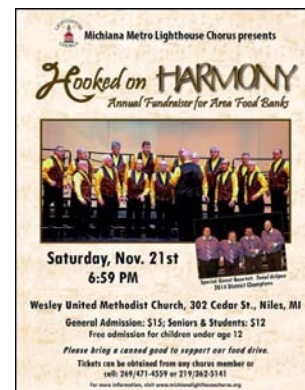
The LIGHTHOUSE CHORUS presented *Hooked on Harmony* as its Annual Food Bank Fundraiser at Wesley United Methodist Church, in Niles, MI. Ticket sales helped raise money for area food banks.



MICHIANA METRO CHORUS.



This is how the LAMPLIGHTERS roll on Women's Night in Brighton.



Mt Pleasant

January 13. The chapter held its annual "Mountie Awards" banquet. Pioneer District President **Mike Hansen** installed the 2016 chapter officers!

The search window for a new Musical Director closed on January 30, 2016. The Mt. Pleasant Chapter is pleased to announce that **Jessica Thompson** is the new Musical Director of the MOUNTAINTOWN SINGERS.

Pontiac—Waterford

The 71st BIG CHIEF CHORUS Show - *A Night of A Cappella Singing Barbershop Style* - was a resounding success. The 760-seat house was nearly full, and included many

regional barbershoppers as well as friends and families of guest performers and chorus members. Our 2nd-year experiment with on-line purchasing yielded almost 100 tickets. Men on stage numbered 39.

The show took 1:50, a good length. All the in-house quartets performed admirably - 4 UR PLEASURE, SHARP ATTACK, 4GVN, CODA HONOR, LIMITED EDITION, and BIDIN' OUR TIME. Eighteen members of THE VOICE were present, directed by **Aaron Pollard** in their second (Kalamazoo convention was first) and last appearance before competing at the Youth Chorus Festival in Reno. Pioneer District Champions FRONTIER stepped out from THE VOICE to sing. Terri Newman's Classy Dancers were absolutely delightful as they danced - accommodating to a smaller space and to live tempo - to the chorus's rendition of "What a Wonderful World."



The Classy Dancers performed as the chorus sang "What a Wonderful World."



The Grand Finale, with the BIG CHIEF CHORUS, INSTANT CLASSIC, THE VOICE, FRONTIER, and the Classy Dancers. (Photo by Utz Schmidt)

As we knew, INSTANT CLASSIC Lead **Theo Hicks** was out of action with vocal cord nodules, but **Drew Ochoa** stepped in without noticeable decrement. Dapper Dan Drew was sent 12 songs to master as a replacement for Theo and the quartet never seemed to miss a beat. The quartet even performed one of its hardest songs, "You Gotta Have Parts" at the afterglow. What fun to

see them hamming it up when they received their 1st-Place Trophy in the 1st Annual A Cappella Barberpole Awards.

Al Fisk was invited to critique the show, as part of the District's Standing Ovation program. By the next day he had given us a 1600 word highly complimentary report, with a few worthwhile suggestions for future consideration.

The 2015 Christmas Chorus and its embedded quartets, BIDIN' OUR TIME, LIMITED EDITION, and 4 UR PLEASURE sang 27 gigs to 1800 people.



Christmas Chorus at Independence Village of White Lake.

The 2016 Officers Installation and 2015 Awards Ceremony was held January 19. **Eric Domke, Jack Teuber, Fred Pioch, Zach Schroeder, Ray Sturdy, Charlie Perry, Jim Owens, Walt DeNio, and Roger Holm** being inducted by **Terry Webner** of EVENIN' GENTLEMEN.



Pontiac—Waterford Chapter installation.

The 2015 Chorus Awards were presented to:

- ♦ **Mike Frye** - Barbershopper of the Year
- ♦ **Jack Teuber** - Bill Pascher Founders Award
- ♦ **Gene Downie** - Raleigh Hallman Music Award

Sault Ste. Marie

The NORTHLAND BARBERSHOP CHORUS did a performance of a cappella Christmas carols in front of Sears in the Station Mall on Saturday, December 19.

The group's music director **Bob Shami** said they've been doing performances every last Saturday before Christmas at that location since the '80s. "I've been a member of this group for 32 years and I think we were here when I started," said Shami who started in 1982.



Members of Northland Chorus sing at Station Mall. (Photo by Jeff Klassen, SooToday)

The main performance of about 30 men went from 1:00 - 1:30 p.m. but the group was at the mall the whole day singing in smaller groups as they manned a donation Kettle for the Salvation Army.

"We rehearse at their hall every Monday night and they are... fabulous to us so this is our way of repaying them," said Shami. "Mind you it's the Saturday before Christmas, but in the entire city they tell us that this kettle on this day is the one that gets the most donations and they think it's because of us and our history of coming here. People recognize that."

This year the group was honored with a special appearance by a fully blind retired therapy dog named Tashi who charmed mall passersby at the donation kettle.

The all-male a cappella group started in 1961 and does mostly charity performances with the exception of their annual show. Shami said that this year's show will be on April 9 and will feature the 2006 international champion quartet VOCAL SPECTRUM.

Traverse City

The Chorus went caroling at Grand Traverse Pavilions in Traverse City, December 1. Singing in the domed lobby was awesome! REALLY COOL! What a fun time we had!

Windsor

The SUN PARLOUR CHORUS had their Christmas party December 14. As a special and well deserved honor, **Corry Demeris** was presented with the chapter's prestigious and well respected Barbershop-per of the Year award. Way to go Corry!

Reports—Quartets

Bidin' Our Time

from Ray Sturdy



Traverse City chorus caroling at Grand Traverse Pavilions.



BIDIN' OUR TIME sing at New Horizons Rehabilitation Facility in Auburn Hills.

On Friday, December 18, BIDIN' OUR TIME entertained 165 workers at the New Horizons Rehabilitation Facility in Auburn Hills. New Horizons provides a wide array of vocational and rehabilitation services to people with disabilities in southeastern Michigan. Member **Jim Owens** uses their services to assemble and package his famous Cathole products. BIDIN' OUR TIME was enthusiastically received by workers as they sang Christmas songs at various locations throughout the plant.

Coda Honor

CODA HONOR was happy to sing at the Applewood Estate for the Flint Cultural Center Holiday Walk, December 2.



CODA HONOR at Flint Cultural Center. (Photo by Ruth Stanley Patterson)

Detroit Sound Machine

DSM has exciting news! As you may know, we have been searching for a replacement for our esteemed and beloved lead, **Nick Roe**, as he begins the next chapter of his life as a happily married man in North Carolina. As of just a couple of days ago, our quest has come to an end.

Please welcome, for the first time, DSM's new lead...*Drumroll please*...**Dylan Broome**!

Dylan previously sang baritone with lauded Pioneer District quartet THE VOICEMALES. He also sang with the Mt. Pleasant chapter, where he competed as part of their chorus, the MOUNTAINTOWN SINGERS, on the international stage in 2011, and helped run their ever-popular Harmony Explosion youth camps. He also sang with the Pioneer District's original youth chorus, NORTHERN RHAPSODY, competing with them at the Midwinter Convention in 2011, and studied Musical Theatre Performance at Central Michigan University.

We look forward to performing, competing, and continuing to grow as a quartet with Dylan, and wish the very best to Nick in his life and barbershop career to come.

Evenin' Gentlemen

We sang November 7 at a wedding reception in the Orchard Lake Country Club. Very nice facility. The couple wanted barbershop because they remember the songs that we sing. (They are both in their 70's.) We wish them well.

The second week of December, we had two appearances. The first was for the Royal Oak Chamber Of Commerce that was held at Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle. We were invited by **Mandy Reinke**. We had a good time singing for them.



Christmas in Plymouth with EVENIN' GENTLEMEN.



DETROIT SOUND MACHINE L. to R. George C Jackson Jr. (Br), Dave Ebersole (T), Dylan Broome (L), and Jason Hall (Bs)

The other one was Christmas in Plymouth. We sang at various street corners and got good response from the listeners. The cooperating weather helped a lot. Good crowd out there. We would like to thank the Chamber of Commerce along with **Bob** and **Carol May** who made sure we had what we needed.

Majestyx

MAJESTYX was on WZZM13 News to promote the *Music For The Holidays* show and to seek new members for the Grand Rapids Chapter. MAJESTYX lead and GLC director **Jamie Carey** did a great interview including announcing the show as a combination of the GLC and the "outstanding ladies chorus," the GRAND RAPIDS CHORUS of Sweet Adelines. He spoke of the GLC as the best-kept secret in Grand Rapids and how a cappella barbershop music has a lot of contemporary music too. He also announced that the GLC will be representing the state of Michigan (the Pioneer District which includes the state of Michigan and the western Ontario boarder) at BHS International in Nashville. The interview ended with a great Christmas song sung by MAJESTYX.

<https://www.facebook.com/MajestyxQuartet>



MAJESTYX appear on WZZM-TV.

Olde Thyme Harmony Quartet

OTHQ welcomes new bass **Keldon (Kel) Scott**. Kel joined the Lansing Chapter just over a year ago and brings a lot of new energy to OLDE THYME HARMONY QUARTET. He is an accomplished musician with a nice bright bass voice. He has been working hard over the past three months, learning not only many of OTHQ repertoire but also many new songs for the quartet. Kel made his debut appearance with OLDE THYME HARMONY QUARTET on the Grand Ledge Opera House show in Sept, 2015 and he also made the trip to Monaco PA with OTHQ in November 2015.



George (Kel) Scott

Patch Chords



PATCH CHORDS performing at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Mt. Hope.

With the old year behind us, it's time for the PATCH CHORDS to reflect on a busy 2015 and welcome in the new year. In total last year, we had more than 30 performances, varying from Canada to Grand Rapids and many points in between. There were lots of highlights for us; many of the significant ones were directly tied into the performances of the CAPITOL CITY CHORDSMEN. For instance: Our Chapter's Annual Show and afterglow....The Lake Lansing Band Shell performance....the Owosso show....Singing Valentines..the Grand Ledge Opera House show.

Right on Q

The quartet was advertised as a “guest star” on the Sweet Ads GREAT LAKES CHORUS Christmas Shows, *I'll Be Home for Christmas...eventually*, December 5, in Sterling Heights.

Reports—District

CDWI/OIF 2015 - November 21, 2015

from: Chris Berry, Pioneer District, Vice President – Chorus Director Development

What a great weekend! Despite the threat of a winter snow advisory, over 50 dedicated singers made the trip to Grand Rapids November 21. Five directors and assistant directors participated in the Chorus Director Workshop Intensive (CDWI), and eleven people attended the Outstanding in Front (OIF) event. My thanks to **Dave Campbell, Larry Dodge, and Debbie Dodge** for sharing their knowledge and experience. Many thanks to the GREAT LAKES CHORUS and HARMONY MERCENARIES for standing up as the guest chorus and singing for almost four hours to support the CDWI participants.



One of the participants from the OIF workshop tries his hand at directing the volunteer chorus in Grand Rapids.

Plans are being made for another CDWI and OIF workshop in 2016; I hope you consider joining us. The Chorus Director's Workshop Intensive CDWI is a mini HU course for potential directors and section leaders. Outstanding In Front OIF is a one-day introductory class for individuals to gain an understanding of what it takes to be a leader in front of your chorus. If you are interested in attending, please let me know.

Leadership Academy January 9, 2016

...was cancelled due to lack of enrollment.

Uncle Sam Night - January 22, 2016

from Roger Reid

A total of 78 men (Barbershoppers and guests) from Pioneer and Ontario Districts, attended our Annual Uncle Sam Night at the South Windsor Knights of Columbus Centre on Friday, January 22 2016 hosted by the SUN PARLOUR CHORUS, Windsor Chapter.

A big thank you goes to all who attended this wonderful evening of singing and socializing.



Pick-up quartet with; John Wearing, David MacDonald, Eric Best, and Jim Findlay.

The doors officially opened at 7 pm, although we were receiving our guests as early as 6:15 pm. The bar opened early (big thanks to the Columbus Centre staff who came in early to accommodate us) at 7 pm and our meal was served buffet style at 8:30 pm. Another incredible roasted chicken dinner with pasta, salad, bread rolls and coffee.

Our Emcee for the evening, our very own **Doran McTaggart**, put out the challenge, to all who attended, to see if a winning chorus could take home the trophy, but such as it is, this was the 40th straight year that the contest (four choruses) ended

in a tie. (Incredible??) Many thanks to our Chorus Directors (Jeff, Steve, Dan and Dave).

The evening continued with more chorus singing and 20 quartets providing musical entertainment for the attendees. The highlight of the evening was our guests from London, Ontario, the FOREST CITY FIRE CHORUS, who provided an incredible show of a cappella talent while performing a blend of humorous, traditional, and folksy four part harmonies. Many thanks go to **Dave Campbell** and the 18 man chorus for the pleasure of being in your company.



FOREST CITY FIRE CHORUS from London, Ontario

What a great opportunity for all who attended and participated in the chorus and quartet singing. Everyone left with a smile on their face and a song in their heart!! I believe we closed the doors after midnight.

Many thanks go to our volunteers on Friday night who, without their help, the party would not go as "smoothly" as it did. My thanks to Doran McTaggart, **Reg Appleyard**, **Avi Puranik**, **Doug Scott**, and **Bob Turner**. Also thanks to **Rob Grimmel** for his donation to the evening's door prize.

Looking forward to Uncle Sam Night in 2017!!

Reports—International

New Venue for 2017 International Convention Announced

A venue has been chosen, to replace the Minneapolis venue that will be under reconstruction in July 2017. "Get ready for our incredible performance venue for 2017... The stunning AXIS Theater at Planet Hollywood in Las Vegas. You've never heard

Barbershop like this – in an intimate 7,000-seat venue designed for music! For the first time, all of our shows and contests will be walk-in ready -- the minute we arrive at the Axis Theater, everything required for a sensational show is already in place. This premium space was built for the demanding needs of music industry superstars like **Britney Spears**, **J-Lo**, and the Miss Universe finals. (No, **Steve Harvey** will not do the call-off at the quartet finals.)

Meet HQ's new A&R Manager, Scott Harris

Harmony Hall welcomed a new staff member this week! Musician, arranger, and all around swell guy Scott Harris has accepted the newly created role of Arranger and Repertoire Manager (A&R for short). He'll be the primary contact for our arrangers and will oversee the creation and editing of new and existing barbershop arrangements to be distributed and sold through the Society and through external partners.

Spotlight on a Chapter—Gratiot County



The Gratiot County MIDSTATESMEN have a long history, much of it elucidated in Robert McDermott's History of the Pioneer District.

The Gratiot County chapter was formed in 1949, and grouped in Area 4 with Chesaning, Flint, Holly, and Lapeer. By 1950, **Robert McDermott** wrote, they boasted an excellent chorus.

They hosted and competed in the very first Michigan District Chorus contest July 27, 1952, held in Wright Park in Alma, MI. "Its committees provided everything necessary to make it a success, including perfect weather and a crowd of about 2,500 people." The venue proved so suitable that the second Michigan District chorus contest was held there also, on July 19, 1953.

The 1952 quartet contest was held separately, in October in Lansing, where the MAKE-SHIFT FOUR of Gratiot County competed.

In 1955, “One of the small chapters in the district—Gratiot County—entered four quartets and a chorus in the contest.”

In 1956 the Gratiot County Chorus was under the leadership of **Phil Daab**.

The chapter then drops from sight in Bob McDermott’s history until the chorus competition of 1974, when Gratiot County came in eleventh, and they climbed to tenth in 1975. They competed in 1976, 1978, 1979, and 1980. Then, in 1981 and 1982, they won the new Silver Division Champion Award, under the old “1976 to 1986 System” which preceded the current Plateau contests.

By 1988, under **Jeff Rayburn**, “in somewhat of a surprise, the Gratiot County MIDSTATESMEN Chorus took the district chorus championship honors by outpointing 15 other choruses in a superb contest. This is the first time that Gratiot County has ever won the district crown.” (McDermott)



1988 MIDSTATESMEN. District chorus champions.

The chorus returned to competition in the 2000’s. From 2001 thru 2007 they placed an average of 23 men on stage, and scored in the mid-50’s.



PERSONAL EXPRESSION quartet.

Gratiot County quartets have also done well. In 1978, the PERSONAL EXPRESSION quartet from Gratiot County [**Mike Bowen** (T), **Jeff Rayburn** (L), **Jerry MacLaren**, (Br), and **Bill Hirschman**, (Bs)], won the district quartet championship.

In 1990, BLUE RIBBON COALITION came in second in the quartet contest, behind CHECKMATE.

The WHOLE NOTES from the Gratiot County Chapter have been competing and performing of late. They include **Ken Best** (T), **Scott Johnson** (L), **Chuck Moerdyk** (Bs), and **Grant Colthorp** (Br).



The WHOLE NOTES.

Other current chapter quartets include THE REAL MEN (made up of all Basses), A.B.S.Q, and THE SUITABLE UNION.

Other notable chapter members have included:

- ♦ **Dr. James K “Doc” Hall**, a 33-year barbershopper, who died tragically in a medical flight over Lake Michigan. He acted in various roles including President, Music V.P., and Assistant Director.
- ♦ **Lowell Boyer** died in 2013 after singing in 65 consecutive MIDSTATESMEN'S annual Fall Shows. He served the chapter in every capacity from President to assistant director to show chairman to treasurer. He also sang in four registered quartets, including the IMPUREAIRES, the GRATIOT COUNTRY GENTLEMEN, and the TIMBERTONES.

In the last few years, Gratiot County singers have been noticeably active at the District level. They participated in the first Regional *Supercharging Your Chapter!* event in our Society and in the *Celebrate Harmony 75th Anniversary* megachorus that sang on the Lansing, Holland, Grand Rapids, and Gratiot County shows.

Their annual fall shows demonstrate the chapter's creativity. Recent examples:

- ♦ Their 2012 show was called *Boy, Oh Boyer*, in honor of Lowell Boyer's 65th consecutive show, and featured “a hilarious skit-filled show that Gratiot is known for, and, for which, Lowell picked all the music.”
- ♦ Their 2013 show was entitled *Celebrate Harmony – A Salute to the Barbershop Harmony Society's 75th Anniversary* and included the Pioneer Megachorus.
- ♦ Their 2014 show was entitled *Wheel for Tunes*. “We used a different concept as to what songs we sang on the show. Instead of a pre-selection of songs for the show, we worked hard on all of our songs including a few polecat songs. We put all 16 on a list in the program with a number beside each song. Then we had a wheel with 16 numbers on it and spun the wheel for each song we performed. We added some very funny skit stuff to keep it moving along.”
- ♦ Their October 3, 2015 show, *Big Top Barbershop*, included real clowns from the Heart of Michigan Clowns Alley. It also featured a ballet performance to the song "Send in the Clowns."

They engage in many other sing-outs, examples being;

- ♦ Masonic Chapel
- ♦ Ithaca Downtown Sing
- ♦ The Breckenridge Center
- ♦ The Highland Festival Parade
- ♦ Christmas Concert at Masonic Pathways
- ♦ Rose Bush Manor
- ♦ Lights of Love at Gratiot Community Hospital
- ♦ Caroling at Local Nursing Homes
- ♦ Rose Bush Methodist Church
- ♦ The Arbor Grove Nursing Home
- ♦ Mid-Michigan Industries social services in Mt. Pleasant
- ♦ Alma Masonic Home
- ♦ Two Sheridan Michigan Lions Club Variety Shows
- ♦ The Ithaca Blood Drive



MIDSTATESMEN 2015 Flag Day sing-out in St. Louis

The MIDSTATESMEN'S *Spring Sing*, May 13, 2014 at the Alma Masonic Home was an opportunity for chorus President Scott Johnson to present a \$500.00 check to each of the music directors at Breckenridge, Ithaca, and Alma high schools.

The chorus meets on Tuesday nights at 7 p.m. in the Alma Middle School choir room. Their new President is **David Davis**, and their director is Chuck Moerdyk. Their membership is at 33. Their website is at

www.midstatesmen.org

Ken Best answered **a few additional questions.**

What is a typical rehearsal night like?

A typical rehearsal night takes place at the Alma Middle School choral room from 7 to 9 pm. We have close parking. Alma schools administration has been very generous to our chapter for many years. We are blessed with the free use of their facilities for rehearsal as well as use of their auditorium for our annual shows. We have a pole cat chart and do certifications on a regular basis for several meetings, then put it away for a while. **Ron Chaffee** is our assistant director and he warms us up. Our director for the last four years, Chuck Moerdyk, teaches us new music by using electronic note books in sectionals. We constantly work on our twelve repertoire songs. We often meet before rehearsal to sing at one of the local nursing homes or hospitals.

You do a lot of sing-outs. Have I done justice to them?

I thought it would be worth mentioning that we participate in the Alma Highland Festival parade Memorial Day weekend. We have a wonderful steel float that our members built several years ago. The event is attended by over 50,000 people, so it is a great time to advertise our Fall show.

Who writes your show scripts?

We of course have a show committee that meets once a month to design our show. All members are invited to have input. Once a theme is picked we just brainstorm different possible skits. Our show chairman has been Ken Best since he returned to the chapter in 2010. He had been a member for 15 years back in the late 70's and returned the year we lost Dr. Jim Hall. Our music for next Fall's show will be from the new Pole Cat II book. We will build skits around those songs. We are waiting for an open date from the school and then will start contacting quartets to hire.

Were the Masonic Home donations a one-time thing? Or part of an annual philanthropy?

We have the Spring Sing every year where we invite the school vocal groups to join us.

New membership is a problem for all of us. What measures are you taking? Was Paul Ellinger's "Supercharging your Chapter" helpful?

We have a membership committee that meets once a month headed up by our membership V.P **Denny Wissinger**. We have two sub committees - one that focuses on recruitment and the other that focuses on retention and fun chapter meeting nights. We have increased our chapter membership each year for the past several years and currently have three new applications. We are excited that two of them are high school students that are really having fun. We have had CHORDIOLOGY on our show several times and part of having them there is our conversations with all of them about increasing membership. They are all full of good advice and the funniest guys to be around.

History—Old Gold

Many past Pioneer District Gold Medalists are still active, even those who got their Gold in the last century. Here is the list of active men who were District Gold Medalists in the 1900's. ("Active" is defined as any man who is still a BHS member. Thanks to **Al Fisk** for the Gold Medal data on the Pioneer Web Site.)

Al Fisk, Bass, Detroit Sound Co. (1997)

Al Rehkop, Tenor, Wolverines (1953), Sharpkeepers (1957), Noteries (1963), Gentlemen's Agreement (1970)

Ben Ayling, Bass, The Ritz (1984)

Bernie Poelman, Bass, Galaxies (1973)

Bob Hartley, Tenor, The Ivy League (1985)

Bob Marshall, Tenor, Curbstone Serenaders (1962)

Bob Riedel, Tenor, Hi Tech (1987)

Bob Winters, Lead, Treble Shooters (1964)

Brian Kaufman, Baritone, Great Lakes Express (1979), Good News (1982), Hi Tech (1987), Checkmate (1990), Stay Tuned (1991), WJBC (1999)

Brian Philbin, Baritone, The Ivy League (1985)

Bruce LaMarte, Lead, Saturday Nite Feature (1981), Hi Tech (1987), Tenor, Checkmate, (1990), Stay Tuned (1991), WJBC (1999)

Cal Verduin, Baritone, Extension Chords (1952)

Carl Dahlke, Bass, Auto Towners (1961)

Clint Bostick, Baritone, Auto Towners (1961)

Craig Pollard, Lead, Checkmate (1990), WJBC (1999)

David Gillingham, Baritone, Full Chord Press (1993)

Dean Burrill, Tenor, Four "D" Minors (1974)

Don Burrill, Bass, Four "D" Minors (1974)

Don Hall, Bass, Extension Chords (1952)

Don Lucas, Lead, Extension Chords (1952)

Don Slamka, Tenor, Power Play (1989)

Dorn Burrill, Baritone, Four "D" Minors (1974)

Doug Nichol, Lead, The Ritz (1984)

Ed Fritzen, Baritone, Upstage Sound (1998)

Frank Bateson, Tenor, Eversharps (1968)

Gene Bulka, Tenor, Close Chords (1966)

Gene Hanover, Lead, Upstage Sound (1998)
 Jack Slamka, Bass, Saturday Nite Feature (1981), Power Play (1989)
 James Hawkins, Bass, Firepower! (1995)
 Jamie Carey, Lead, Full Chord Press (1993), Firepower! (1995)
 Jeff Rayburn, Lead, Personal Expression (1978)
 Jerry MacLaren, Baritone, Personal Expression (1978)
 Jim Johnson, Tenor, Classmates (1975), Opening Night (1992)
 Jim Shisler, Tenor, The Ritz (1984)
 John Seemann, Baritone, Sharp Lifters (1967)
 John Wearing, Tenor, 4 Fits (1965), Foreign Policy (1976), Saturday Nite Feature (1981)
 Ken Gibson, Tenor, Vagabonds (1969), Baritone, Opening Night (1992)
 Kerry Foley, Bass, Upstage Sound (1998)
 Kirk Wood, Baritone, Genuine Blend (1994)
 Lynn Sommerfeld, Bass, Touch of Clash (1986)
 Mark Wilson, Tenor, Firepower! (1995)
 Michael Slamka, Lead, Power Play (1989)
 Mike Lucas, Tenor, Chord Counts (1959)
 Noel "Bud" Carpenter, Lead, Original Choice (1971)
 Norm Thompson, Bass, Opening Night (1992)
 Peter Westers, Baritone, Fermata (1996)
 Raleigh Bloch, Tenor, Upstage Sound (1998)
 Scott McNutt, Bass, Checkmate (1990)
 Sid Helder, Tenor, Extension Chords (1952)

Perhaps even more impressive are **Senior** Gold Medalists from the 1900's who are still active.

Al Walters, Tenor, Flipside (1997), Class Reunion (1998)
 Bernie Poelman, Baritone, Class Reunion (1998)
 Bob Fangert, Bass, Left Overs (1994)
 Fred McFadyen, Tenor, The Very (Quick) Idea (1995)
 Gary Branch, Baritone, Flipside (1997), Shades of Grey (1999)
 Gordon Dubrul, Baritone, Friends Indeed (1991)
 Hank DeMars, Tenor, Friends Indeed (1991)
 John Seeman, Baritone, Silver Domes (1996)
 John Wade, Bass, Silver Domes (1996)
 John Wearing, Tenor, The Four Fits (1988), Silver Domes (1996)
 Lowell Thomas, Bass, Primer Time (1992)
 Lynwood Kraft, Lead, Shades of Grey (1999)
 Myke Lucas, Lead, Class Reunion (1998)
 Ronald Thomet, Tenor, Shades of Grey (1999)
 Rusty Ruegsegger, Baritone, The Very (Quick) Idea (1995)

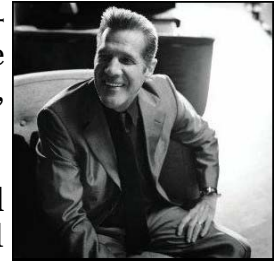
And these men also won International Gold and are still active.

Al Rehkop, Tenor, Gentlemen's Agreement (1971), Auto Towners (1966)
 Carl Dahlke, Bass, Auto Towners (1966)
 Clint Bostick, Baritone, Auto Towners (1966)

Media

Glenn Frey

Glenn Frey - guitarist, songwriter, and founding member of the EAGLES - died Jan 18 at 67. Frey won six Grammy Awards and five American Music Awards, sold over 120 million albums worldwide, and was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.



Glenn Frey

Born in Detroit, he graduated from Royal Oak Dondero High School in 1966. His early career was aided by backing up Bob Seger and Linda Ronstadt. He met Don Henley in 1970. His collaboration with drummer Henley rivals that of Lennon-McCartney, both artistically and financially.

The EAGLES posted a memorial on their web site, including Glenn's poignant "It's Your World Now," at <http://www.eagles.com/splash>. "It's your world now, my race is run, I'm moving on."

The EAGLES held off accepting the Kennedy awards this year because of his illness. Hopefully, they will receive it next year.

Transitions

Lee Congdon Hanson



Lee Hanson died Thursday, November 12, at the age of 84 in the Blue Water Hospice Home, Marysville. He lived in Fort Gratiot Twp, north of Port Huron.

Hanson was a 42-year member of The Barbershop Harmony Society. He sang with nine barbershop quartets over 54 years. As the Bass of CENTER STAGE he placed 2nd in the International Quartet competitions of 1982, 3, and 4. In 1992, his quartet appeared in the Michigan Opera Theater professional production of The Music Man on the Fisher Theater stage.

He was a longtime radio man. The family came to the region in 1986 after buying local radio station WPHM-AM, Port Huron. He retired in 2000 after an active 51-year career in broadcasting. Earlier in his work history, he was General Manager of WKBD-TV Channel 50, WQRS-FM and WNIC in the Detroit broadcast market. He served as a Director of the Michigan Association of Broadcasters.

He served in the U.S. Army in Puerto Rico. He received an honorary doctorate from Baker College in 1996.

Lee Hanson is survived by his wife, Janet; children Katrina, Eric and Linda; and five grandchildren.

Byron Augustine Hatch



Byron Hatch died July 13 at the age of 87. He was a past member of the Benton Harbor chapter and a current member of the Fairfax JUBILAIRES.

Bill (Stu) Hayner



Bill Hayner, 3rd from left, with chapter members and Motor Wheel employees. An old-time Lansing barbershopper and my good friend, Bill Hayner, passed from our midst recently, and we will miss him.

Personally, I remember Bill for his wit, his infectious laughter, and his unconditional love of barbershopping, be it spur-of-the-moment woodshedding, quarteting (including the PRESS ON REGARDLESS quartet) or chorus singing with our Lansing chapter. Back in 1975, I got my first real taste of barbershop quarteting with a pickup quartet of Bill, Reese Olger, District President Don Funk, and myself as we provided entertainment for Chapter Installation ceremonies in Cadillac. At that very moment, I became hooked on barbershopping! The four of us sang almost non-stop roundtrip to Cadillac and back, including some songs I swear had never been written.

In the 1970's and 80's, Bill played a strong leadership role in the annual Dewitt Ox Roast and was responsible for securing CAPITAL CITY CHORDSMEN entertainment for that major community event for a number of years.

It's been said that most of us go to our graves with our music still inside us. Definitely not so for Bill. What I am sure of is that he will be joining that great Barbershop Chorus in the sky with a twinkle in his eye and a song in his heart.

From the first hello to the last goodbye, Bill, it's been awfully nice to know you.
—Doug Pearson

He was a great, fun loving, tenor in the chapter and would always sing at the drop of the hat.
—Don Horton

Charles D. Jewell

Chuck Jewell died Oct. 13, 2015 at the age of 86. He was a member of the Traverse City chapter and the quartet BACKWARD GLANCE.

Leon Juda Waldman



Leon Waldman, 87, of Lakes of the North died August 9. He was a charter member of the Gaylord Chapter Harmonie Meisters where he performed at hospitals and in area events for ten years. He became quite ill shortly after I started singing with them. He never returned as an active member but maintained his membership.

—Dale L. Hanson

Pioneer District

PioNet

PioNet is just one group within Yahoo Groups. It is for communication between Barbershop harmony singers of the Pioneer District, BHS. It currently has 520 members.

PioNet can be used to share chapter and district announcements, information and ideas with other barbershoppers and chapters in Pioneer. You can ask questions, get answers, bring up your concerns and praises, and generally get involved in e-mail chats about anything that affects your Pioneer barbershop life. You will have contact with your district officers and they will be able to get info to you directly and immediately.

Pionet was founded in 1997 by **Jim Styer**, who has retired to Florida. Its subscription list represents all of our district's chapters, members from around the Society, Sweet Adelines, and others.

It is a *Restricted Group*, which means that admission is controlled by a moderator, who is **Matthew Tipton**, of the Rochester GUARDIANS OF HARMONY.

You can join the group thru one of these three portals:

- ♦ Send an email request to Matt directly (mftipton@yahoo.com)
- ♦ Go to the Pioneer District Home page <http://www.pioneerdistrict.org> The red button at the very bottom right is "PioNet Email List" which will link to the PioNet Listserv Information and Sign-up
- ♦ Go to: [Barbershop harmony singers of Pioneer District SPEBSQSA](#) where you can click on the magenta box entitled "Join Group."

A couple of reminders:

1. Keep the topic Barbershop. No personal sales pitches, etc.
2. You can NOT attach any file or picture. They will be automatically stripped off.

It is **not necessary to register** with Yahoo! in order to participate in Yahoo! Groups. Once you are in, you can read and send messages at <http://groups.yahoo.com/mygroups>

Troub business

We are looking for articles, photos, performances, and ads for the May 15, 2016 issue of the Troubadour. Deadline for submission – May 1, 2016

Upcoming events/Calendar

2016

- Feb 27 [Detroit-Oakland Chapter Shows](#) (1:59 pm and 7:29 pm)
- Mar 12 Lansing Chapter Show, Wharton Center
- Apr 9 Sault Ste. Marie Chapter Show
- Apr 22–24 Spring District Convention GR Crowne Plaza, host: Grand Rapids
- May 13-15 Great Lakes Harmony Brigade, Okemos, MI
- May 21 Flint's annual Show at Powers High School, 6:00 pm
- Jun 10 Send Off Show - Windsor [map](#)
- June 18 Quartet Boot Camp - Okemos
- June 28 Dead Creek Picnic in Frankenmuth, 6:00 pm
- Jul 3-10 International, Nashville
- Oct 14–16 Fall District Convention in Kalamazoo; host: The QCA

2017

- Apr 21-23 Spring Convention at Grand Traverse Resort, host: Mt. Pleasant
- Oct 20-22 Fall Convention in Battle Creek, host: open

2018

- Apr 20-22 Spring Convention Grand Rapids Crowne Plaza, host: D.O.C.
- Oct 19-21 Fall Convention in Battle Creek, host: open

2019

- Apr 19-21 Spring Convention, Grand Traverse Resort, Traverse City, host: open

Harmony Mercenaries

- Feb 22 Harmony Mercenaries @ G.R.
- Mar 15 Harmony Mercenaries @ Lansing
- Apr 14 Harmony Mercenaries @ Muskegon
- May 17 Harmony Mercenaries @ B.C. this is also Jug Night
- June 19 Harmony Mercenaries New Music Workshop @ Okemos
- July 19 Harmony Mercenaries @ G.R.

Great Lakes Harmony Brigade, Okemos, MI

May 13-15, 2016 Great Lakes Harmony Brigade
 May 19-21, 2017 Great Lakes Harmony Brigade
 May 18-20, 2018 Great Lakes Harmony Brigade
 May 17-19, 2019 Great Lakes Harmony Brigade
 May 15-17, 2012 Great Lakes Harmony Brigade

Upcoming International Conventions

July 3 - July 10, 2016 Nashville, TN
 July 2 - July 9, 2017 Las Vegas, NV
 July 1 - July 8, 2018 Orlando, FL
 June 30 - July 7, 2019 Salt Lake City, UT

Promotional Flyers

The **DETROIT-OAKLAND CHAPTER** of the BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY
 presents an afternoon and evening of Barbershop Harmony as

THE

GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS CHORUS

GOES

Looking for Work

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2016, at 1:59 pm & 7:29 pm

Royal Oak High School (formerly Kimball High School)
 1500 Lexington Blvd (on Crooks Road between 13 & 14 Mile Roads)

featuring



FOREFRONT
 2015 International Silver Medalists



TONAL ECLIPSE
 2014 District Quartet Champions

TICKET PRICES: \$20 in advance \$22 at Door (Group rates available)

Make New Friends & Great Memories!

Annual MountainTown Harmony Explosion Summer Camp



Held at Central Michigan University July 2016

For Male and Female Singers Ages 14 - 20
Learn from Top Clinicians & Teaching Quartet - Perform in a Collegiate Venue
Get Music & Learning Tracks to Four Songs, Camp T Shirt and Show Audio Recording
\$235 per Person, Includes Eight Meals & Two Nights Lodging
Local Scholarships Available call: 517-398-2472

RHYTHM DEMONSTRATION

 Pop Tarts 	 Hot Cocoa 	 Scrambled Eggs 	 Chicken Nuggets 	 Pork Tenderloin 
 Cinnamon Bun 	 Strawberry Jam 	 Apple Turnover 	 Barbeque Chicken 	 Pizza Casserole 
 Carrot Sticks and Dip 	 Beef Ravioli 	 Rice Crispie Cookies 	 Pancakes, Maple Syrup 	 Cinnamon Applesauce 

FOR MY MUSIC LEARNING FRIENDS.