



TROUBADOUR

On behalf of the entire Pioneer Board of Directors, I would like to thank all the quartets, choruses, and spectators who participated in the Spring Convention of the Pioneer District. We heard many positive comments about the content, quality, and comradery that the convention was able to offer. I would like to extend a special thank you to the Pioneer District Director of Events, **Roger Lewis**, as he and his team put together another outstanding contest weekend. I would also like to recognize the work of our Director of Contests and Judging, **Brian Duncel**, who ensured that the contests ran smoothly and the judges were well taken care of. And the person “behind the scenes” who is “really” in charge, **Don Kill** and his staff continued their long tradition of making the contest flow smoothly and efficiently. Finally, I’d like to thank **Bud Kraft** and the entire GREAT LAKES CHORUS whose many volunteers did an exceptional job as hosts for our convention.

But like with any production of this size, there are always ways that we can improve, so if you have suggestions on how we could make things better in the future, please sing out with them.

Until we meet again,
Mike Hansen
President, Pioneer Board of Directors



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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Officers' Corner

Chris Berry, Pioneer District, VP – Chorus Director Development

The Pioneer District along with hosts the MOUNTAINTOWN SINGERS are offering another fantastic opportunity to increase your music acumen. Come join us for an Outstanding In Front (OIF) Seminar on Saturday, May 21, 2016 in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan. For details, go to [Upcoming District Events](#) on the Pioneer District Website.

Pioneer District Spring Convention

The 2016 Spring Convention of the Pioneer District was held, April 22-24, in Grand Rapids, MI. Headquarters hotel was the Crowne Plaza, but the competitions were in the DeVos Center for Arts and Worship at Grand Rapids Christian High School, the same arrangement as in Spring of 2014. The GREAT LAKES CHORUS was the host chapter. It was the first convention in **Mike Hansen's** Presidency, and everything went smoothly.



DeVos lobby.

Photo by Michael Baribeau



DeVos auditorium.

Photo by Michael Baribeau

Let us get this quibble out of the way early: The judging panel this year graded tough. A comparison of scores for 19 choruses and quartets that competed in both 2015 (Fall and/or Spring) and 2016, indicates that their score in this competition was on average 2.5 pts lower than in the two conventions of 2015. So if one wants to compare performances, one can legitimately add 2.5 pts to this year's score. Enough said. Eighteen quartets and 12 choruses sang.

Quartet/Seniors Quartet Contest

The International Quartet Preliminaries was won by UPPER DECK with a score of 72.8. This was UPPER DECK's first competition, having formed in January. But they are hardly unknowns. Lead **Jamie Carey** and Bass **James Masalskis** were in previous district champion quartet, MAJESTYX. When family demands trumped barber-shop for **Pete Westers** (T) and **Steve Wheeler** (Br), Jamie and James recruited



The Judging Panel: Scott Kitzmiller, Robert Strong, Chris Hebert, Ev Nau, Chad Wulf, Jeff Taylor, Rob Arnold, Jim Sams. (by Michael Baribeau)

Mark Wilson (former Tenor of FOUR MAN FISHIN' TACKLE CHOIR) and **Brandon Ciesielski** (formerly in college quartet FOUNTAIN STREET FOUR and 2013 District Quartet Champion PLAYLIST).



UPPER DECK: Jamie Carey, Brandon Ciesielski, James Masalskis, Mark Wilson (by Michael Baribeau)



OLD RULES: Dennis Brown, Doug Weaver, Al Smith, R T Williams

ROLLS VOYCE and TONAL ECLIPSE were 2nd and 3rd respectively with scores of 72.2 and 70.4.

OLD RULES is the District Seniors Quartet Champion. That puts **Dennis Brown** and **R T Williams** into the QCA. **Doug Weaver** and **Al Smith** were already there from their role in District Champion SHOWTIME, 2011.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Upper Deck 72.8 | 4. Chordiology 68.8 | 7. Coda Honor 65.1 |
| 2. Rolls Voyce 72.2 | 5. Right On Q 66.2 | 8. Old Rules 63.2* |
| 3. Tonal Eclipse 70.4 | 6. Detroit Sound Machine 66.1 | * Senior Quartet |

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 9. Evenin' Gentlemen 61.4 | 12. The Chordsmen 58.8 | 15. Limited Edition 57.7* |
| 10. 4Got2Shave 60.1 | 13. Yesterday's Memories 58.5 | |
| 11. Olde Thyme Harmony Q 59.8 | 14. Double O Four 58.4* | |

Splashes of novelty pervaded the quartet contest:

- DETROIT SOUND MACHINE had the opportunity to showcase its new Lead, replacing **Nick Roe** who had moved out of the region. **Dylan Broome** was a member of the MOUNTAINTOWN SINGERS chorus and sang baritone in the college quartet, THE VOICEMALES.
- This was OTHQ'S first competition with their new bass, **Kel Scott**.
- CHORDIOLOGY had some new comedy routines that went over well.
- Placing ninth, and eligible for Saturday night mic tester was EVENIN' GENTLEMEN, but **Terry Webber's** voice went laryngitic on him. Fortunately Friday night's Mic Tester quartet, District champion EBB N' FLOW was available to mic test a second time.

Youth Quartet Contest

FRONTIER sang a haunting "In Her Eyes" followed by "Keep Your Sunny Side Up" to become the Pioneer District Youth Quartet Champion and to qualify for the Harmony Foundation Youth Quartet Contest in July.

1. Frontier 75.0
2. Four Instance 65.1



FRONTIER - Cody Harrell Aaron Pollard, Chris Cordle, Brandon Smith.

Chorus Contest

Rochester GUARDIANS OF HARMONY are the 2016 District Chorus Champion, with Lansing, Huron Valley, and D.O.C. nipping at their heels. The Guardians sang "Last Night was the End of the World" and "Hello My Baby" to score 65.5 and top the other nine choruses. (Another three choruses sang for score and evaluation only, either - in the case of Mt Pleasant and Grand Rapids - having won the previous two contests, or - in the case of Kalamazoo - not having the minimum number of men on stage).

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Rochester 65.5 (27) | 6. Flint 57.8 (26) |
| 2. Lansing 65.2 (24) | 7. Windsor 54.8 (23) |
| 3. Huron Valley 65.1 (14) | 7. (Tie) Saginaw Bay 54.8 (15) |
| 4. Detroit-Oakland 64.8 (30) | 9. Pontiac—Waterford 52.6 (27) |
| 5. Grosse Pointe 58.5 (25) | () Men on stage |

Grosse Pointe, MI is the Pioneer District Plateau 1 Champion.
Rochester, MI is the Pioneer District Plateau 2 Champion.
Saginaw Bay, MI is the Pioneer District Plateau 4 Champion.



The directors from all 12 choruses.

It goes without saying that the opportunity to hear Out-of-District quartet THROWBACK this far away from MAD and SUN and SWD and Nashville was worth the price of admission. Their score of 87.8 puts them third in the prelim scores for Nashville so far:

1. Forefront (CAR) – 91.6
2. Main Street (SUN) – 90.6
3. Lemon Squeezy (SNOBS) – 90.5
4. Throwback (SUN) – 87.8
5. After Hours (ILL) – 86.8
6. Stockholm Syndrome (SNOBS) – 86.5
7. Quorum (JAD) – 85.8
8. Artistic License (FWD) – 85.6
9. Signature (SUN) 84.0
10. Da Capo (MAD) 83.8



THROWBACK: Alex Rubin (Br), Michael Skutt (Bs), Sean Devine (L), Paul Saca (T)

The convention included 296 barbershoppers competing on stage. Following the Saturday chorus contest, most of them crowded onto the stage for the massed chorus that sang three polecats under the direction of



Peter Stephens-Brown, Dan Bezaire, and Jamie Carey.

The Saturday evening performance included a swan song by the MOUNTAINTOWN SINGERS, our District 2015 Championship Chorus. The director's baton was handed over from the interim internal directors to new director **Jessica Thompson**.



MOUNTAINTOWN SINGERS under the direction of Jessica Thompson.

It was good to see two other new directors. **Jeff Bonn** brought the HARBOR SOUNDS CHORUS from Saginaw Bay back to competition; with 15 men on stage, they sang a 54.8 score. Another new director was in attendance, **Kevin Taylor**, who took the helm of Battle Creek in January, 2016.

Saturday evening also included a performance by our rep to the International Chorus contest, the GREAT LAKES CHORUS.



The GREAT LAKES CHORUS under the direction of Jamie Carey.

Three workshops were run on Friday afternoon: "Developing an effective recruiting program" with **Ev Nau**, "How to rid yourself of stage fright" with **Paul Ellinger**, and "Beginning directing & conducting" with **Al Fisk**.

William Stutts, Jr., ran(g) the Tag program. Winners of the Tag contest were UNREHEARSED and THE QUARTET, both of which had a healthy sprinkling of Carey and Ellinger genes.

Chris Hebert (pronounced A-bear) directed the Joe Barbershop Chorus.

Masters of Ceremonies were **Brian Atkinson**, **Jamie Carey**, and **Doran McTaggart**.

Thanks to **Roger Lewis** and **Bud Kraft** (along with the GREAT LAKES CHORUS) for co-hosting the Convention.

Thanks to **Joe McDonald** for running the Big Screen, to **John Baker IV** for posting the Historical Board and running the Marketplace (with his wife), and **Don Kill** for running smooth programs on stage.

Singing was heard throughout the hotel, in Aryana's Restaurant & Lounge, the lobby, the hallways, and the Salons, where hospitality suites abounded on Saturday night.

Photos are available from **John Baker's 5 Photo Photography** at <http://www.5photo.net/#!my-photos/c1rbw> Use the password *pioneer*.



Al Fisk running his Beginning Directing & Conducting class.



Doran McTaggart working his magic.

And finally, there was the humor that we've come to expect at Pioneer District Conventions. "The woman who carries a little extra weight lives a bit longer than the man who mentions it." (Doran McTaggart, Saturday night emcee)

House of Delegates

1. President Mike Hansen welcomed the delegates.
2. J J Hawkins represented the Harmony Foundation.
 - a. HF funded 97 camps and youth chorus festivals this past year.
 - b. 118 music educators attended HU with support from HF.
 - c. The partnership with Hal Leonard has been very successful. Add a, b, c, and 67,000 people were newly exposed to barbershop music last year. But the escalation of goals requires an additional \$500,000. Seventeen donors have pledged half of that as a match.

3. **Murray Phillips** is the Society Board Representative to the Pioneer District. He was here to represent BHS this weekend. He is from Wolfville, Nova Scotia. Among his other resume items, he is the Chair and CEO of Sing Canada



J.J. Hawkins.

Harmony.

His message: "What a great time to be a barbershopper."

164 guys have joined BHS thru the web site, and of those, 50 of them have gone on to discover chapters to join.

Planning for a Senior Chorus Festival in San Antonio in 2017. To participate a district must grant the opportunity for tryouts at their Fall convention, with subsequent festival entry based on scores.



Murray Phillips

4. Treasurer **Robb Smith** reported Assets on Dec 31, 2015 of \$71,724.
5. **Doug Weaver's** Report (Financial Development).
THE VOICE did splendidly in Reno. Next year, the festival will be in San Antonio and will include a new option of female and mixed youth choruses. That's wonderful, except that the number of choruses is still capped at twenty, so acceptance into the festival (no longer, a competition) is limited and time-dependent. THE VOICE is committed, and hopes for 35 young men. (The last two years, the number of Pioneer participants has been 25.) This is financially stressful, and so this year, as last, the district will not be offering support at the whole festival level, but rather supporting THE VOICE. The Parade of Checks in the fall will help.
6. **Doran McTaggart** announced the Sendoff show on June 10. He pointed out that last year's attendance of 300 only included 74 men from the US, and that number included the choruses and quartets that sang and were funded for Pittsburgh. Talk it up!
7. **Pete Stephens-Brown** asked the HOD to consider including women participants in future Pioneer conventions. It was pointed out the women are already able to be affiliate members, but affiliate members may not compete. It was the body's consensus that the district can have performances, rather than competitions, for women's and mixed quartets, but, at the chorus level, even performances require a decision by the BHS.
8. **Aaron Pollard** (Youth in Harmony) reported on his work. Last fall, an email was sent to every high school choir director in Michigan, with information, links, and resources. Since then, Marshall Music road representatives have delivered such mails in person, during their visits to every school in the state. Eight schools have already expressed interest. It is also relevant that THE VOICE membership represents twelve different high schools.
9. **Dale Hanson** announced that the 70th Bush League will be held Aug 19, 20 with the same performance venue, but a new host hotel - Treetops Resort.

Report—Chapters

Battle Creek

The Battle Creek chapter held its Spring Cabaret concert May 6, 2016, at the Convis Township Hall in Marshall. Quartets included UPPER DECK, JUST4KIKKS, PATCH CHORDS, SECOND ENDING, and HOMETOWN SOUND.

Detroit Oakland Chapter

D.O.C.'s show February 27 was entitled "Gentlemen Songsters Go Looking For Work."

It featured guest quartets FOREFRONT and TONAL ECLIPSE, the GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS Chorus and chapter quartets EVENIN' GENTLEMEN and CODA HONOR.

The GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS invited guests to their Guest Night Gala & Fund-raiser May 2 to raise money for our Pioneer representatives in Nashville this year, and at the same time introduce our hobby to our invited guests--and your guests too.



The GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS.

Flint

Flint's ARROWHEAD Barbershop Chorus will perform their annual spring concert, Saturday, May 21 at 6:00 p.m. at Powers High School Auditorium, 1505 West Court Street, Flint, MI. Proceeds help scholarships at Powers and provides funding to perform at hospitals, churches, schools, funerals, senior residence centers, and VFW facilities at no costs. The evening of music and comedy - "Coney Island Memories" - will feature the 30-voice chorus and two barbershop quartets ROLLS VOYCE and Flint-based FRONTIER. Show tickets are \$20 for adults, seniors 62+ are \$18 and children 12 and under are \$15. Groups of 10 or more are \$15 each. All tickets sold at the door are \$20.

The Flint ARROWHEAD Barbershop Chorus has entertained audiences for almost a century with patriotic American standards and familiar tunes from days gone by. If you miss hearing these songs on the radio, do not miss this concert event to benefit students and the community.

Immediately after the show a "Meet the Cast Afterglow" will be held where more Barbershop music and delicious Flint style Coney Islands will be served by the Flint Coney Conexion restaurant. Afterglow tickets are \$10. For Flint ARROWHEAD Barbershop Chorus Show and Afterglow tickets please contact any chorus member, purchase at the door, or call Steve at 1-844-370-6470 extension one (1) for "Will Call" tickets. For additional information visit flintarrowhead.org. Pass this on to family and friends.

Annual Dead Creek Picnic

Pioneer District Chapters and Barbershop Quartets - Are you ready for the Flint Arrowhead Barbershop Chorus' "Annual Dead Creek Picnic"? Yes, you and your loved ones are invited! Picnic date: Tuesday, June 21st, 2016. (Note the date change gents!) Time: 6:00 p.m. or thereafter until midnight! Location: JC Pavilion, Heritage Park, Frankenmuth, MI. There will be a small donation for bratwurst, beer, pop, and water. We will also be providing delicious beans, sauerkraut, and chips. A meal fit for a King!

RSVP Required! We need a correct count for food please! If your Chorus is coming or you have a group or a Quartet that would like to sing please contact **Dave Flattley** at 810.691.7904 or at dflattley@att.net. We promise it will be a fun filled evening with good food, cold drink, family, friends, and good old barbershop! Oh ya...

Grand Rapids



GLC warming up to sing the National Anthem at the WCHA Hockey Championship.

The GREAT LAKES CHORUS sang the National Anthem at the WCHA Hockey Championship, March 19, at the Van Andel Arena in Grand Rapids. The 4th seeded Ferris Bulldogs won it all!

OLD RULES and Kalamazoo's 4GOT2SHAVE appeared on WOOD-TV's

eightWest to promote Singing Valentines.

The chorus is preparing for its Great Lakes Invitational annual show May 21, which will feature AFTER HOURS quartet. Showtime is 7:00 pm at DeVos Center for Arts and Worship, Grand Rapids, MI.



OLD RULES and 4GOT2SHAVE at WOOD-TV.

Hillsdale

The TOWN AND COUNTRY CHORUS presented its spring show May 7, 2016 at the Davis Middle School Auditorium in Hillsdale. The show was a melodrama entitled *Dire Days at The Dairy*. The chorus was joined by cast members from the Sauk Theater and Pianist **John Ourensma** as the audience was encouraged to cheer the heroes and boo the villains through the fun-filled evening! The featured quartet for the show was POWER PLAY, the 2003 International Champion Quartet.

Huron Valley

from William Stutts Jr.

Valentine's Day weekend - Feb. '16

What a wonderful and crazy three days of singing spreading love all over Washtenaw



FULL VALUE delivering a Singing Valentine at Carlyle Grill.

Co. One of the highlights was FULL VALUE singing at Accelerate Church's "Re-ignite" couples event. Here is a Facebook video of the event.

<https://www.facebook.com/AccelerateChurchAZ/videos/10153623912932982/> We also had fun singing at restaurants. With the three-day weekend for the holiday, we sang at more restaurants. Here is a photo of FULL VALUE performing at Carlyle Grill.

New year, new look! - March '16

On a visit to the VA hospital in Ann Arbor, Huron Valley got a chance to show off their new shirts! Looking snazzy!!!

New member - April '16



Jim Windak congratulating new member, John Sterbenz.



Huron Valley in new shirts.

Chords & Cuisine 2016 - April '16

The annual cabaret show was a success! It was a great afternoon of singing and food that featured the HURON VALLEY HARMONIZERS, plus 3rd place Pioneer quartet - DETROIT SOUND MACHINE, and 2015 Pioneer District Champs - FRONTIER.

#beatshop - April '16

Paul Ellinger's guest, **Harshal**, demonstrated "beatshop" at an April rehearsal.

<http://youtu.be/fhCSfXEhonc>

Singing at EMU baseball game - April '16

A quartet from the HURON VALLEY HARMONIZERS sang the National Anthem at the Eastern Michigan University baseball game vs. Central Michigan University. Here is a picture and video of that performance. <https://youtu.be/UWmDAomN2Dg>



Huron Valley quartet singing the National Anthem at EMU vs. CMU baseball game.



MAIN STREET on *Main Street USA*.

Lansing

The Lansing CAPITOL CITY CHORDSMEN presented their 32nd Annual Wharton show: *Main Street USA!!* on March 12. It was a trip around the USA featuring the CAPITOL CITY CHORDSMEN, featured quartet MAIN STREET, as well as the PATCH CHORDS, PARTS UNLIMITED, and more!!



CAPITOL CITY CHORDSMEN on *Main Street USA*.

The inclusion of MAIN STREET may have encouraged **Brian Dunckel** to visit the DAPPER DANS

in Florida.

The end of an era: Paul Howe to step down as editor
“By the end of this year, I will have published 800 issues of the *Woodshedder*. That end of year issue will be my last regular issue, as I feel that it’s now time for someone else to take over the reins. Each issue keeps getting harder and harder to do - it’s just time for a fresh face, and perhaps, a fresh perspective.” Paul

Mt. Pleasant

The MOUNTAINTOWN SINGERS are pleased to announce that **Jessica Thompson** has been selected as the next Musical Director for the chorus.

Pontiac-Waterford

The BIG CHIEF CHORUS Valentines program was a bit smaller this year. There were 24 offerings, served up by four quartets to 571 recipients plus a TV audience estimated



Brian Dunckel with DAPPER DANS.

at 800,000. Thanks to **Bill Maxfield** for coordinating the deliveries.

Among 4GVN's nine Valentines was a return performance on Fox 2's "The Nine"
<http://www.fox2detroit.com/good-day/88890982-story>

The BIG CHIEF CHORUS continued its tradition of performing a St. Patrick's Day show at Canterbury on the Lake, March 17. The men seemed especially enthused to return to this resonant chamber as they sang a 40-minute, 12-song set to 70 residents and guests. **Tom Blue** led the chorus, and **Freddie McFadyen** added direction of "McNamara's Band." Three quartets added to the enjoyment, 4 UR PLEASURE, LIMITED FRYDITON, and BIDIN' OUR TIME. The chorus's uniforms included green bow ties and arm bands. Afterward, beer and popcorn were served.



Freddie McFadyen, Bob Greenwood, Eric Domke, Greg Moss, and host Amy Andrews on Fox 2.



BIG CHIEF CHORUS at Canterbury on the Lake.

Ray Sturdy's "legal" quartet, FORUM SHOPPERS, also sang a couple songs on WJR that morning at 6:30.

Rochester

The Rochester GUARDIANS OF HARMONY have moved their rehearsal site from the University Presbyterian Church of Rochester to Oak Arbor Church & School, off Rochester Rd, north of Tienken.

Saginaw Bay



The HARBOR SOUNDS CHORUS practicing under the direction of Jeff Bonn, during an Al Fisk coaching session.

Sault Ste. Marie

The NORTHLAND CHORUS and Sault Ste Marie Chapter presented its 52nd Annual Show on Saturday, April 09, 2016 entitled: *"LAUGHTER AND LOVE SONGS," Celebrating the Golden Age of Radio*, featuring a classic "Fibber McGee and Molly" radio comedy. Guest quartet was VOCAL SPECTRUM, 2006 International Quartet Champions.

Traverse City

Cherry Capital Men's Chorus celebrating Fifty Years of Harmony!

On June 25, 2016, the CHERRY CAPITAL MEN'S CHORUS of Traverse City will be celebrating its 50th June Night of Harmony (JNOH) and 50th Anniversary. We'll be doing it in style with VOCAL SPECTRUM as our special guest quartet, a parade of quartets, and a mass sing.

The Chorus has been working hard preparing for this milestone event and we hope you'll join us – in the audience and on stage! We've selected a special set of Cherry Capital 'hits' and we will open and close our 50th JNOH celebration concert with a mass chorus, made up of members, alumni, and friends from across Pioneer District (maybe even the country!) We have invited back past Chorus directors to share in the fun and as always, there will be an afterglow with lots of opportunity for reminiscing after the concert!

For more information about our mass chorus music selections, rehearsal schedule, our 50th Anniversary Show, or tickets, please call 231-590-4722 or email nathantarsa@cherrycapitalchorus.org.

Maurie Allen - Cherry Capital Men's Chorus Member Extraordinaire!

It is almost hard to imagine. Fifty years ago, a current and consistent member of the CHERRY CAPITAL MEN'S CHORUS was present as the Chorus was founded. Throughout those years, **Maurie Allen** has contributed greatly to many aspects of the Chorus and the promotion of Barbershop singing.



Past Chorus Director, Al Bonney, will return to direct "Sentimental Journey" in the: 50th Annual June Night of Harmony

Maurie will emcee our 50th Anniversary June Night of Harmony. In his honor, our Chorus has created the Maurie & Betsy Allen Youth in Barbershop Scholarship Fund which will "preserve and encourage Barbershop quartet singing" by financially supporting youth from Northwest Lower Michigan to become engaged in barbershop programs. If you would like to honor Maurie with a gift to this fund, simply make a contribution to the CHERRY CAPITAL MEN'S

CHORUS earmarked to the Allen Scholarship Fund and directed to **Wendell Woodard** (Treasurer) at 17768 Smokey Hollow, Traverse City, MI 49686.

Upper Yoopers

The Upper Yoopers chapter presented its inaugural SpringFlingSing in grand style on April 16 in Ishpeming. "Four Choruses and Four Quartets made for a fully-packed, entertaining, 2-1/2 hour set that exceeded our expectations!"



Maurie Allen and wife Betsy.

	<p>All show tickets may be purchased in advance for \$10 through NMU Tickets at any NMU Ticket outlet, calling 906.227.1032, or online at: tickets.nmu.edu Or tickets at the door are \$15.</p> <p>After Glow at Red Rock Lanes Ishpeming</p> <p>After Glow Tickets \$15 Available at the Show and/or from Upper Yooper Members.</p>	
		
		
		



Three of the four quartets on our show gathered for this picture. At top, ACOUSTIX, middle, ELLINGER QUARTET, bottom, VINTAGE MIX.

Our Inaugural SpringFlingSing'16 and AfterGlow are over, and was a great experience from the performer's perspective! We'll get confirming numbers from NMU Ticketing soon but as we looked out into the house, it appeared the audience was much larger than we anticipated! Thanks to our MC **Paul Ellinger**, the REMNANTS Barbershop Chorus, NOTEWORTHY Chorus, the LAKEVIEW CHORUS, the ELLINGER FAMILY QUARTET, the NEXT GENERATION QUARTET, VINTAGE MIX QUARTET, and ACOUSTIX. We had a tightly packed entertainment set and a great show! We were able to present a check to the LAKEVIEW CHORUS for \$878! Every one of the groups was so helpful and sang well and entertained well and had fun. We would love to do this show again and again! We are already making plans for SpringFlingSing'17.

The ELLINGER FAMILY QUARTET (Paul, Amy, Parker, and Jackson)

<https://www.facebook.com/EllingerFamilyQuartet/?fref=ts>

The VINTAGE MIX Quartet (15-year-old quadruplets)

<https://www.facebook.com/qvintagemix/?fref=ts>

The NEXT GENERATION Quartet

[https://www.facebook.com/The-Next-Generation-Barbershop-Q.../...](https://www.facebook.com/The-Next-Generation-Barbershop-Q.../)

ACOUSTIX

<https://www.facebook.com/AcoustixQuartet/?fref=ts>

THE REMNANTS Barbershop Chorus

[https://www.facebook.com/The-Remnants-Barbershop-Chorus-8.../...](https://www.facebook.com/The-Remnants-Barbershop-Chorus-8.../)

NOTEWORTHY (women's chorus)

Wayne

Wayne has updated their chorus photo.

The 2015 HarmonyTown Chorus



Bottom row from left:
 Scott Casey (director) 21
 Wally Jennings-L 13
 Don Venturino-B 15
 Tony Pyrkosz-B 9
 Bill McKenzie-b 35

2nd row:
 Don Bohnwagner-T 31
 Allen Holmes-T 12
 Rob Facione-b 2
 Frank Adams-B 7
 Bob Schuessler-B 12
 Charles Nalbandian-b 11

3rd row:
 Gus Nanos-L 3
 Bruce Jonasz-L 5
 Richard Sanchez-L 1
 Hal Severson-B 12
 Paul Michalik-B 3

Top row:
 Dan Latimer-T 20
 Dave Peiffer-L 10
 Mark Pritchard-B 19
 Howard Goldman-b 6

New members — Not pictured
 Ken Stewart-T Mike Kara-B Jonathan Davis-L

Reports—Quartets

Bidin' Our Time

Larry Farhat of "Birmingham Barbers", through the agency of **Sandy Pastor**, engaged B.O.T. to provide entertainment for a Lunch Time Party celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the opening of the "Shop" at the Adams Square Plaza in (where else?) Birmingham. WHAT A PARTY! Lots of noshing, networking, and happy faces.

Nick Pastor (D.O.C./Macomb) provided the Bari for "Wild Irish Rose". A theatrical acquaintance of deceased barbershopper **Bill Schwedler** (O.C.C.) fifth-wheeled very well on "Lida Rose," earning a recruitment card and a visitation invite.

[Return to TOC](#)

A Videographer recorded some of the festivities including Larry and B.O.T. in the "Rockwell" pose which aired on Fox @ 5 and WXYZ @ 5 & 7. Forty Seconds of Fame! WHAT A PARTY !!!!

In harmony,
Fred McFadyen

The Jesters

THE JESTERS created this video to honor Mothers. Our local media are putting the link on their websites and mentioning it on the air and in print. Post it, forward it, or share it if you'd like. "We would like to encourage sons and daughters to forward the video link to their Moms. This would be a great idea if the "Mom" isn't local, especially if she's in the Armed Forces overseas." Here is the link to the video.

Ralph LeRoy
The Jesters



<https://youtu.be/pOhvwub8jRI>

Olde Thyme Harmony Quartet

OTHQ stormed throughout Owosso all day Friday Feb. 12th and performed for over 500 people ranging from a one person delivery to over 100 people at the Board of Realtors sponsored Seniors' Bingo Party and diners at Jumbo's Bar & Grill. Our travels included office buildings, two floors at Memorial Healthcare, and the quaint little specialty diner Abiding in the Vines. There were so many fun times surprising people such as at Young Chevy/Cadillac Dealership and many spontaneous extra songs to bring joy in many lives.

Singing Valentines always present those Gold Medal Moments such as singing to Helen who has difficulty expressing herself. But she loves Polka music and when Doc broke into a Woodshed version of Beer Barrel Polka, Helen could not hold back a "gentle" smile followed by one small word, NICE!!! It touched our hearts to know that we touched hers in this small way if only for a few moments.

We had the opportunity at Abiding in the Vines to sing "Sunny Side of the Street" for the original owner of the Sunny Side Florist shop in Owosso.

One of our Gold Medal Moments was an opportunity to sing to Louise in a retirement home. Louise has been very depressed as she wants so badly to live in her own home. However, to add to her sorrows, her son-in-law had passed away the previous day. We sang "I Love You Truly." Her response was Thank You which was just beautiful. Then we sang "It Is Well With My Soul" to Louise; her tears rolled freely down her cheeks. We know we touched her heart in a special way through harmony.

OTHQ always gives Thanks to God for providing us these opportunities. On Saturday

the 13th, our travels took us to Flushing for the Hyde Park Retirement Home to sing to a fellow Kiwanis lady of Don's. We then went to the Serenity House Adult Foster Care home. While there we met **Patricia Wismer** who was the lady that founded the Owosso Council On Aging. A wonderful contribution she made to the City of Owosso and Shiawassee County. We also sang at Welcome Home Assisted Living Complexes in Owosso and Elsie and Ovid Convalescent Center in Ovid. In each of these places there was a minimum of at least one excited person to receive a \$2 bill from Don as we sang "Hey, Hey Good Lookin'" ("I got a Hot Rod Ford and \$2 Bill").

We had an opportunity to stop at **Jim** (OTHQ Original BASS) & **Brenda McKay's** home and share a Valentine Song. Kel turned the Red Jacket over to Jim for a few songs for Olde Thymes Sake!

We ended the day from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. singing table to table at Greg & Lou's Wrought Iron Grille, and Tanglewood Dinery's in Owosso with 45 minute performances at each.

Submitted by

Don, Tim, Jacob & Kel

Sing Cheerily!

International

Apple Corps, Mini HU, June 2-5

Have you ever wanted to attend Harmony University but it was too far to travel, cost too much, or it took too much time? Johnny Appleseed District is hosting their 41st mini-Harmony University, Apple Corps, and we would love to see some of our brothers in harmony from the Pioneer District join us.

Apple Corps is located on the beautiful campus of Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio. It will be held June 2-5, 2016. We have planned a fantastic weekend of classes, fellowship and lots and lots of singing. Among the activities planned are a Mega Chorus, Coaching Under Glass with The ALLIANCE Chorus of the Greater Central Ohio Chapter, a perennial top 10 International Chorus, classes with our guest quartet, JAD's very own QUORUM, a fantastic Saturday evening show and of course afterglows and lots and lots of singing. We also have two days of quartet coaching available for any quartet interested. Information on our quartet coaching will be sent to the quartets in Pioneer District in the next few days.

All registration information can be found at <http://www.singjad.com/education/apple-corps/> and online registration is located at <https://applecorpsjad16.eventbrite.com/>. If you have any questions just drop us a line at applecorps@singjad.com. We hope to see you there! Oh, did we mention there will be lots and lots of singing?

Meet Roger Lewis

Roger Lewis is arguably one of the busiest and most revered members of the Pioneer District. He has done it all - singing, judging, coaching, administration.

For those who are new to barbershop, here is a list of some of his roles, accomplishments, and awards.

Pioneer District Seniors Quartet champion:

- ANTIQUES ROADSHOW 2002
- HARMONY HOUNDS 2005
- CARTE BLANCHE 2010
- BUCKET LIST 2014



Pioneer District Representative to International Seniors Quartet contest:

- ANTIQUES ROADSHOW 2003,4,5,6,7, (3rd place International in 2004,5)
- CARTE BLANCHE 2011
- BUCKET LIST 2014

BHS Stage Presence/Presentation Judge

- Since 1986-2013

Administrative History in the Pioneer District.

- 1977 Division II VP
- 1989 Director of convention planning
- 1990-1 Executive VP
- 1992-3 District President
- Many yrs VP Events

Administrative History in SPEBSQSA/BHS.

- 1990-2000 (all but one year) Convention Management Committee, eventually the Events Committee. Most of the time as Chairman, either officially or by default)
- 1994-5 Board member
- 2000-01 Executive Vice President
- 2002-3 Society President
- 2004-05 Immediate Past President
- 2005 Interim Executive Director CEO
- 2006-12 Harmony Foundation Trustee
- 2013 75th Anniversary Task Force Chairman

Halls of Fame

- 1996 Pioneer District Hall of Fame
- 2009 Barbershop Harmony Society Hall of Fame

He has also been active in the Sage Lake Roundup and, of course, the Battle Creek chapter.

John Cowlshaw interviewed Roger in March.

Troubadour: I see that you were born in Caledonia, Michigan and studied at GR Community College. But I don't know about your vocational career. What was that path? And how did you end up in Battle Creek?

Roger Lewis: Although I was in an Engineering curriculum at GR Junior College (later GR Community College), I was planning on becoming a teacher. I was working part time at Meijer, and after completing my Associates degree, I dropped out for a year to earn enough money to go back to school. Then I got married, was offered the corporate training position with Meijer, and decided I didn't like teaching. So I went back into store management, had a family, and I'm still out for that "year."

The opportunity to open and manage a store in Battle Creek attracted me, so I moved to Battle Creek in 1960 to do that. In 1963, Meijer wanted me to move back to Grand Rapids. I declined because I liked BC. My choice was to move or leave the company. I chose to leave. I then went to Battle Creek Equipment Company (fitness equipment) for 9.5 years and managed their retail mail order division and computer department. In 1973 I joined Modern Services, a privately held Temporary Help company that evolved into EmploymentGroup and retired from EG in 1996. I became a partner in 1975. My story is that the first year I was there, we did about a half million \$\$ in sales. When I retired, we did about a half million every week by Wednesday. Loved the business, but felt I could retire and there were lots of things I wanted to do.

Troubadour: Was your birth family musical? When did you get started in music? And when into Barbershop?

Roger Lewis: My family always revolved around church. My father was in a state mental institution before I was born, so I really never knew him. I have four older sisters. My mother and three of my sisters played piano, plus one sister played flute and one played trombone. I played baritone/euphonium. Three of us sang trios and one sister and I played and sang duets. From the age of about five, I sang in Christmas pageants, etc. We sang in church and at home. In 1954, **Byron Dodge** of the GR Chapter came to Caledonia High School and said that the chapter was sponsoring a High School Quartet Contest the night before their show, the Great Lakes Invitational. The winner got a \$200 clothing allowance from a men's store and got to sing on the show. Each quartet also got tickets to the show. Our school formed two competing quartets. I sang Bass in a quartet named the CAL-DONIANS and we stayed together until two of us graduated, then drifted apart. My story is that we finished 4th and there were only three quartets in the contest. The winning quartet had a set of twins that sang Lead and Tenor – Ed and **Fred Farran**. They later formed the professional group, THE ARBORS, with two guys from U of M.

I joined the Society in 1961 at the invitation of one of my Meijer customers. During the next year, I saw the HARMONY HOUNDS on many, many performances. In April of 1962, the bass was moving to Arizona, and in June, the tenor was moving to Washington, DC. During those interim months, they had about four “paying” jobs they could do if they found a replacement bass. Paying jobs were very important to **Lowell Wolfe**. So they asked me if I’d learn a few of their numbers, do the jobs and we’d split the money. Wow. What an opportunity! After the tenor moved, the other two said they wanted to keep singing and wanted me to stay and we’d look for a tenor. In the fall we started singing with **Dick Pancost** and we were off with litter #3.

Troubadour: So the HARMONY HOUNDS predated you?

Roger Lewis: The HARMONY HOUNDS began in 1958. Lowell Wolfe was the key man. He taught everyone how to play their instrument, although **Henry Brown**, the tenor, may have had some familiarity with the banjo. Lowell had seen the MID STATES FOUR and liked what they did. Lowell had sung all his life, knew lots of songs, and also had a good feel for comedy.

Troubadour: By 1969, HARMONY HOUNDS (**Howard Spear**, tenor; Roger Lewis, lead; **Ron Mell**, bass and **Larry Swan**, baritone) became a Pioneer rep to International. Was that a smooth ascent from beginning to International?

Roger Lewis: That was our best singing group. We made it to International with a stroke of good luck (for us). We were actually the alternate quartet, but the original Tenor of VAGABONDS, **Jack Stephens**, got transferred, and was unable to make rehearsals or International, so they had to drop out, and we got their spot. We felt that we had earned it though! We placed ahead of one of the other quartets from Pioneer at International, and we were the same 50 points behind the other one, but with a panel of five judges instead of two. We later switched parts -- Larry - Tenor, Dick - Lead, me - Bari, and Ron - Bass, which was a better sound.

Troubadour: You were Logopedics chairman for Pioneer District. Any special stories about that? Why was our involvement with Logopedics dropped? (Note: Logopedics was our fund-raising program for Heartspring, a non-profit institution serving children with speech defects and disorders.)

Roger Lewis: I’d forgotten that I was. I did organize and chair a few Logopedics shows. They were fun. One with a lot of district champs, including the AUTO TOWNERS. One with GRANDMA’S BOYS and DEALER’S CHOICE on it. The Hounds visited the Institute of Logopedics one year.

Why did we drop it? We were serving only 32 kids! Yes, only 32! Furthermore, they quit using music in their programs! Finally, they didn’t need our money! Meanwhile, our schools were dropping music from their programs, and thousands, maybe millions of youth needed our support in music. We needed to put our money where it would do the most good. Heartspring had great PR, but it was not supported with good

programs. (**Bob McDermott** and **Fran Durham** never forgave us for that. Too bad.)

Troubadour: You were briefly the *Troubadour* Editor?

Roger Lewis: For a year or so. Fun, time-consuming, lots of work. I had also edited the Meijer *Cracker Barrel* house organ when I was training director. A graphic artist in our chapter did a few caricatures of **Bill Warner**, the District President that appeared in the centerfold of one of the issues.

Troubadour: You left HARMONY HOUNDS in '76. When did you return? What voice parts did you sing?

Roger Lewis: Lowell Wolfe was leaving and moving to Florida and I felt it was time for me to make a change too. For three years I sang Lead with CEREAL CITY CHORD COMMITTEE. I had sung Bari in the Hounds from about 1970 to '72, then Lead from '72 to '76. Since I came back to the Hounds in '79 it has been just Lead.

Troubadour: I noticed that you were a “timer” at the April 1976 Pioneer competition in Lansing. Since that is a new term for many of us, describe the role of the timer.

Roger Lewis: Someone must have said “Will you be a timer?” and I said yes. Gee, I’ve forgotten the rules. Total singing time had to be at least four minutes and not more than six minutes??? You simply hit the timer at the beginning and end of each song and recorded it. Where did you dig up all this information?

Troubadour: (I’ve got my sources.) You were a Judge of Stage Presence as early as 1986. Describe your career as a Judge.

Roger Lewis: This could take pages. First, you took your “final” by sitting as one of THE judges on a regular panel. I was on a fall panel in Ontario, and the DUKES OF HARMONY, directed by the great **Ray Danley** were competing for the right to go to International. I got them in the evaluations. Gulp! I got to one section where my notes indicated that something just didn’t go right in one phrase.... I expected Ray to get in my face about it. Instead, he said “Yeah, I knew we messed that up.” I could have hugged him. He got my eternal respect. He’s been a friend forever. That’s the kind of man he is. Judging has its share of hostile competitors, but many more “highs” for both me and the competitor. I’ve never had a competitor walk out of an evaluation session, and I’ve never walked out on one, either. Often, one or more of the quartet has come back and apologized and thanked me. An example is a Senior quartet that came into my evaluation session with the Lead carrying a drink, and I could tell it wasn’t his first one. Everything I said was wrong, according to him, and he was in my face about it. There was no point in arguing. Later I saw the quartet and worked with them on a phrase or two, and it may have helped a little, but not much. Fast forward to the Mid-winter International contest. The same Lead came to me (with a great deal of respect) and asked if I could get together with them for some final, touch-up coaching before

the contest. It was a compliment.

Sometimes I would get on a plane to go judge a contest and say “Why am I doing this? I could be home doing....” But on Sunday when I was heading home, I was pumped! It’s a great feeling! You know you’ve helped someone be a better performer, and you’ve met some pretty great people, and made some great friends.

Troubadour: How many tours have you done as a quartet?

Roger Lewis: Define tours. We did a USO tour in 1970 to Japan, Philippines, and Guam. It was 18 days with 44 performances and lots and lots of stories. You heard a lot of them in my MC work the last couple years. In 1974, we went to England for the very first BABS convention. Then followed it with a bus tour in Europe. We sang in many states and a lot of shows in Ontario. Over the years, we have been on shows with 18 International Champions. That may be some kind of record.

Troubadour: You seemed surprised, during your visit to the BIG CHIEF CHORUS in 2012, when **Bill Dabbs** returned your long-missing HARMONY HOUNDS “dog” trophy from his basement.

Roger Lewis: When we sang a show, we often presented the dog to the show chairman on the afterglow. I still have a few of them around the house on my barbershop shelves.

Troubadour: You are in a new quartet, ILLBCNU. How did that get started?

Roger Lewis: That can be a long story. I saw the name on a license plate a few years ago, and said “That would be a neat quartet name.” So I finally registered it, using my two sons’ names and another friend. I actually thought we were going to start a quartet with **Ed Bax**, **Mike Craig**, and Johnny, but it just didn’t work out. Still trying to get a quartet going. (Needless to say, there is a mandated song in the repertoire for a quartet with THAT name.) I’ve pre-registered other quartet names, too. I registered ANTIQUES ROADSHOW a year and a half before we started singing together. (You should hear the story. Denny loved to tell the story of ANTIQUES ROADSHOW, and he embellished it every time he told it. Bottom line is that, in our very first rehearsal, after they had agreed to that name, I handed them their International registered quartet cards with their name already on it). I had also registered the name BUCKET LIST about a year and a half before we started singing.

Troubadour: Tell us about your role in the Society’s Hall of Fame.

Roger Lewis: One of my goals as Society President was to establish a Society Hall of Fame. All of the districts had one, but we never honored some of the Society greats like **Bob Johnson**, **Dave Stevens**, **Bill Diekema**, **Molly Reagan**, and a host of others. I appointed a Task Force to study it, and in 2004, it became a reality. Yes, I hoped that someday I might be considered for the HOF, but expected it to be posthumously. What

a surprise when it happened! We have about 75 members in the Hall of Fame, and about 32 living. That's out of perhaps $\frac{3}{4}$ of a million members in the whole Society's history. It's my "Gold Medal."

Troubadour: Your home in Battle Creek appears to be octagonal. (Was that your design? What is the history of the house?)

Roger Lewis: Yes, it was my design. It was built in 1856 and I built it myself. (Some of that may not be true, but yes, it was built in 1856.) The history is another long story. A man named **Orson Fowler** toured the Midwest (in the middle of the 19th century) with plans and lectures about why octagon houses were more practical to build, etc. There are a few other octagons across Michigan that were built about the same time.

Troubadour: In your roles as judge and coach, is there one special quartet that has particularly risen to prominence because of your work with them, that you'd like to mention?

Roger Lewis: No, I don't believe so. I try to give them the tools to think for themselves, and to interpret their music and to perform it in a way that they can believe in, and that their audience will also believe. I cannot decide on what and how they should perform their music – it has to come from them and from their heart. All I can do is help them get in touch with the music and the audience.

One story: I was on the panel in FWD the year before WESTMINSTER won, and I got them in the evaluation session. They scored in the 90's, the highest score I had ever written on a score sheet. So, as a judge, you're looking for little things that can improve their performance. The one thing that affected their presentation was that 100% of the faces were not involved 100% of the time. **Royce Ferguson** was directing, and I knew he would take that to heart. Fast forward to the next summer. As they sang their ballad, I leaned over to Sue and said "Find me some faces that are not involved in the music". She watched for a few moments, then said "There aren't any."

Troubadour: Has your wife Sue always been as supportive of your barbershop career as she seems to be, given that it has involved much musical and administrative time away from home?

Roger Lewis: Incredibly! When I was inducted into the Society Hall of Fame, **Bob Cearnal** commented "It should say "Roger and Sue Lewis" and I agreed with him. In 1976, when I came home and said I was dropping out of the Hounds, she said "You better get in another quartet right away, because I don't think you'd be as easy to live with if you weren't in a quartet." She's still the very best First Lady of the Society there has ever been, and we've known a lot of very great First Ladies. Both of us have many friends throughout the Society. When I was President, we visited every district at a convention. I often tell the story of when we were dating and we were at one of Sue's first conventions, we were at the Pantlind Hotel in Grand Rapids after the Saturday night contest. We started across the lobby and someone asked me to sing a tag. Sue sat down on one of the cushioned benches, and it was about two hours before we made it

across the lobby. Now when we cross a room and I get to the other side, I realize she's still behind, stopping to talk to people she knows as she goes past their table.

Troubadour: What is the history of BBBB (Barbershop, Brats, Beans, Beer in the Barn) at the Lewis ranch?

Roger Lewis: Just an idea to get chapters together and have quartets sing. Like old times. At first, it was Barbershop, Beans, Brats, and Beer in the Barn. Brats took too much last minute work, so we changed it to BBQ, pulled pork sandwiches. There were also always Brownies – another “B”. Guys would sign up to sing in a Senior Quartet if they were 55+ and everyone could sign up to sing in a “All ages” quartet. We had anywhere from 35-55 attend, and I'd have 6+ Senior and more regular quartets compete. It was about \$7 for the evening. I'd usually buy prizes for the winners. One year I had T-shirts made “I ATE! I SANG! I WON!” In 2014, the attendance from other chapters was only about a half dozen guys and it was too much work for us to throw that kind of a party with little response, so we dropped it. Now we do a potluck for our chapter in the summer.

Troubadour: How did the QCA Quartet Boot Camp get started?

Roger Lewis: The QCA wanted to help quartets be better through coaching. We offered to coach quartets for the fall contest with little response. We coached at Bush League, supplying coaches for the competing quartets in the afternoon after the contest. **Paul Ellinger** and I talked on the phone and we were concerned that our coaching was after the fact, rather than preparing them for contest. That's how QBC was born. Paul and I have these conversations regularly, and a lot of our programs have sprouted from them. QBC and Quartet Factory are two that came from our brainstorming. I'm sure there are many more.

Troubadour: Is there some goal still remaining, sort of a “bucket list,” to, ahem, coin a phrase?

Roger Lewis: Would I like to be the oldest guy in the International Senior Quartet contest, like **Johnny Wearing**? You bet. I like being involved at the Society level – perhaps on some committee. Maybe it will happen. If someone asked me how I see my role, I'd say “Mentor.” And then I'd have to add “To anyone who will listen to me” or something like that. I often refer to myself as the “Ultimate Has-Been” as there are few shoes I haven't walked in – and I've enjoyed every step of the journey.

History

The Very Idea

On Wednesday, February 17, LIMITED EDITION sang for 15 rehab residents at Wellbridge of Novi, a new rehab facility. “After we finished, a gentleman came up, flipped open an over-vest to reveal a SPEBSQSA shirt, identified himself as **Ken Casey**, and

said he sang bass with **Freddie McFadyen** in THE VERY IDEA. He joined us to sing "Coney Island Baby." His voice has weathered with the years, but one can still hear the richness that must have made him fun to sing with."



THE VERY IDEA

Freddie McFadyen says: "How timely! Ken Casey replaced **Dave Williams*** in the quartet when Dave moved to Roscommon. Wonderful singer! Bass Soloist @ Ward Presbyterian, often performer @ Tiger Stadium and always featured with THE VERY IDEA doing "Old Man River." His son Scott directs the Wayne Chapter. Wife Marguerite "Mike" bakes the "World's Best Apple Pie"!!!"

L to R: Fred McFadyen (T), **Gene Harrington** (L), Ken Casey (Bs), **Rusty Ruegg** (Br & Former *Troubadour* Editor) (Courtesy of **Jeff Doig**)

[* Walter "Dave" Williams, former Bass of THE VERY IDEA, (Pioneer Gold-Medal quartet) passed at age 87 on February 14 at The Villages in Leesberg, FL. "He was a fine Bass and a finer Gentleman."

Fred McFadyen, The Very Idea Tenor

Power Play at Grand Ole Opry

After the 2001 International Convention in Nashville, Big Chief **Chris Miller** wrote: "I had to rush dinner to hear POWER PLAY perform live on the Grand Ole Opry to a capacity crowd of 4,000 people and a radio audience of millions. The quartet brought the audience to its feet with a standing ovation. POWER PLAY was only supposed to sing one song but the audience wouldn't let them go and applauded until they sang an encore which received another standing O (the only act to receive an encore the entire night). The MC remarked that "following this barbershop quartet would be like following a bulldozer with a spoon." Although many in the audience were barbershoppers, I heard more than one non-barbershopper remark, "If this is barbershop, I have to find more of it."

Media

Kohl Kitzmiller's Senior Project

For his senior project, Kohl Kitzmiller (of INSTANT CLASSIC) put together a 40-voice multitrack Audio and Visual of **Doug Harrington's** arrangement of "If I Had My Way." <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rm1upT8XOyA>

It includes all four members of INSTANT CLASSIC, plus **Drew Wheaton** (Tenor of FOREFRONT) and **Joe Bourne** (who does wonderful learning tracks).

Kohl writes: "This was inspired by **Eric Whitacre's** Virtual Chorus and was also used

for my senior project at Ball State University.

“Participants (from left to right) as you watch the video: **Mike Beck, Chris Arnold, David Zimmerman**, Kohl Kitzmiller, **Theo Hicks, Kyle Kitzmiller, Patrick McAlexander**, Drew Wheaton, **Rhett Roberts**, and Joe Bourne.”

Gold Vibrations

GOLD VIBRATIONS A CAPPELLA is the premier a cappella group at Oakland University. <http://www.ougoldvibrations.com/> Each year they compete in the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella. This year they won the quarter and (Midwest) semifinals and were competing against nine other a cappella groups on April 30th at the Beacon Theatre in New York, NY. WXYZ reported on them: <http://www.wxyz.com/about-us/as-seen-on/ous-gold-vibrations-a-cappella-heading-to-international-championship-finals>

Transitions

Robert James Fox



Bob Fox, 87, of Lansing, died February 28, 2016. He sang in WEEKEND AGENDA (2010) and PARTS UNLIMITED. He was a retired state Department of Education loan officer.

The Lansing Chapter and the Barbershop Harmony Society lost a great friend, gentleman, and Bass singer today. Bob Fox passed away early this morning after entering hospice just the day before. He was a role model for all Barbershop singers. He loved singing and helping others to grow in the special art of barbershop harmony. Bob mentored many singers in the Lansing Chapter and throughout the Pioneer District. Bob will be greatly missed, but will be in our thoughts and hearts every time we harmonize together.

Harry L. Jessop

Harry Jessop died November 8, 2015 in Pleasant Ridge, MI. He was a member of the old Oakland County Chapter and of the old Detroit Oakland Chapter.

Daniel E. LaBumbard



Dan LaBumbard passed away peacefully under the care of Great Lakes Hospice & Ridgecrest Nursing Home on Tuesday, March 1st, 2016. Dan was a veteran of community theatre in Jackson and was seen in numerous productions with The Clark Lake Players, Jackson Civic Theatre, and the Gilbert & Sullivan Society. Dan was also an avid Barbershopper in the Jackson chapter and was a past president of

the Pioneer District (1980).

Robert C. Tollas



Bob Tollas, DDS, 88, died March 25, 2016, in Petoskey. Bob practiced dentistry in Charlevoix until retiring in 1989. He was a member of the First Congregational Church in Charlevoix, and the Church Choir. He was also a member of the former Boyne City Chapter of S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., and enjoyed singing in Barbershop Quartets. Bob loved to golf, and enjoyed fishing and hunting and going to "Highbanks" camp in the UP.

Walter D. Williams



Walter "Dave" Williams passed at age 87 on February 14, 2016, at The Villages in Leesberg, FL.

Mr. Williams worked for General Motors Tech Center for over 36 years. He and his wife Helen moved to Leesburg in 1994 from Roscommon, Michigan. He was a member of St. James Episcopal Church in Leesburg, FL. He enjoyed singing and had been in the Oakland County Chapter as well as being in the Choral Group

at Pennbrooke Fairways. He was the former Bass of THE VERY IDEA quartet, Seniors Quartet Champion in 1995.

Pioneer District

The Voice

A report on The Voice at Reno was in the February Troubadour, Pg. 5. On Tuesday, March 1, 2016, **Cody Harrell** posted this addendum on Pionet: G Pioneer thank you from The Voice!

On Thursday, January 28, 25 bright-eyed young men, four concerned parents and two veteran grandparents set out to Reno, Nevada to participate in the 2016 Midwinter Convention as THE VOICE youth barbershop chorus for the second consecutive year under the leadership of the Gibson, LaPointe and Pollard families, and direction of **Aaron Pollard** and myself, Cody Harrell. Many of these men had never sung on an international stage before, and each that crossed the stage had a truly life-changing experience. I wanted to relate a couple of small anecdotes to both show our appreciation and passion toward this hobby we all cherish so deeply.

Following one of the most impressive and diverse youth chorus festivals to date, THE VOICE took home an "Outstanding" rating, which is the second highest rating a chorus can receive at the festival. We were on the cusp of earning the highest, a superior rating, and had several individual scores that broke the superior plane. Our chorus also earned a nearly 2% increase from our performance in New Orleans last year and inspired not only one, but two standing ovations as each member performed to his fullest capacity. As we stumbled off stage in a cacophony of laughing, hugging and crying, I found myself blown away by our performance almost as much as the audience. I can truly say that it was a life-changing performance for me and every young man that sported the bright red polo on that stage.

On Saturday, we required each member of the chorus to attend the senior quartet competition to sit captivated as our Pioneer senior champs, Rolls Voyce, took home a bronze medal. We heard fondly from **Bruce LaMarte** and **TC Connor** after the performance that our chorus chant of "PI-OH-NEER" was felt loudly throughout the entire audience and even caused the emcee to chortle his way through his mid-quartet announcements. Even off stage, the chorus presented their professionalism and appreciation for the art form and the district that afforded us an opportunity to represent them to their fullest capacity.

By Sunday, however, we had already begun hearing reports of potential snow and wind storms causing delays out of Reno and safely home to Detroit for school Monday morning. After waiting through nearly four hours of delays, we were met with the sad news: we weren't getting out until at least Monday, and the chorus would have to be split on two different flights home. While that might have caused turmoil among some choruses, each member took it in stride and there was no complaining or meltdowns in sight. Rather, each member took it upon himself to make sure his brother was okay and kept each other company through the ensuing chaos. **Vicki Gibson** took it upon herself to organize the flight mayhem while the chorus loaded several taxis back to the Peppermill Hotel where we had stayed for the last three days. We found out as we arrived that **Doug Weaver** had been able to secure the final seven rooms to house our chorus and fronted money that would later be replaced by a vote of the district board. We then found that **Pete** and **Sally Burns** were kind enough to order dinner for the chorus members for that night to supplement our dwindling individual funds. I don't think I've ever seen a more gracious and humbled group of young men than this group. Each member thanked and hugged the Weavers and the Burns' in gratitude toward the most supportive and encouraging district in the Barbershop Harmony Society. We even participated in a "chorus duel" against **Lori Lyford's** Chandler High School choruses and met plenty of new friends across the country. To top it all off, **Dave Anderson** surprised us the next morning with money for breakfast for every chorus member before we were able to catch flights back to Detroit only 24 hours later.

On behalf of the chorus, I would like to personally thank every person who has supported this chorus from day one. I'd like to also give a big shout out to those who continued to give, even in the face of cancelled flights. Because of your contributions, we were able to change the lives of 25 young men who only know the generosity and

attitude of a district that is committed to their youth movement and the young men that are looking to take this district and put it back on the map of championship-level singing and performing for decades to come. It all starts here. And we appreciate every meal, dollar, smile and tag that you have given us in the past two years, and counting. We're going to San Antonio, and we will make you proud. Again, thank you so much!

John H. Baker IV, Harmony Marketplace

Good morning Pioneer!!

Another convention is in the books. We in your marketplace strived to make it a good one, and we ask for your feedback, before our next gathering please.

How were our hours?

Did you find what you needed?

Was the selection good? or what would you suggest we stock?

Was our staff friendly and helpful?

My wife Shirley and I are running the Harmony Market Place for both Spring and Fall, and have run Market Places before. This is "Your" Market Place and I'd ask what you would like to see in it and what special requests for items you want in advance to be held at the shop for "You"!

One of the biggest changes is balancing the wants and needs of our patrons. The biggest challenge is listing preferences when it comes to CD & DVD performances. We are not allowed to return them, so if you have a particular quartet or chorus, I will take your order and hold it for you at convention. We have discount coupons for district online ordering on items not at our shop, but remember you are still responsible for shipping. So you can bypass the shipping charge by letting me know. It's your shop! They're your conventions, let's make them good ones.

Thank you - John & Shirley Baker

johnhbakeriv@gmail.com

Troub Business

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

Upcoming District Events and Calendars

OIF and CDWI - May 21 - Mt Pleasant

The Pioneer District along with hosts the MOUNTAINTOWN SINGERS are offering another fantastic opportunity to increase your music acumen. Come join us for an Outstanding In Front (OIF) Seminar on Saturday, May 21, 2016 in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan. Whether you are a novice director and need to hone some basic skills, or someone who has never been in front of a chorus and think directing just might be something you could do, but haven't a clue how to begin, this class is for you. Outstanding In

Front also focuses on the leadership skills of section leaders and music team members who are interested in supporting the success of the music program during your weekly chapter meeting. This OIF seminar is being offered along with a Level 1 - Chorus Director Workshop Intensive (CDWI).

The goals of the Outstanding In Front program are:

- To provide an opportunity for individuals to gain an understanding of what it means to be a leader in front of an ensemble.
- To increase the directing, teaching, and musical skill of our non-directors in a positive environment.
- To inspire men to entertain the thought that they could become a musical leader.
- To provide capable individuals able to assist their front-line director.
- To decrease director burnout.
- To have a broader base of talent upon which to draw when there is a director vacancy.

Some of the topics covered are:

- Conducting patterns, and their proper use.
- Elements of the warm-up
- Being a vocal coach
- Leadership qualities
- Proper posture
- Directing opportunities

The Outstanding in Front seminar will run from 8:30 am – 5:00 pm on Saturday, May 21, 2016. The cost of the seminar is \$30 which includes lunch.

The clinicians for the CDWI and OIF are: **OIF** Karl Chapple. **CDWI** Dave Campbell, Sean Milligan.

Dave Campbell has been a barbershopper for 32 years. He joined the Barbershop Harmony Society (S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A.) in 1983. Dave is a lifelong resident of the Seaforth Ontario where works as a supervisor with the Huron County Emergency Medical Service. He currently resides in Seaforth with his wife Lisa and they have 3 adult children.

Dave has sung with several registered quartets over the years and has won the Ontario quartet championship three times and represented Ontario at International 5 times. Dave is currently the Director of the Harmony Kings chorus in his hometown of Seaforth and Director of the Middlesex Centre chorus known as Forest City Fire. Dave has also competed in 9 International competitions with other choruses and has won five International Silver Medals with the Toronto Northern Lights Chorus.

Dave has won numerous awards in Ontario including the Larry Dale coach of the year and the Jeff Pritchard award for quartet singers. Dave is also the most recent recipient of the Paul Tamblyn Music Educators award presented annually by Sing Canada. He spends much time travelling the roads coaching both choruses and quartets. Dave has

been a trainer for the Society's CDWI program since 2009.

Sean Milligan

"I'm a 31-year barbershopper and live in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. My experience with this hobby/lifestyle includes quartet singing, chorus singing, chorus directing, serving as a chapter board member, and many, many late nights of convention singing and listening. I have competed on the international stage as a chorus member 6 times, and have sung with a quartet on that same stage 20 times (just can't seem to get it right!) I have worked with quartets and choruses as a coach, directed a top-level district chorus, and served as a musical advisor for many other groups. I received my certification as a CDWI instructor last year, and I always enjoy these workshops tremendously!

I work as the Director of Project Management for a small technology firm. I have a B.A. in English and a M.S. in Project and Program Management with a focus on Organizational Leadership and Culture. I love working with people and allowing individuals to experience individual and collective growth, both personally and as a team."

To register for either the Outstanding in Front Seminar or the CDWI select the link below or copy to your favorite browser.

<https://pioneerdistrict.wufoo.com/build/spring-2016-pioneer-district-cdwi-oif-seminar/>

If you have any questions please send me drop me an email, techberry@charter.net

Quartet Boot Camp and Quartet Factory—June 18—Okemos

Saturday, June 18, Okemos Conference Center.

Quartet Boot Camp (for quartets) and Quartet Factory (for quartet wannabe's)

Sponsored by the QCA, Contact Roger Lewis at rjlewiscmc@aol.com .

Upcoming events/Calendar

2016

May 13-15	Great Lakes Harmony Brigade, Okemos, MI
May 21	Outstanding in Front & Chorus Director Workshop Intensive (CDWI).
May 21	Flint's annual Show at Powers High School, 6:00 pm
May 21	Grand Rapids Chapter Show
Jun 2-5	Apple Corps: Mini HU, Kenyon College, Gambier, OH
Jun 10	Send Off Show - Windsor map
Jun 18	Quartet Boot Camp & Quartet Factory - Okemos
Jun 21	Dead Creek Picnic in Frankenmuth, 6:00 pm
Jun 25	Traverse City Chapter Show - 50 th June Night of Harmony
Jul 3-10	International, Nashville
Aug 19, 20	Bush League & Gaylord Show, Gaylord
Oct 8	Gratiot County Chapter Show

[Return to TOC](#)

Oct 14—16	Fall District Convention in Kalamazoo; host: The QCA
Nov 7	Pontiac-Waterford Chapter Show
2017	
Apr 21-23	Spring Convention at Grand Traverse Resort, Traverse City, 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
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
Harmony Mercenaries (all times 7:30 PM unless otherwise indicated)	
Tuesday May 17, 2016	(Prior to) Jug Night in Battle Creek (6:30 PM)
Sunday Jun 19, 2016	New Music/Workshop, Okemos Conference Center (1:00 to 5:00 PM)
Monday Jul 19, 2016	Grand Rapids
Monday Sep 19, 2016	Battle Creek
Tuesday Oct 25, 2016	Lansing
Sunday Nov 19, 2016	CDWI Workshop in Grand Rapids, 2nd Congregational Church (1:00 to 5:00 PM)
Tuesday Dec 13, 2016	Kalamazoo
Tuesday Jan 24, 2017	Holland
Thursday Feb 23, 2017	Muskegon
Tuesday Mar 21, 2017	Lansing
Tuesday Apr 25, 2017	Kalamazoo
Tuesday May 23, 2017	Battle Creek Jug Night
Sunday Jun 18, 2017	New Music/Workshop, Okemos Conference Center (1:00 to 5:00 PM)
Upcoming International Conventions	
Date	Location
July 3 - 10, 2016	Nashville, TN
January 17 - 22 , 2017	Midwinter, San Antonio, TX
July 2 - 8, 2017	Las Vegas, NV

Date	Location
July 1 - 8, 2018	Orlando, FL
June 30 - July 7, 2019	Salt Lake City, UT
Jun 28 - Jul 5, 2020	Los Angeles, CA

Promotional Flyers

Flint Arrowhead Barbershop Chorus

Proudly presents...

"Coney Island Memories"




*** Show Tickets:**
Adults \$20
Seniors (62+) \$18
Groups of 10 \$15

Afterglow Tickets:
\$10

ALSO

The "Rolls Voice" Barbershop Quartet



And the "Frontier" Barbershop Quartet



After the Show...
"Meet the Cast" and enjoy more great music while eating our famous "Flint-style Coney Island Hotdogs"

For tickets please see any Chorus member, purchase at the door, or call toll free 1-844-370-6470 ext. one (1) for "Will call" tickets.
Please visit us at: flintarrowhead.org

Saturday, May 21, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.
At the Flint Powers High School Auditorium
1505 West Court Street, Flint, MI 48503
* All Show Tickets \$20 at the Door



*Pioneer District Chapters and Barbershop Quartets
Are you ready for the...
Flint Arrowhead Barbershop Chorus'
"Annual Dead Creek Picnic"
Yes, you and your family are invited!
Picnic date: Tuesday, June 21st, 2016
Time: 6:00 p.m. or thereafter until midnight!*

Location: JC Pavilion, Heritage Park, Frankenmuth, MI
There will be a small donation for bratwurst, beer, pop, and water.
We will also be providing delicious beans, sauerkraut, and chips.
A meal fit for a King!

If your Chorus is coming or you have a group or a Quartet that would like
to sing please contact Dave Flattely at 810.691.7904 or at
dflattley@att.net
We need a correct count please!

Come Sing Barbershop Music!
"We Are Looking For Men Who
Love To Sing"

Flint Arrowhead Barbershop Chorus
Stop by any Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m.
For information on membership or performance

please call our toll free number 844.370.6470
Check us out at: FlintArrowhead.org
or Facebook.com/ArrowheadChorus





50 Fifty Years of Harmony!

Guest Quartet
Vocal Spectrum


Cherry Capital
MEN'S CHORUS



Saturday, June 25 • 7 pm

Lars Hockstad Auditorium

Central Grade School, Traverse City

tickets \$15, \$10 children

mynorthtickets.com • 800-836-0717

tickets available at: The Captain's Quarters, 151 E. Front St.



Michigan Council for the Arts

The Cherry Capital Men's Chorus is supported in part, by the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs minigrant program, administered by NorthSky Nonprofit Network.
 Event not sponsored by Traverse City Area Public Schools



NORTHSKY
NONPROFIT NETWORK

Make New Friends and Great Memories!

3 Day Camp, July 21-23, 2016

Central Michigan University

For Male and Female Singers Ages 15 - 25

Camp Includes:

- Eight Meals - Two Nights Lodging
- Music & Learning Tracks to Four Songs
- Camp T Shirt - Show Audio Recording
- Eight Meals - Two Nights Lodging
- Learn from Top Clinicians & Teaching Quartets
- Perform in a Collegiate Venue Saturday Night

\$245 per Person






Teaching Quartet - Male Chorus



Directors/Clinicians



Teaching Quartet - Female Chorus

Pre-registration Required / Limited Scholarships Available

Registration April 8, through July 8, 2016

Direct Questions or Comments to:

Joe McDonald, Camp Administrator - 989 560 6181

Find additional information and register at:
www.mountaintownsingers.org

Sponsor & Host Chapter



Camp Underwritten in part by:




Endgame

"There is a reason you glance up when you first hear a melody, or tap your foot to the sound of a drum. All humans are musical. Why else would the Lord give you a beating heart?"

(From *The Magic Strings of Frankie Presto*, by Mitch Albom)