



Troubadour Editorial Team Steps Down

The *Troubadour* editors have decided it is time to **hang up their keyboards and their Franklin Covey Style Guide** and retire. It has been five rich years of interconnecting the choruses, quartets, and individuals that sing within the Pioneer District.

In 2011, concerned about the lack of a district-wide periodical since the retirement of **Michael Baribeau** in 2009, **Greg Humbel** asked **John Cowlshaw** and **Robert Alicea** to consider resurrecting the *Troubadour*. When Robert was unable to continue, **Tom Ennis** agreed to step in, from the first issue.

Since then, we have published twenty quarterly E-editions. Their contents have included:

- Twenty Convention stories - ten district and ten international.
- Reports from most of our chapters and some of our district quartets.
- Interviews and spotlights on: Alpena, Harrisville, Benton Harbor/St Joseph, Muskegon, **Jamie Carey** and MAJESTYX, Rochester, PLAYLIST, Monroe North, Flint, **Toby Shaver** & Gold Medal Moments, **Bob Shami** & Sault Ste. Marie, TONAL ECLIPSE, Holland, INSTANT CLASSIC, **Doran McTaggart**, Gratiot County, **Roger Lewis**, and **Don Slamka** and HEMIDEMISEMIQUAVER 4.
- Multiple reports on Baker Family Corn roasts, Jug Nights, GLHBs, Windsor Send-Offs, Dead Creek Picnics, Harmony Explosions, Quartet Boot Camps, Bush Leagues, Leadership Academies, and Uncle Sam Nights.
- And 138 obituaries.

The *Troubadour* has a long and honorable history. District Secretary, **Louis Harrington**, began *The Michigan Troubadour* in October, 1949, “believed to be the first district publication in our Society....In the beginning, copies for each member were mailed to each chapter secretary, and were distributed at their chapter meetings. The first editions were typed on mimeograph, and were one-sided only.

(From *The Complete Written History of the Pioneer District*, by **Robert T. McDermott**. www.pioneerdistrict.org/history/PioneerHistory/tablecontents.html)

All of the issues of *Troubadour* are maintained and available online, courtesy of **Steve Sutherland**, at:

http://pioneerdistrict.org/troubadour/Troubadour_Menu.htm

Of the 19 districts in the Barbershop Harmony Society, only nine have active district-level periodicals. Pioneer is one of that nine. Hopefully, this will continue to be true.



TROUBADOUR

Official publication of the Pioneer District, Barbershop Harmony Society

<http://pioneerdistrict.org>



PRESIDENT

Mike Hansen
513 Kipling
Lansing, MI 48912
517.974.8555
mhansen@mcca.org

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Dan Bezaire
393 Harvest Land
Belle River, ON Canada NoR 1A0
226.363.0522
dbezaire4@cogeco.ca

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Dave Montera
3995 Blackburn Dr
W Bloomfield, MI 48323
248.343.9073

SECRETARY

Jim McMahan
3080 E Lois Ave
Midland, MI 48640
989.631.5093
Cyn5093@charter.net

TREASURER

Chris Berry
4767 Stadler Rd
Monroe, MI 48162
734.775.2926
techberry@charter.net

CHAPTER SUPPORT & LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Vacant

CONTEST & JUDGING

Brian Dunckel
5872 Green Road
Haslett, MI 48840-9783
517.339.3422
MSUdunk@aol.com

EVENTS

Roger J. Lewis
20125 12 Mile Road
Battle Creek, MI 49014-8497
rjlewiscmc@aol.com

MUSIC & PERFORMANCE

Dave Montera
3995 Blackburn Dr.
W. Bloomfield, MI 48323
248.343.9073

FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Doug Weaver
861 Reeds Hollow Dr. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
616.706.3787
dweave@comcast.net

BOARD MEMBER AT LARGE

Roger Boyer
4128 Eden Gardens Dr.
Fenton, MI 48443
248.320.6631
docbarbershopchorus@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Paul Ellinger
1496 Copeland Circle
Canton, MI 48187-3446
517.812.5757
ellinger.paul@gmail.com

YOUTH IN HARMONY

Aaron Pollard
37164 Chesapeake Rd.
Farmington Hills, MI 48335
248.756.9539
aaronpollard2315@yahoo.com

MARKETING & PUBLIC RELATIONS

Vacant

CHORUS DIRECTOR DEVELOPMENT

Chris Berry
4767 Stadler Road
Monroe, MI 48162
734.755.2926
techberry@charter.net

BOARD MEMBER AT LARGE

Ed Bax
28334 Gitta Ct
Livonia, MI 48154
734.748.5977
ejbax@hotmail.com

PIONEER DISTRICT INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONS



CHORUS CHAMPIONS

1953 GREAT LAKES CHORUS (GRAND RAPIDS)



QUARTET CHAMPIONS

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



SENIOR QUARTET CHAMPIONS

2010 RESISTING-A-REST

TROUBADOUR PUBLISHING INFORMATION

The *Troubadour* is a quarterly publication by the authority of the Pioneer District Association of Chapters of the Barbershop Harmony Society. All articles and photos not by-lined are by the editor (or are unknown/anonymous) and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of members or officers of the District. Space will be made available for opposing views relevant to any issue. Nothing will be published that is in violation of the Society's Code of Ethics.

In This Issue

	Page
District Board	
<u>Return to BoD and Management Team Structure</u>	5
<u>Who's who on Board and Management Team</u>	5
Pioneer District Fall Convention	
<u>Quartet Contest</u>	7
<u>Chorus Contest</u>	9
<u>Tag, You're It</u>	10
<u>The Voice</u>	10
<u>Emcees, Classes, and More</u>	11
<u>QCA Host</u>	12
<u>John Baker's Photo Exhibit</u>	13
<u>Thursday Night Harmony Mercenaries</u>	13
<u>Don Kill To Hall Of Fame</u>	14
<u>Back Pack Project</u>	14
<u>House Of Delegates Excerpts</u>	16
<u>Interview With Hemidemisemiquaver 4</u>	17
Report—Chapters	
<u>Alpena</u>	19
<u>Flint</u>	19
<u>Gaylord</u>	22
<u>Grand Rapids</u>	22
<u>Huron Valley</u>	22
<u>Lansing</u>	25
<u>Pontiac—Waterford</u>	25
<u>Rochester</u>	27
Report—District	
<u>Gaylord Chapter No Longer Hosting Bush League</u>	27
International	
<u>"Singing is life...the rest is just details"</u>	27
<u>Sweet Adelines Annual Convention and Competition</u>	28
<u>Spotlight on a Chapter: Pontiac—Waterford</u>	28
Media	
<u>In Transit, The A Cappella Musical</u>	33
<u>Dick Van Dyke</u>	33
<u>Website</u>	34
Singing, Music, and Performance	
<u>What Really Happens When A Singing Voice Gets Old</u>	34
<u>Barbershop Quiz</u>	35
Transitions	
<u>Frank A. Bateson</u>	35
<u>Francis M. Durham</u>	35
<u>Fred H. Hanson</u>	36
<u>Henry Hedges</u>	36

	Page
<u>Earl Krieger</u>	37
<u>Dennis K. Perry</u>	37
<u>Nicholas Piccione</u>	37
<u>Gary L. Washburn</u>	38
Pioneer District	
<u>Johnny Wearing, Tail Gunner</u>	39
<u>The Voice</u>	40
<u>Harmony Mercenary Repertoire</u>	40
<u>Editorial—Thanks For The Memories</u>	41
Upcoming District Events	
<u>Outstanding In Front</u>	41
<u>Great Lakes Harmony Brigade</u>	42
<u>District Calendars</u>	43
Promotional Flyers	
<u>Flint Christmas Show, December 4</u>	45
<u>Grand Rapids Christmas Show, December 10</u>	46
Endgame	
<u>Answers To Barbershop Quiz</u>	47

Someone must step up to the plate (the microphone? the computer?) and continue our grand tradition.

Good Bye, Pioneer. Adios, Au Revoir.



Your *Troubadour* Editors, John, Tom, and Greg, at the beginning, at the Orlando Midwinter convention. A rare gathering; most of our collaboration has been electronic.

District Board

The Board has decided to return to a Board of Directors and Management Team structure.

As of January 1, the five members of the District Board will be:

- District President - Mike Hansen
- Immediate Past President - Dan Bezaire
- Executive Vice-president - Dave Montera
- District Secretary - Jim McMahan
- District Treasurer- Chris Berry

The Management Team will consist of the Directors of the various other administrative functions.

Board of Directors

PRESIDENT
 Mike Hansen
 513 Kipling
 Lansing, MI 48912
 517.974.8555

Management Team

CHAPTER SUPPORT &
 LEADERSHIP TRAINING - Vacant

 CONTEST & JUDGING
 Brian Duncel

mhansen@mcca.org

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Dan Bezaire
 393 Harvest Land
 Belle River, ON Canada NoR 1A0
 226.363.0522
dbezaire4@cogeco.ca

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Dave Montera
 3995 Blackburn Dr
 W Bloomfield, MI 48323
 H 248.851.5035
 C 248.343.9073

SECRETARY

Jim McMahan
 3080 E Lois Ave
 Midland, MI 48640
 989.631.5093
Cyn5093@charter.net

TREASURER

Chris Berry
 4767 Stadler Road
 Monroe, MI 48162
 734.755.2926
techberry@charter.net

5872 Green Road
 Haslett, MI 48840-9783
 517.339.3422
MSUdunk@aol.com

EVENTS

Roger J. Lewis
 20125 12 Mile Road
 Battle Creek, MI 49014-8497
rjlewiscmc@aol.com

MUSIC & PERFORMANCE

Dave Montera
 3995 Blackburn Dr.
 W. Bloomfield, MI 48323
 H 248.851.5035
 C 248.343.9073

FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Doug Weaver
 861 Reeds Hollow Dr. SE
 Grand Rapids, MI 49546
 616.706.3787
dweave@comcast.net

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Paul Ellinger
 1496 Copeland Circle
 Canton, MI 48187-3446
 517.812.5757
ellinger.paul@gmail.com

YOUTH IN HARMONY

Aaron Pollard
 37164 Chesapeake Rd.
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aaronpollard2315@yahoo.com

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techberry@charter.net

BOARD MEMBER AT LARGE
 Ed Bax
 28334 Gitta Ct
 Livonia, MI 48154
 734.748.5977
ejbax@hotmail.com

BOARD MEMBER AT LARGE
 Roger Boyer
 1418 Eden Gardens Dr
 Fenton, MI 48430
 248.302.6631
docbarbershopchorus@gmail.com

Pioneer District 2016 Fall Convention

The 2016 Fall Convention of the Pioneer District was held at Kalamazoo’s Radisson Plaza Hotel, October 14-16.



Conventioneers/singers crowd the Arcadia Ballroom; 503 registrants, 17 of whom were first timers, and another 76 workers/VIP judges according to Todd Hoath - Photo by Michael Baribeau

Twenty quartets (one for scores only) and thirteen choruses competed.

In the quartet contest, THE HEMIDEMISEMIQUAVER 4 beat out UPPER DECK and

ROLLS VOYCE to become our new Pioneer District Champions. (Hemidemisequaver actually has a musical meaning - check it out on Google.)

They scored 76.4, singing “Try a Little Tenderness,” “Let’s Burn Up the Town,” “I Get Along Without You Very Well,” and “Sweet Lucy Brown.”



THE HEMIDEMISEQUAVER 4 (l to r) Don Slamka (Br) Doug Morgan (Bs) Dave Bjork (L) Dave Ellis (T) - Photo by Michael Baribeau

Don Slamka, Tenor of POWER PLAY, Bass/Baritone of Four Man Fishing Tackle Choir for a season, is the Baritone. **Dave Ellis** sings Tenor; he’s a 29-year Frank Thorne member from Greenville, MI. **David Bjork** is the Lead, a 17-year member from Auburn, IN, and member of the Greater Indianapolis and Fort Wayne chapters. And **Doug Morgan**, formerly with 4MFTC, sings Bass; he’s an 18-year Frank Thorne member from Wixom.

This Pioneer quartet is so new, they only registered on Sept 29!

Second place went to UPPER DECK, (**Mark Wilson, Jamie Carey, William Stutts Jr.**, and **James Masalskis**) who scored 74.4.

ROLLS VOYCE was third in the quartet competition with a score of 73.5 and won the right to represent Pioneer District at the Mid-Winter Senior Quartet competition in San Antonio in January.



UPPER DECK (l to r) Mark Wilson (T) Jamie Carey (L) James Masalskis (Bs) William Stutts Jr. (Br)



ROLLS VOYCE (l to r) Bruce LaMarte (T) T.C. Conner (L) T.R. Gerard (Bs) Dave Gillingham (Br) - Photo by Michael Baribeau

A relatively new quartet from Kalamazoo, REMIX, was in the chase, placing 4th at 68.8. They won Bush League in 2015, won the Novice Quartet award here, and bear keeping

keeping an eye on.



REMIX (l to r) Matt Root (T) Samuel Patrie (L) Brendon Monroe (Bs) Jonathan Woof (Br) - Photo by Michael Baribeau



The final Saturday night roster was filled out by DETROIT SOUND MACHINE, SHADES OF GREY, TITANIUM, and QUAD PRO QUO.

An apparent glitch in the broadcasting system left the 1st half of Friday night’s competition at reduced volume for the audience. With a noticeable click during INTRIGUE’S first song after intermission, the volume returned to an acceptable setting. Presumably, this didn’t affect the judging, who hear the “real” (unamplified) sound.

In the chorus contest, it was the Grand Rapids GREAT LAKES CHORUS repeating. They breached the 80 point ceiling once again with a score of 80.8. The men on stage swelled to 53 as they sang “Little Pal” and “A Song Like Daddy Used to Play.” Costuming, acting, choreography, and beautiful blend joined together to make the district proud to have them represent us at Las Vegas next summer.

Mt. Pleasant’s MOUNTAINTOWN SINGERS excited the audience as they arrived from among the auditorium spectators instead of from back stage, wearing 50’s greaser attire, rolled up blue jeans, white socks, and white T’s, to sing “I’m Into Something Good” and “It’s You” for a score of 74.8.

Finishing out the top five were Lansing, Traverse City, and Detroit-Oakland. Traverse City’s CHERRY CAPITAL CHORUS scored 104 points higher than last year to win the Most Improved Chorus award.

An interesting bit of trivia. **Alan Zaeske** sang in the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place choruses. That has to make him the top chorus guy in the district.

Plateau winners were:

Plateau 1 – Grand Rapids – 80.8
Plateau 2 – Lansing - 66.8

Plateau 3 – Traverse City – 66.5



Chad Hall and Marty Chirgwin accepting the Most Improved Chorus Award for Traverse City.

Contest Results

Senior Quartet

1	Rolls Voyce	72.8
2	Shades of Grey	65.1
3	Parts Unlimited	64.3
4	Old Rules	62.9
5	Double O Four	60.5

Quartet

1.	Hemisidemiquaver 4	76.4	11. Intrigue	64.2
2.	Upper Deck	74.4	12. Full Value	63.1
3.	Rolls Voyce	72.8	13. Old Rules	62.9
4.	Remix	68.8	13. Olde Thyme Harmony Quartet	62.9
5.	Detroit Sound Machine	67.5	15. Evenin Gentlemen	62.8
6.	Shades of Grey	65.8	16. Coda Honor	62.5
7.	TITANIUM	65.6	17. Quicksilver	62.1
8.	Quad Pro Quo (Mic tester)	65.3	18. Double O Four	60.5
9.	Northern Exposure	64.8	19. The Chordsmen	59.0
10.	Parts Unlimited	64.3		

Chorus

1.	Grand Rapids	80.8	10. Holland	61.8
2.	Mt. Pleasant	74.8	11. Flint	61.7
3.	Lansing	66.8	12. Battle Creek	61.3
4.	Traverse City	66.5	13. Windsor	60.5
5.	Detroit-Oakland	66.2		
6.	Hillsdale	64.3	Grand Rapids goes to International	
7.	Rochester	62.5	Lansing is Plateau 2 champion	
8.	Grosse Pointe	62.2	Traverse City is Plateau 3 champion	
9.	Kalamazoo	62.1		



Chris Berry introducing the Chorus Directors.

A reported 336 men crossed the competition stage.

The winners of the “Tag! You’re It” contest managed by William Stutts, Jr. and **Brandon Smith** got the opportunity to sing on Saturday night show. They were:

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY FIVE
 FOUR ADULT HUMANS
 THERE YOU GO, PLATYPUS

Pioneer’s beloved youth chorus, THE VOICE, sang twice, as a demo chorus before the Chorus contest, and before the Saturday night Quartet finals. They also raised funds for their trip to San Antonio. Their reported score of 73.5 was high enough to have placed them 3rd in the chorus contest if they were a chapter.

590 raffle tickets were sold, yielding more than \$2000 for the Harmony Foundation. And \$4,485 were raised for THE VOICE.



Kyle Snook.

Emcees were: **Paul Ellinger**, **Kyle Snook**, and **Doran McTaggart**.

Our own Music Judge **Al Fisk** filled in as a Singing Judge when **Chad Guyton** had to back out at the last minute.

The convention featured two classes:

- “Singing In Tune” - **Steve Delehanty**
- “The New Performance Category” - **Greg Caetano**

Several other highlights were:

- The Joe Barbershop Chorus sang “Hello, Mary Lou” and “Last Night Alone” under the direction of **Carl Dahlke**, Gold-Medal Bass of AUTOTOWNERS.



Carl Dahlke rehearsing the Joe Barbershop Chorus.

- The tradition of the Massed Chorus continued, here filling the lobby of the Radisson.



- There were six Hospitality Rooms, albeit in rather small quarters. Here, 4th place Bush League quartet, Forte, entertains in one of the rooms.



FORTE sings in one of the hospitality rooms.

After being crowned and critiqued by the judges, THE HEMIDEMISEMIQUAVER 4 arrived in this hospitality room, where **Cindy Hansen-Ellis** listened to her husband.



THE HEMIDEMISEMIQUAVER 4 getting a little hospitality.

Joe McDonald managed The Big Screen.

International guests Kyle Snook (HF) and **Matthew Gorman** (BHS) were so integrated into the weekend that they even competed in the Tag contest.

The Quartet Champions Association (QCA) were hosts and they concluded the convention by welcoming in the new quartet champs with the singing of "That Old Quartet of Mine" under the direction of Carl Dahlke. (Don Slamka pointed out that none of their four members had won Gold before as a Pioneer District Quartet Champion. We won't talk about Gold at International.)



Carl Dahlke leads the QCA Chorus welcoming THE HEMIDEMISEMI-QUAVER 4. Photo by Michael Baribeau



John Baker's Quartet Champions Photo Exhibit.

John Baker's new Pioneer District Quartet Champions Photo Exhibit. (John rescued the 8x10's from the Holland Chapter, when they closed up their Barbershop History Museum, to provide this beautiful history board.)

The weekend got off to an early start Thursday evening (6:00 to 8:30) when barbershop took over the Union Cabaret and Grille ("steps away from the Radisson"). MAJESTYX and REMIX sang as well as a chorus of Harmony Mercenaries. What a great way to jumpstart the weekend!



Harmony Mercenary Chorus sings at the Union Cabaret and Grille on Thursday night.



REMIX sings at the Union Cabaret and Grille.
Photo by Roger Lewis

A Taste of Kalamazoo Walking Tour was also added to the schedule, Friday afternoon.

Thanks for a successful convention to co-chairmen **Roger Lewis** and **Bud Kraft**.

Don Kill Elected to Pioneer District Hall of Fame

The Pioneer District Hall of Fame added one new member - **Don Kill**,

whose many-year-long contributions to the district as Back Stage Manager were recognized.

“Sincerest congratulations to Lansing member Don Kill on his election to the Pioneer District Hall of Fame. Don has been the stage manager for every convention that I’m aware of, for at least the last 23 years. Don has things so well organized that he makes the job appear easy. Having had the honor of working backstage with him for a couple of years, I can assure you, it’s not all that easy. I can think of no one more deserving of the honor than Don Kill.”

(From Paul Howe’s Woodshedder Weekly)



Don Kill relaxing the morning after his induction.

The Back Pack Project

Roger Boyer, newest Pioneer Board Member at Large, was asked to initiate a district service project for the October Convention. The decision was to provide backpacks to the Kalamazoo’s YWCA Domestic Assault program. These backpacks were to contain a few new basic school supplies for youngsters as their families left their temporary (five-week) stay at the shelter and the kids transitioned to a new school. This gift would be more meaningful than simply giving money. Two age groups were targeted, 6 – 9 and 10 – 14. The goal was 50 backpacks.

Personal notes of encouragement and hope were included in many, such as “Hey, thinking of you and hope this stuff will help you out in school,” “good luck in school and hope this stuff helps,” “have fun being creative and good luck.”



An example of what went into each backpack.

Ninety-three donations were actually collected from Pioneer chapters at the District Convention. They were officially accepted by **Ms. Trina Jones** of the YWCA Domestic Assault program during the Saturday night program.



Trina Jones accepts backpacks for the YWCA Domestic Assault program.

From Roger Boyer - Member at Large, Pioneer District

Pioneer HO!! Thanks “pioneers” for a successful launch of Pioneer’s district wide service project. Your generosity will provide traumatized and fearful youngsters with an understanding that there are those who care about them and their well-being. A total of 93 new backpacks containing new school supplies were delivered to the YWCA.

Mike Sobel, Kalamazoo’s chapter president, helped deliver backpacks on Saturday afternoon. After visiting the YWCA facility and speaking with Ms. Trina Jones, he pledged that the Mall City Chorus will continue supporting the YWCA Domestic Assault program and the YWCA in a variety of ways. Look for details on the MALL CITY HARMONIZERS web page, BarbershopHarmony.org, soon.

I hope you have gotten as much satisfaction from participation in this effort as I have. With your help this will be the first of many successful community outreach projects in those communities who host our conventions and do their best to welcome us. In April we will again have the opportunity to show our support of less fortunate in the Traverse City area. If you have ideas for this or future conventions and/or would like to take part in the planning and executing of one of these rewarding projects, please contact me at docbarbershopchorus@gmail.com or 248.302.6631

From Michael Sobel, President, Kalamazoo Mall City Harmonizers

To all Pioneers...

What a great convention! And what a heartwarming, altruistic purpose we adopted there!!!

As president of the Kalamazoo chorus, I want to first give a big "shout-out" to Roger Boyer, Member-at-Large of the Board, for the amazing job he did in adopting the Kalamazoo YWCA as an opportunity for us all to do something REALLY GOOD for the people of this host city's community. And an equal "shout out" to the Pioneer District for donating 94 new backpacks, all filled with school supplies! Thank you, Roger, for setting this up...and to Pioneer members for your generosity; I speak for our entire Kalamazoo chorus when I say that we're looking forward to continuing the Barbershop/Pioneer District relationship with them here in "the Zoo". And they are truly excited!!

And know that this will continue to be not just a Kalamazoo chorus outreach...but a Barbershop/Pioneer District outreach as well!!!

In fact, they've already invited our chorus to their annual Christmas Party on December 14 to do some caroling, which we're sure looking forward to.

Quick story: When Roger and I were at the YWCA on Saturday to deliver the first batch of backpacks, we happened to witness a mother and her two little boys coming there to be admitted into their shelter. The two little boys were probably 2 1/2 and 4 years old. Happy...smiling...but I assume with a whole lot of mental scars already seared into their very young lives. Seeing that made me all the more determined to see what our chorus can do to improve the lives of these mothers and their precious children.

October being Domestic Violence Awareness Month, I hope other choruses will consider aligning themselves with a similar program in your community. You'll for sure get the same "lump in your throat" as I have!

Celebrate harmony!
Michael

House of Delegates - Excerpts

Chris Berry replaces **Robb Smith** as Treasurer. He reported a balance of \$83,202 in our several accounts.

The budget was discussed. **Doran McTaggart** urged giving more support for competing choruses and quartets.

Dale Hanson announced that the Gaylord chapter has decided to end its sponsorship of Bush League and is looking for a new chapter sponsor.

Matt Gorman arrived from the Society Strategic Planning Committee of the BHS to lead a planning discussion. The Society's survey, sent out to our 22,000 members yielded 2900 first responses and 6000 final responses. (Matt founded the 2016 International 16th place chorus, CAROLINA VOCAL EXPRESS, and runs the social media barbershop resource called BarbershopMe.)



Matt Gorman

Kyle Snook described the impact of Harmony Foundation. They are considering additional scholarships to HU. There is still need for support of the Youth Choruses. 40 choruses applied for the 20 slots in next year's Youth Chorus festival, and 26 choruses have already applied for 2018.

Dave Montera is not only our Executive VP, but the 2017 Moderator of the District Presidents Council. He noted that youth choruses must now apply by a video audition

process. We are trying to have more than one or two youth festivals a year. **Aaron Pollard's** email to all state music educators last year has led to seven high schools developing barbershop programs.

Doug Weaver described:

- The support the district has given to HF in the district
 - The support the district has given to THE VOICE, to the tune of \$5 K per year.
- A parade of checks then ensued, each chapter's financial contributions to THE VOICE.

Jim Clark, the Lead of STORM FRONT, is our new official HF regional rep (though he does cover an extensive area, from Montana to Georgia.)

Leadership Academy: As last year's LA was cancelled for lack of registrations, Pioneer District is combining with Johnny Appleseed District (JAD) to put on leadership academies. Next year's will be Jan 6-7, 2017 in Columbus. Future LA's may be in Toledo to accommodate Pioneer members.

Roger Lewis spoke of the change in A/V recording contracts. The new vendor will record in Hi-Def with a single camera and distribute the recordings on flash drives.

Dan Bezaire reported that the Board of Directors has decided to return to a BOD and Management Team structure. The five members of the BOD will be

- ◇ District President - Mike Hansen
- ◇ Immediate Past President - Dan Bezaire
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Interview with Hemidemisemiquaver 4

John Cowlshaw interviewed Don Slamka, Tenor of our new Pioneer District Champion Quartet.

Troub: THE HEMIDEMISEMIQUAVER 4 only registered on September 29. How and when did you guys meet and decide to become a serious quartet?

Slamka: Well, I think we got together once in January and then again in either February or March. It seemed like there was good potential and we decided to move forward as a quartet.

Troub: You all live far apart. What is your rehearsal schedule?

Slamka: In the beginning we were only able to get together about once every three weeks or so. The past four months we have tried to get together once a

week. Sometimes it's only a trio rehearsal due to work schedules, but we try to make it work.

Troub: What is the quartet history of Dave, David, and Doug? (Hmm, the Four D's, I see!)

Slamka: **Dave Bjork** sang in the 2005 Cardinal District Champion, QUARTIZ ZLE. **David Ellis** has a number of quartet championships from the Rocky Mountain District: 1988-QUINCY AVENUE, 1999-CRAZY RHYTHM, 2002-STORMFRONT (placing 3rd at international in 2007), and 2009-BOILING POINT. **Doug Morgan** has sung with three Pioneer District quartet champs...after they already won. He sang with WJBC, PARTY OF FOUR, and most recently was spotted drowning worms with the FOUR MAN FISHIN' TACKLE CHOIR.

Troub: Have you been receiving coaching?

Slamka: We were fortunate to be able to meet with **Joe Cerutti** while he was in Michigan a few months ago. We also have worked with **Cindy Hansen-Ellis**. The fact that her last name matches our tenor's is not a coincidence.

Troub: Do you want to add anything about your choice of quartet name, beyond the fact that readers can successfully google hemidemisemiquaver?

Slamka: Well, it certainly starts its own conversation and creates its own energy, doesn't it? When we were tossing names around, which can take several months and get a bit silly, that one came through on a text. I thought it was a joke, but it never went away. Doug even admitted to secretly practicing how to say it daily, just in case. When it came time to register the quartet, we still didn't have a name. We went around the room and started eliminating names from the final list. Hemidemisemiquaver made it to the final two, and I made the comment that either name would be fine, but that one made me smile every time I thought about it. It still does.

Troub: What are the quartet's future plans? Will you be competing in the Spring pre-lims?

Slamka: Yes, it is our intention to compete in the spring and try to get the points to qualify for Las Vegas.

Troub: I know of your role as Tenor, in POWER PLAY, of course, and Bass, in 4MFTC. Now you are singing Baritone. Have you ever sung Lead in an organized quartet?

Slamka: I did sing lead with THE FAMILY FORUM from about 1985-1989.

Troub: Did you say that none of you four have gotten gold medals (in this district) before? Hard to believe.

Slamka: True. The Daves have won districts, just not in Pioneer. POWER PLAY won the district before I joined. And Doug has made a career of singing with champion quartets...after they've won.

Troub: Was it your quartet that thanked Advil cold and flu medicine for making it thru the weekend. What's that all about?

Slamka: That was us. Three of us were at some stage of illness that weekend. But like the old Right Guard commercial said, "Never let 'em see you sweat." I just made that announcement from the stage after winning because we weren't sure if we would be able to make it through our more vocally demanding songs for the acceptance.

Reports—Chapters

Alpena

by Earl Elowsky, President, Huron Shore Chorus

The HURON SHORE CHORUS sang at the 40 Mile Light Annual Festival on October 7, 2016 to a nice crowd in the pavilion there. The people seemed to really enjoy the program. Of course, what really helps is our director, **Ted Johnson**, a real show man. We have been the opening program for their festival for several years now and we always seem to get an invitation to come back.

Flint

by Bill Karas, Marketing and PR

The Chorus performed their annual spring concert, Saturday, May 21 at Powers High School Auditorium in Flint. Part of the proceeds helped provide scholarships for students at Powers.



Flint ARROWHEAD CHORUS

The evening of music and comedy was called "Coney Island Memories" featuring our 30 voice chorus and two barbershop quartets - the award winning ROLLS VOYCE and FRONTIER. (Congratulations guys on your Convention performances in Kalamazoo. You were great!) Immediately after the show a "Meet the Cast Afterglow" was held where more barbershop music and delicious Flint-style Coney Islands were served to our guests by Flint's "Coney Conexion" restaurant.

Many Pioneer District Chapters, Quartets, and their family and friends, attended the Chorus's Annual Dead Creek Picnic Tuesday, June 21. Great food (homemade sauerkraut, brats and beans, cooked and served thanks to **Dave Lonsbury** and **Dave Worley**), cold beer and pop, and great barbershop music from days gone by were enjoyed! Special thanks to all who attended! We love having you come and hope more Choruses will attend next year!



"Coney Island Memories"



Flint style "Coney Islands"

Later in August the Bay City HARBOR LIGHTS BARBERSHOP CHORUS invited the Flint Chorus to come and sing the "National Anthem" at the beginning of the Loon's ballgame at Dow Stadium in Midland. We always enjoy singing with our "brothers" to the North. Thanks **Ralph Brown** and **Jack Guttowsky** for the annual invite! Yes, play ball!

Our Chorus and the Lansing CAPITAL CITY CHORDSMEN performed a joint Barber-shop Sing-Off (Real American Music!) concert, Saturday, October 1 at the Joseph H. Lebowsky Center (old Capital Theater) in Owosso, MI. Money raised from the event provided funding to allow both choruses and the Owosso Community Players to support their many community activities.

The evening of music and comedy, where both choruses competed to determine "Who Is the Best?" using a NBC "Sing-Off" TV show comedy format facilitated by three celebrity judges - **Ms. Monica Harris** WFMK Lansing, the honorable **Jerry Lostracos**, retired Shiawassee Co. Circuit Court Judge and **Mr. Kevin Keane**, Mayor of Flushing. **Mr. Dave Eddy**, from the "Morning Mayor" show on WBCK, Battle Creek for the past 40 plus years was the celebrity emcee. Both choruses scored a 100 points (think maybe it was rigged?). They ended the show by singing patriotic



Flint and Lansing finish show with patriotic medley. Picture by Mary Jo Damn-Strong

songs together as shown below. Special thanks to **Don Horton** for the idea and being our Show Chairman. Great job Don and to our fellow Barbershoppers in Lansing! We look forward to next year's show!!

The Chorus' annual Chicken Dinner was Sunday morning October 9 at the Masonic Temple in downtown Flint.

Chorus members sold tickets to the event and waited on tables. Great music, wonderful food were had by all. The chorus sang every 20 minutes with quartets performing in between.



Chicken dinner with all the trimmings.

The marketing plan for the Spring Show and Chicken Dinner included the quartet **UNCORKED** singing on FOX 66 and Channel 25 Friday, September 30. They were on four live TV spots beginning at 5:15 a.m. and ending at 8:15 a.m. Guess who took a nap shortly thereafter? Yes, probably all of them! Special thanks **Dave Longroy, TC Conners, Dave Lonsbury** and **Ron Gillies!** You gents are the best! See the link below for their TV debut:

<http://nbc25news.com/news/nbc25-today/local-men-making-music-happen>



UNCORKED: Dave Longroy, TC Conner, Dave Lonsbury, and Ron Gillies.

Our annual Christmas Chorus will be convened in early November where we invite the men from the area to come sing with us and learn Christmas Carols. We will perform several sing outs in December at senior activity centers and resident centers throughout Gen-

esee County. Below is last year's Chorus performing Centers in Burton and Grand Blanc, MI.

Please mark your calendars for our Christmas show coming Sunday December 4th in Grand Blanc. We are sharing the stage with the "Song of the Lakes" Sweet Adeline's from Davison. We hope to see you there!



Christmas with the FLINT ARROWHEAD CHORUS.

Happy Holidays from the FLINT ARROWHEAD BARBERSHOP CHORUS!

Gaylord

On the weekend of August 19 and 20, the Gaylord Chapter hosted the 70th annual Bush League Competition at the E-Free Church in Gaylord, Michigan. Ten quartets from the Pioneer District competed for the coveted Gaboon Trophy. Judges for the event were **Ken Fisher, Barry Towner, and Jan Ake Westin. Ron Eubank** was the administrator for the contest.



NORTHERN EXPOSURE (l to r) Richard Hartrick (T), Jess Kuznicki (L), George Tatro (Br), Bob Gray (Bs).

For the first time in recent history, there was an actual tie for second place in the morning contest. Second place was shared by NORTHERN EXPOSURE from the Traverse City Chapter, and OLDE THYME HARMONY QUARTET of the Lansing Chapter. First place in the contest went to the Huron Valley CHARMONIZERS, composed of **Paul Ellinger** (Lead), **Rob Pettigrew** (Baritone), **Zack Stratton** (Tenor) and **John Sterbenz** (Bass). They scored 67.3.

TERS, REMIX (2015 Bush League Champions), STRONG TOWER RADIO QUARTET, the ELLINGER FAMILY QUARTET, and FRONTIER (2016 Pioneer District Champions). The finale of the performance included the singing of “God Bless America” with all quartets and barbershop singers past and present on stage.

The top three quartets were the highlight of the HARMONIE MEISTERS’ evening “Show of Champions. Also appearing were the HARMONIE MEIS-



CHARMONIZERS (l to r) Rob Pettigrew (Br), Zack Stratton (T), John Sterbenz (Bs), Paul Ellinger (L).

Grand Rapids

After a very gratifying contest, GREAT LAKES CHORUS is now hard at work preparing for their annual Christmas show with the Grand Rapids Sweet Adelines. It will be held at Grandville High School Auditorium on December 10 and will feature chorus quartets, UPPER DECK, OLD RULES, SHADES OF GREY, and QUICKSILVER as well as several Sweet Ad quartets. There will be a 2pm matinee and a 7pm evening show. Tickets are \$15 for general admission and \$12 for seniors/students.

Huron Valley

from William Stutts Jr.

August 13 - Medal of Honor Celebration

The HURON VALLEY HARMONIZERS were joined by members of the FLORAL CITY

HARMONIZERS and LIVINGSTON LAMP-LIGHTERS in honoring Ret. Army Lt. Colonel **Charles S. Kettles** at the Yankee Air Museum in Ypsilanti, MI for celebration of his *Medal of Honor*, which was presented to him by President Obama in July for his heroic rescue of paratroopers in Vietnam.
http://mobile.nytimes.com/2016/07/19/us/politics/medal-of-honor-vietnam-charles-kettles.html?_r=1&referer=



Medal of Honor recipient Lt. Col. Charles S. Kettles, Retired.



Three choruses combined to sing at the Medal of Honor celebration.

August 20 - Bush League

Huron Valley had a quartet in the Bush League Novice Quartet contest and they came away with the "Brass Gaboon." Congrats to The Huron Valley CHARMONIZERS on their achievement. (See full story under the Gaylord chapter.)

September 4 - Saline Community Fair

The HURON VALLEY HARMONIZERS entertained the patrons of the Saline Community Fair on Labor Day Sunday and even met someone special who lent their voice in song.

September 23 - Wine Tasting

Everyone loves good wine and good song and both were in abundance at the ever popular Wine Tasting at DeAngelis Cantina Del Vino in Ann Arbor. Along with the Harmonizers, there was an array of quartets that performed including FULL VALUE, The Huron Valley CHARMONIZERS, ANYTHING GOES (Sweet Ads), DETROIT SOUND MACHINE, and CHORDIOLOGY.



HURON VALLEY HARMONIZERS at the Saline Community Fair with that special someone.

September 24 - Proposal

Tenor **Zak Stratton** made the big leap and proposed to his girlfriend, Rosie, at "The Dio" dinner theatre in Pickney, MI. He arranged to have a quartet from Huron Valley sing a new arrangement of Rosie's favorite **Ben Folds** song called "The Luckiest." It was arranged by **Patrick McAlexander**. Let us just say that she said YES!!!!



The Proposal. She said yes.

October 14-15 - Pioneer District Fall 2016 Convention in Kalamazoo

Huron Valley had members in three quartets for the Pioneer District Fall 2016 Convention in Kalamazoo. ("*" denotes HVH member)



In their first District contest, FULL VALUE earned a 12th place finish out of 19 quartets. Zak Stratton (T), Jason AuBuchon (L), Jim Windak (Bs), William Stutts Jr.* (Br).



DETROIT SOUND MACHINE reached the 5th place spot. George Jackson Jr.* (Br), Dylan Broome (L), Jason Hall (Bs), Dave Ebersole (T).



UPPER DECK garnered a 2nd place finish in the contest. Mark Wilson (T), Jamie Carey (L), James Masalskis (Bs), William Stutts Jr.* (Br).

October 18 - All About the Arts

This is an evening of barbershop presented at the Wayne County Community College Western Campus in Belleville.

The HURON VALLEY HARMONIZERS shared the stage with the FLORAL CITY HARMONIZERS and also had a special guest VLQ of some ladies from the SPIRIT OF DETROIT. The program featured our 2016 5th place International Senior Medalist, ROLLS VOYCE.

Lansing

Paul Howe expects Issue 800 of the Woodshedder Weekly to be his last. “It should happen right on New Year’s Day.”

Congratulations to Paul on a remarkable, almost unimaginable editorial career!

Pontiac—Waterford

Big Chief Picnic

The 2016 picnic was held under fine weather August 19 at **Jim and Carol Owens** lovely home on the terraced slope of Elizabeth Lake. One group assembled around a table on the first level, accessible by private elevator, and the remainder on the lawn.

There were the usual brats and hot dogs, and this year, wonderful sweet corn, furnished by the Owenses. And of course all the marvelous platters brought by the 38 attendees.



If the group on the lawn is any indication, a good time was had by all who attended.

The 72nd annual chapter show

The chapter show was “Let’s Go Cruisin’” on Saturday, November 5, at Waterford Mott High School. It featured the BIG CHIEF CHORUS and its quartets, and these special guests:

- DOUBLE-DATE, ROCK-APELLA MARVELS, a mixed quartet from Marine City, MI
- THE VOICE, 2016 International Youth Medalist chorus
- FRONTIER, 2016 International Medalist quartet
- The pre-teen Classy Dancers, who delighted fans last year, as they danced to the chorus’s singing.

The show’s finale was a new in-house arrangement named “Cruise Song Medley.”

Milford High School Connection

Pontiac-Waterford’s support of **Maryann Lam-brecht’s** Milford High School musical program has led to participation in several Harmony Explorations, and to the growth of youth barbershopping in Milford.

Milford Men's Quartet STRICTLY BUSINESS was part of the Gratiot County Chapter BHS show, along with THE VOICE in Alma Saturday night, Oct 8.



STRICTLY BUSINESS from Milford High School.


Presidency, 2017

Jack Teuber is stepping down after seven years as President of the Pontiac Waterford chapter, following five years as VP Marketing and PR during which he won P.R.O.B.E. Public Relations Officer of the Year in 2008. The new president is **Eric Domke**.

Chapter and Quartet 2016 Performances thru October

68 gigs to 4,773 people.

CHAPTER QUARTETS



<p>BIDIN’ OUR TIME Fred McFadyen, T Mike Frye, L Ray Sturdy, Br Roger Holm, Bs</p> <p>LIMITED EDITION Tom Blackstone, T Jeff Doig, L John Cowlshaw, Br Charlie Perry, Bs</p>	<p>4 UR PLEASURE Jack Teuber, T Gil Schreiner, L Walt DeNio, Br Bob Wallace, Bs</p> <p>4GVN Pat Hefner, T Bob Greenwood, L Eric Domke, Br Greg Moss, Bs</p>
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Jack Teuber



Eric Domke

Rochester

The 2016 Rochester GUARDIANS OF HARMONY show was entitled “California Dreaming,” Saturday evening, October 1, at Stoney Creek High School.



THE CON MEN sing at afterglow.

Guest quartet THE CON MEN wowed the audience with their close harmony, their unique repertoire, and their energy. RIGHT ON Q added their talents, and the Rochester chorus entertained with their spectrum of popular songs, including a Beach Boys Medley by a Very Large Quartet. Additional quartets were TODAY’S SPECIAL, LIMITED EDITION, and TITANIUM. Black Satin Trio performed during the intermission. **Doran McTaggart** emceed.

The afterglow was at Avery’s Tavern.

Reports—District

Gaylord Chapter to no longer host Bush League

Because of declining membership, the HARMONIE MEISTERS are looking for another chapter in the Pioneer District to pick up the strong tradition of hosting any future Bush League competitions. Chapters who may be interested are invited to contact Mr. Dale Hanson for more information or visit the harmoniemeisters.org web site.



VLQ sings Beach Boys Medley at the afterglow.

International

"Singing is life...the rest is just details"

From: FLASHBACKFRIDAY, LiveWire

This was the slogan of 2002-3 International President **Roger Lewis**. Coincidentally, it was also the title of this great recruiting video released by the Society in 2002. Although a bit outdated in branding and some of our nomenclature regarding Society goals, it still holds up as a good example of the range of barbershop activity and attitudes.

Part time capsule, part family album... it's a fun look back in our not-so-distant past.

Take a peek; it might inspire your own productions!
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oS3gA2bIWtM>

Sweet Adelines Annual Convention and Competition

The convention was held in Las Vegas, October 16-22. Watch the 2015 Top Ten Quartet recap: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3FhzrKXtiEs>

Locally, The SPIRIT OF DETROIT and GREAT LAKES CHORUS have announced plans to merge at the end of 2016. The unified chorus will be co-directed by **LeAnn K. Hazlett** and **Sylvia Karpinsky**.

Spotlight on a Chapter: Pontiac—Waterford

by John Cowlshaw

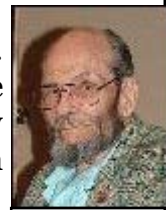


The Pontiac Chapter was the 17th chapter in Michigan. It was founded in 1943 by a group of engineers at the Pontiac GMC Truck and Coach plant. It was renamed Pontiac-Waterford in the late 1990s.

It has succeeded for 73 years as a chapter that co-emphasizes singing for life, camaraderie, an unusually high number of sing-outs, annual shows, and once-a-year competition at the District conventions.

History

Bill Pascher was a founding member of the Pontiac-Waterford chapter. My interview with him in November 2001 described the founding of the chapter, its early years, and the barbershop culture in general in those early years. Bill died in 2006. (Most senior member now, and still active, is **Len Barnes**, who joined in 1954.)



Bill Pascher

John Cowlshaw: What is your first memory of Barbershop?

Bill Pascher: When the Engineering Building was built, which was a new building. At noon hour, a few of us would hurry up with our sack lunch and we'd sing old songs. We didn't know what Barbershop was; we'd just try to harmonize, woodshed stuff, you know? And that evolved into a realization that there was something going on in the world besides impromptu singing. And a couple of the guys had joined Oakland County unbeknownst to us, in fact we didn't even know these guys, but their friends heard us singing and said to them, "Why don't you go up there and see what they're doing?" Well, of course, they brought it to us, and there were three or four of us guys got interested in finding out what it was all about and what it took to be a Barbershopper. Found out how many people it would take to organize; it was twenty then. We finally got twenty together and organized our own chapter. The date on our charter is April 17, 1943. We were number 17 in Michigan.

JC I guess my question is, why didn't you join that Oakland County chapter instead of starting a new chapter?

BP Well, there was yanking and pulling, you know. It was either that or building our own. I always thought it was better to be a big ripple in a small puddle.

JC Then there were conventions in Detroit in '53 and '81 too.

BP I was back-stage manager in '81.

I had hoped to find, in these books [that he perused as we spoke], the earnings that we passed along to the Institute of Logopedics, from our performances. But I would say, \$4,500. We never spent anything on ourselves except for uniforms etc. The rest went to the Institute.

[Ed. Note: SPEBSQSA's affiliation began in 1949 with The Institute of Logopedics, which evolved into Heartspring.]

JC Let's turn to the Pontiac chapter. Did it average around 20 to 30 members? I know it hit a low point 4 years ago.

BP Well, we bounced off that low point several times. But the apex was when our membership rose to 120. It was an oddity. A guy would brag that he belonged to barbershoppers, and he'd pull out a card, cuz it only cost him a buck or maybe two. Everybody wanted to have a card. This was at the very earliest meeting halls. In the middle '40's.

JC When did the Pontiac chapter become the Pontiac-Waterford chapter?

BP That vote came as a result of the agitation on the part of several non-city members after the Colored trouble we had, you know, in Pontiac. Guys were turning off about having any connection with Pontiac. I even worked with guys like that – Never going down to Pontiac again. At that time, the whole south end was practically empty, before the rise of redevelopment. I lived on the corner of Jesse and Chandler in Pontiac for many years.

JC I moved to Pontiac in '68 and the riot was in '70. So that's when the name changed?

BP No, no, it was after we were already rehearsing at the Crary School. I made quite an emotional appeal, from a personal standpoint, being a charter member, to not discard the Pontiac name from the title.

JC So, there's been a show every year since '44?

BP Yup, in fact in '44 we had two shows. Spring and Fall.

JC Any memories about the early shows?

BP At that time we had a member, **Clinton Sanborn** (nicknamed, "Chase") [Pioneer Hall of Fame, 1974] Well, I had a hard time getting Chase interested in barbershopping. He was working at GM, in Material Control, I think, or Finance. He was a bass, and he just loved to get into a quartet where bass was dominant. He hobnobbed more so than I with the entertainment segment in barbershopping and shows. He went to many more shows than I did, across the state and so forth. But it prepared him for choices on quartets when it came time to make up an invitation list. They would choose top-notch. I think as a consequence our shows were much higher caliber than they are today. And we appealed more to other barbershoppers. I don't know as how it affected our non-barbershopper audiences much, they wouldn't know BUFFALO BILLS except from "Music Man," but that's the type of thing I'm talking about. Since he's gone, other things have changed. The cost of top quartets. The quartet from Louisville, they were all young, in fact their mother came as a chaperone; we had to pay her way. That whole program cost us \$1500. In those days that was a chunk.

JC Were Buffalo Bills here?

BP Yes, and the SCHMITT BROTHERS. And we always had auditoriums that would seat near a thousand.

JC Tell me about the directorship of our chapter.

BP For years we subsisted without a chorus; that was a no-no in Pontiac. They all preferred quartetting. So it was a hard time getting a chorus started. But it soon

developed, naturally; there wasn't enough guys singing without a chorus.

JC A last question. Our chapter has grown so much in the last few years [under **Chris Miller**]. Are you excited by that?

BP Oh yes, In fact if you'll not say anything to anybody, I'll confess, I was on the doorstep, going out, when that happened.

The chapter's participation in district competitions as the PONTIAC MOTOR MEN dropped from three times in the 1970s, to once in the 1980s, and not again until 1998 when it came back to life as the Pontiac-Waterford BIG CHIEF CHORUS, under the rejuvenating direction of Chris Miller. From 1997 to 2003 the chorus grew from a handful to 55.

Subsequent directors have included: **Bruce Collins** (2003), **Jim Troeger** (2004-5), **Dick Johnson** (2005-6), and our present director, **Tom Blue** (2007-2016), whom we met at a sing-out and who has warmed our hearts and developed our skills with his directorship, which now approaches ten years.

Pontiac-Waterford's role within the District

The current Pioneer District logo was designed by Bill Pascher in 1985. Bill redesigned the emblem by superimposing the Conestoga wagon over the Michigan-Ontario map, to be more reflective of the District since it encompasses Michigan and southern Ontario. The change was unanimously adopted.



Pontiac-Waterford has six members in the Pioneer District Hall of Fame:

- Rawley Hallman, 1975
- Louis Harrington, 1974
- Bill Otto, 1979
- Bill Pascher, 1974
- Chase Sanborn, 1974
- W. Carleton Scott, 1974

And **Bruce LaMarte's** ongoing membership gives us credit for these International reps.

- INFINITY, 2004, 2005
- RESISTING ARREST, 2008, 2009, 2010 International Senior Champions
- ROLLS VOYCE, 2015, 2016

Other quartets of note have been:

- CURBSTONE SERENADERS, Bob Marshall (T); Ed Lilly (L); Tom Rafferty (Br); Cliff Douglas (Bs) (Pioneer District Quartet Champions, 1962)
- HARMONY KNIGHTS, Cliff Douglas, Ray Guerin, Lyle Howard, Ed Lilly (Bush League Champions, 1968)

Also of note, **Jack Teuber** was the 2008 International Winner of the Public Relations Officer of the Year Award.

Another historical kudos to Pontiac was the establishment of the Annual Woodshed contest. Its first occurrence was on March 29, 1957 with the event drawing 114 barber-shoppers including International President **Rowland Davis** of New York. A highlight of the evening was the first annual award of the "Carroll P. Adams Bennington Trophy." It went to the Detroit Chapter for entering the greatest number of individual contestants. All of the awards were designed and made by Bill Pascher. The 'Bennington Trophy' was annually awarded to the chapter with the highest percentage of its total membership in attendance. This contest, always popular in the Detroit area, continued until March 29, 2013, the 56th and last annual Quartet Woodshed Contest, when lack of attendance and conflicts with sports events doomed it.

Present Chapter

The chapter has 51 members on the rolls, with about 37 being active. Rehearsals are Tuesday evenings, 7:30 to 10:00, at the Waterford Oaks Activity Center, in Waterford MI.

The chapter's goals include a balance between outreach (singing out), "in-reach" (community and fellowship), and competition.

The chapter has an extensive sing-out schedule. In 2015, the chapter chorus sang 11 times at retirement homes and senior centers, picnics, funerals, chapter visitations, musicales, its annual show, and the district convention. In November the Christmas chorus formed, which had 21 additional sing-outs during December.

Chapter quartets added to the 2015 total:

- LIMITED EDITION - 32 sing-outs
- 4GVN - 28 sing-outs
- BIDIN' OUR TIME - 24 sing-outs
- 4 UR PLEASURE - 4 sing-outs

The audience for these 120 chorus and quartet events totaled 8,200 plus TV audiences.

The Pontiac-Waterford Chapter has a history of profitable and well-attended Annual Shows. The Fall 2015 show was praised as its best yet, with 680 in attendance.

The chorus competes each spring in the District Competition. In the last ten years, under Director Tom Blue, the chorus has averaged a score of 58, with 33 Men on Stage.

The chapter has also formed strong relationships with area high schools. The chapter had contact with seven high schools and one middle school in 2015. The chapter supported nine students who attended the 2016 Harmony Explosion.

Quartet members participate in the Harmony Brigade and receive coaching at Harmony Boot Camp. One member sings in THE VOICE.

The chapter newsletter *Smoke Signals* has been published monthly, under John Cowlshaw, since 2001. Back issues are available on the chapter website (maintained by **Jeff Doig**) at <http://bigchiefchorus.org/>

Weekly emails from **Roger Holm**, VP of Music and Performance, and Director Tom Blue lay out rehearsal plans. Rehearsals include a mix of physical and vocal warmups (led by **Eric Domke**, **Art Carinci**, **John Cowlshaw**, and **Ray Sturdy**), opening songs (under **Mike Frye**), repertoire review (under **Freddie McFadyen**), new song rehearsals (under Director Tom Blue), business meeting (under President Jack Teuber) and lots of in-house quartetting (some nights up to six).

The chapter has an active women's auxiliary, The Big Chief Chicks, which meet monthly (18 or more members).

Weaknesses? The primary concern is an aging membership. Median age is 75, and only about 37 of the 51 members are active. (However, five new members have been added in the last two years.) The chorus also abides by an all-inclusive membership philosophy, which presents a vocal skill learning curve that limits its competitiveness.

Media

In Transit, the a cappella musical, is coming to Broadway!

<http://www.barbershop.org/in-transit-the-a-cappella-musical-is-coming-to-broadway/>

The relentless march of a cappella into all media continues this fall, when [In Transit](#) opens on Broadway November 10 at the Circle In The Square Theatre. Sprung from the creative team behind *Frozen* and with vocal arrangements by aca-godfather **Deke Sharon**, this a cappella show has peerless parentage and a powerful offering.

Dick Van Dyke

Most Barbershoppers know that **Dick Van Dyke** is a barbershopper, with his own quartet, THE VANTASTIX. Here they sing an impromptu "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" at a Denny's restaurant. <https://youtu.be/6JWKXI8nEOQ>

Web Sites

The district website is <http://pioneerdistrict.org>

The BHS website is <http://www.barbershop.org>

Singing, Music, and Performance

What Really Happens When a Singing Voice Gets Old

by Justin Davidson

October 3, 2016, issue of *New York Magazine*

And accessible at:

<http://www.vulture.com/2016/10/mysteries-of-the-aging-voice.html>

...the singer's most delicate and irreplaceable apparatus is the larynx, the object of immense care and constant torture. Like everything else in the body, that agile apparatus tends to lose its powers over time. Within the throat's protective enclosure, two supple bands of tissue flutter over an opening the size of a penny like a pair of doll's-house curtains. But that description doesn't get across the repeated violence to which humans subject their vocal cords. Over the course of a singer's career, millions of collisions can leave the vocal cords scarred and stiff. If you want to get a feeling for what it's like to sing through that level of damage, try plucking a few notes on an ancient rubber band.

The voice is the most primal of instruments; it's also among the most technologically advanced. ... a voice can swoop in milliseconds through a dizzying range of timbres and techniques. ...The mechanism responsible for that cartoonish variety rests in a dense bundle of musculature and nerves. "All the vocal muscles would fit into one corner of one facial muscle. Nothing else in the body moves with that precision or speed..."

When people sing or speak, the lungs expel a column of air that travels up through the windpipe, where it is obstructed by the vocal cords. "As pressure builds up, it pushes the cords aside and makes them vibrate."

It's not the vocal cords that give a voice its richness, personality, or depth, however. Adele's brassy beam of sound, Renée Fleming's iridescent pianissimos, and Tom Waits's smoke-and-whiskey croak all acquire most of their character after the vibrating air has pushed past the vocal folds and goes swirling around inside the resonating chambers of the head. The size of the tongue, the palate's curve, the shape of the nose — that whole internal topography changes little over time, which is why you may still recognize an old flame's voice on the phone even if you haven't heard it for 40 years.

[As we age] the cords have a harder time vibrating at high frequencies, so the voice's default pitch drops. Thinner, more sluggish vocal cords pull even the ordinary speaking voice down a notch or two and reliably cut off the high part of [one's] range.

In every genre and style, some singers defy the years, thanks to wise artistic choices,

good training, or plain luck. ... Tony Bennett celebrated his 90th birthday ...

Time has it in for singers more than for other musicians. Singers' careers start later and end earlier, which means that their voices begin to go just as their wisdom peaks.

Barbershop Quiz

1. What is the definition of a swipe?
2. Define "medalist" in an international quartet or chorus competition.
3. What do Tony DeRosa, Joel Wilson, Brandon Guyton, Mark Slamka, Alan Gordon, Mark Metzger, Jonny Moroni, Gary Lewis, and Patrick Claypool have in common?

(Answers at end)

Transitions

Frank A. Bateson



Frank Bateson, of Empire, Michigan, formerly of Bay City, passed way unexpectedly Thursday, August 11, 2016 at Munson Health Care in Traverse City, MI. He was 79 years old.

"Frank was a long-time barbershopper who was a mainstay in the Saginaw Bay Chapter for many years and later sang with The MOUNTAINTOWN SINGERS. Frank sang tenor with the EVERSARPS (the 1967 Bush League champion and 1968 District Champion quartet)."

Bob Winters

Francis M. "Fran" Durham



Fran Durham died May 7, 2016 at the age of 87 in Plymouth Twp. He was an educator, with a Ph.D., who rose to the level of Principal of Mott High School in the Warren Consolidated School System.

He joined SPEBSQSA in 1966 and sang Baritone in the Oakland County Chapter and then the Detroit-Oakland Chapter after the merger.

He performed in many service roles, including

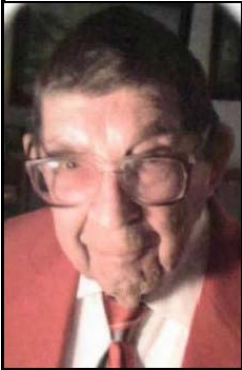
- Chairman of the District's Logopedics program
- The Society Representative to the Board of the Institute for Logopedics
- Member, Heartsprings (Logopedics) Board of Trustees
- Coordinated Youth In Harmony program for D.O.C.
- Coordinated D.O.C. youth scholarship program
- Frequent contributor to the Troubadour

Fran was inducted into the Pioneer District Hall of Fame in 2002.

Daniel “George” Goodearl

... of the Traverse City Chapter, died April 22, 2016 in Traverse City at the age of 81.

Fred H. Hanson



Fred Hanson passed away August 27, 2016, at the age of 98, at the time living in Dewitt, MI.

“Fred was my first Man of Note . . . I brought him in to the Gratiot County Chapter in the Mid 60’s . . . he continued to sing with Gratiot County even after he and his wife Virginia moved to Higgins Lake. After our Dad died, Fred took over our family business, Hanson & Sons Upholstery . . . Like Dad, Fred was an avid outdoorsman, fishing and hunting whenever he could. After Virginia passed, we talked Fred into becoming a dual member with Gaylord and I enjoyed singing with him again for about ten years. Fred had three children, Ronald, Vicki (Hinton) and Michael, and many Grandchildren, and great Grandchildren, and even 12 great great grandchildren. Michael and Virginia preceded him in death. Fred was a 53 year member of the Society.”

Dale L. Hanson

Henry “Hank” Hedges



Hank Hedges passed away Monday, May 9, 2016 at the age of 87. He was a resident of Lewiston, Michigan at the time of his passing.

He graduated from Northwestern University in Chicago with a degree in Journalism and Marketing and a Minor in Music and earned his Master’s Degree in Public Relations from Boston University.

Hank had a zest for living and adventure. He enjoyed boating and fishing. He loved flying, and shared in the ownership of a 4-seater prop plane, plus he held a sail plane license in the United States and Chile.

Hank’s marketing and journalistic talents were employed in the paper-making industry and then in the defense contract industry. His work and interests gave him opportunities to travel the world and provided him entree with heads of state as a defense contractor and as a jazz performer. Hank's infectious love for music was evident as a great jazz pianist, percussionist, and singer.

As the consummate organizer, he founded and directed many Barbershop and Sweet Adeline choruses including the Gaylord HARMONIE MEISTERS men’s chorus and MICHIGAN NORTHERN LIGHTS women’s chorus, plus others that he founded in the other states he lived in. He also founded and directed a big band in Rochester, Michigan.

Hank was an entertainer and the life of the party. His amiable character and stage personality shone in theatrical productions and his Master of Ceremony duties that he performed with many of his Barbershop chorus productions.

Earl Krieger

... was a member of the Benton Harbor/St. Joseph Chapter.

Dennis K. Perry



Dennis K. Perry, of Kalamazoo, of the Kalamazoo chapter, passed away on October 4, 2016, at the age of 62.

Dennis was a graduate of Comstock High School and attended Rochester College. He was employed by Humphrey Products for 30 years until his retirement. He was a member of the East Main Church of Christ and enjoyed many years of singing in the local Barbershop Chorus as well as his quartet.

Nicholas Peter Piccione



Nicholas Piccione, age 86, of the Grosse Pointe Chapter, died April 21, 2016, at the age of 85.

He was born in St. Louis, Missouri, as part of a large extended Italian-American family.

Nick earned a degree in Marketing from St. Louis University (1952). He served in Korea and in the South China Sea, before returning to St. Louis and a successful career with New York Life Insurance and with several family enterprises, including owning and operating motion picture theaters.

In 1981, a promotion with the company took Nick, Joan, and their five children to Grosse Pointe, Michigan, where he later retired from New York Life as Field Vice President. In retirement, he was President of the Grosse Pointe Rose Society (where he won several awards for his roses), was active with the Grosse Pointe Men's Tennis Club, and sang with the Grosse Pointe Barbershop Harmony Society. Nick and Joan also enjoyed power boating and were members of the Grosse Pointe Sail Club. Committed to giving back to his community, Nick served as a volunteer with the St. Vincent DePaul and with the Dominican Literacy Center.

Gary Lee Washburn



Gary Washburn died August 14, 2016, in California at the age of 67.

It is with great sadness that I have learned of the passing of former stalwart chorus member, Gary Washburn. His passing was sudden and unexpected yesterday morning. As an avid social media person, his Facebook page is understandably deluged with the shocking news.

Gary moved to California several years ago to be near to his grandchildren. But, as was his nature, he has stayed in contact with those he touched, including remaining on this email list and sending a note now and then. They were always welcome and encouraging, just like him.

It would be nearly impossible for me to think of him in any other way but smiling and positive. No, that isn't true. There is no "nearly" about it. It is simply not possible. He was a man of peace and will be missed by all who knew him. Rest in peace, Gary.

Matt Tipton

That is truly some sad news. Gary was not only an avid and skilled singer, but a great human being. We will truly miss him.

Bob Mac

Wow! That is a shocker. I last spoke with him in February. He was a great Bass. We sang in a quartet together for a short time when he was in Rochester Hills. Very sad news.

Tom Blackstone

He received his bachelor's degree in theology from Central Christian College of the Bible in Moberly, Mo., in May 1970. After graduation, he and his wife Beth began their full time ministry career in churches throughout Missouri, Indiana, Kansas, Oklahoma and Michigan. They retired from full time ministry in 1994.

Gary began a thriving financial business as a financial consultant and cultivated it for the next 18 years. He and Beth's twin granddaughters were born in August 2001, which led them to move to California in August 2002 to be near their children and grandchildren. Their grandson was born in January 2005. Gary became Pastor at the Placerville First Christian Church in January 2005. They lived in Cameron Park.

Gary was an active member of the Gold Rush Barbershop Chorus, a senior manager in the Send Out Cards organization and a member of the El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce. In 2013, he received from the California Legislature the Home Based Business of the Year award for his Send Out Cards business and in 2015 he received the prestigious award of Volunteer of the Year from the El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce.

The Placerville, CA Mountain Democrat

Pioneer District

Johnny Wearing, Tail Gunner

by Paul Ellinger

There is one of my good friends that I always make sure to spend time with, share a laugh, a story (or 5), a hug and at least one song. He sings a mean tenor and I always enjoy our talks as I always learn something new about this person and this weekend in Kalamazoo was no exception. Not only is he a District legend and loves barbershop as much today as ever, but he is also a legend in more than just the barbershop world.

On Wednesday, our own **Johnny Wearing** will be flown to St. Louis with his son to be honored for his heroics in WWII. Johnny was a tailgunner in the war and flew 35 missions over Germany. He is the last remaining member of his plane's crew. He was a member of the 8th Airforce, 96th Bombardment Group and his plane was not just any plane. His B17 Flying Fortress was the **5,000th** plane to roll off the assembly line at the Boeing plant in Washington. It was decorated with the signatures and well wishes of Boeing workers. Some of these included proposals of marriage and phone numbers. The weight of the paint used caused a 5 mph reduction in the cruise speed of the bomber. For this reason, his B-17 was christened "The 5 Grand" and there are a multitude of pictures of his plane online and they have even written a book which will be coming out soon about the exploits of The 5 Grand and its crew.

Johnny said, "I graduated in June and answered the draft call in August. I was in the infantry and during basic my PFC asked for volunteers to fly. My buddies said, 'Don't EVER volunteer for anything!', but I told them, 'Hey, pal. He's talking about flying instead of crawling around in this mud!', and I put up my hand. So off I went. After training, we were assigned a plane and our plane was different than any other plane in the sky. Every other plane had camouflage on it, but ours was the 5,000th B17 built after Pearl Harbor and had the signatures and well wishes of every single person that helped to build that plane. Every time we went up, we were representing them all. We flew 35 missions over Germany out of Station 138, Snetterton, England. And we were pretty successful bunch, especially given the fact that when we first reported to duty at Snetterton, they had just lost 100 B24s over Poland, where there was an oil refinery that was supplying fuel to the Germans. Now, they say that tail gunners don't last very long, but this one sure proved them wrong!"

When Johnny lands he will be met by the daughter of his pilot and the son of his copilot who will share in the day in honor of their fathers. Johnny says, "Although I'm really looking forward to it, I don't know why they are making such a fuss over me." Although it may not be obvious to Johnny, my guess is that it is abundantly clear to the rest of us.

Johnny Wearing has always been a hero to me and as I learn more and more about the man, he quickly becomes a hero of epic proportions. He may be slight of build, but to me he is a mountain among men.

So next time you see Johnny Wearing, thank him not only for his ongoing service to barbershop and experience the honor of singing with him, but also thank him for his courageous service to our country.

The Voice

Dear Barbershop Family,

We wish to share with you that the Pioneer District Youth Chorus, THE VOICE, was selected as one of twenty groups to participate in the Barbershop Society's Youth Harmony Festival in San Antonio, Texas in January 2017. There were thirty-five choruses that applied to be in the festival, so THE VOICE is very humbled and honored to have been invited for the third year.

The Barbershop Harmony Society pays for hotel and registration for the chorus members. The Youth Chorus must pay for airfare, music, costumes, meals, and other expenses. It is very exciting that there are now 29 members in the chorus, but this also means that the chorus will need over \$11,000 in order to go. Through shows and donations much of this money has already been raised, but the boys still need around \$4,000.

If you can help us by donating ANY amount, the chorus would be extremely grateful!!!

Please make checks out to: The Voice/TCC and mail it to: Jill Pollard, 37164 Chesapeake, Farmington Hills, MI 48335. Jill will send you a receipt with our tax ID# on it, and a thank you photo of the chorus.

The Youth Chorus has one more show, if you would like to see them - November 5th - Pontiac/Waterford Show at 7pm. Please contact Zach Schroeder for tickets at 248-929-1285.

Our sincere thanks for all YOU have done to help us in the past!!

Our Best to you,

Aaron Pollard, Brandon Smith, Cody Harrell - Directors of THE VOICE

Harmony Mercenary Repertoire (Update #13, Oct. 26, 2016)

by Tom Porritt

1. "Breaking Up Is Hard To Do"
2. "Can You Feel The Love Tonight"
3. "Come Go With Me"
4. "Cups (When I'm Gone)"
5. "Hello Mary Lou"
6. "King Of The Road"
7. "My Girl"
8. "Under The Boardwalk"
9. "The Armed Forces Medley" (Unofficially at this time)

Editorial - Thanks for the Memories

(Reprinted from the November, 2016 *Smoke Signals*, John Cowlshaw)

The other day I watched a young woman run down the street past our house. She was graceful and fluid and efficient. I used to run like that, I thought. I ran five marathons, many 10K's, and one year I ran 1500 miles. But now, that's all just a memory.

Wait a minute, what do I mean *just* a memory? As I watched her run, the memories rushing from my mind and my muscles were half as juicy as the present observation. It gives me such pleasure to remember the runner that I used to be that I get half as much enjoyment as I would get if I could still run like that. Half as much. Life's giving me a fair deal. I'll settle for that. As the performances deteriorate, the memories kick in to supply some of the joy. The memory is half of the reality.

My chorus's median age, for example, is 75. There is much that is behind us. For some of us, our vocal abilities are still rising, as we learn more and more about how to sing better and better. For others of us, the peak is behind us, and we are now on the downslope, as aging exerts its grasp. Skin tone, vision, hair, sex drive, physical strength, bone density - life is full of a wavelike upslope and downslope, peaking at different ages for different skills. If one is on the downslope, there are still all the wonderful memories of earlier successes.

Upcoming District Events

Outstanding in Front

by Chris Berry

The Pioneer District along with hosts the GREAT LAKE CHORUS are offering another fantastic opportunity to increase your music acumen. Come join us for an Outstanding In Front (OIF) Seminar on Saturday, November 19, 2016 in Grand Rapids, Michigan from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm. 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. The Outstanding In Front Seminar also focuses on the leadership skills for section leaders and music team members who are interested in supporting the success of the music program during your weekly chapter meeting.

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 cost of the seminar is \$30.00 and will include lunch. Please take a moment and let me know if you are planning to attend by completing the registration form at <https://pioneerdistrict.wufoo.com/forms/fall-2016-pioneer-district-cdwi-and-oif-seminars/> or contacting me directly via email or phone.

Questions? 734-755-2926 or techberry@charter.net.

I look forward to seeing you there!

Chris Berry

Pioneer District, VP – Chorus Director Development

Great Lakes Harmony Brigade

Good morning everyone! I'm happy to announce the Great Lakes Harmony Brigade is now accepting registrations for our 8th annual rally. The dates are 5/19 - 5/21/17 and will once again be held at the Okemos Conference Center in Okemos, MI. Okemos is just outside E. Lansing, MI near Michigan State University.

We will be singing 11 songs again this year and I've been assured by our music VP they are going to be challenging but fun to sing. In addition to all the quartetting you will be doing we will also perform at some of the local schools Friday morning and put on a show Saturday evening.

Please go to GLHB.org to register. Click on GLHB and the link to the registration page will open. If the message is still up about registration being open for members when you arrive, please disregard.

Yours in XQ,
Mike O'Donnell, Pres
GLHB

District Calendars

2016

- Nov 19 Michiana Metro Chapter Show
- Nov 19 Outstanding in Front, Grand Rapids, 8:00 - 5:00
- Dec 4 Flint Annual Christmas Show, Grand Blanc
- Dec 10 Grand Rapids Christmas Show, Grandville High School
- Dec 11 Wayne’s Annual Christmas Show

2017

- Mar 11 Lansing’s Wharton Show
- Apr 8 Sault Ste. Marie Chapter Show
- Apr 21-23 Spring Convention at Grand Traverse Resort, Traverse City, host: Mt. Pleasant
- June 17 Quartet Boot Camp
- July 23-30 Harmony University, Nashville, TN
- 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 19-21, 2017 Great Lakes Harmony Brigade
- Jun 1-3, 2018 Great Lakes Harmony Brigade
- May 31-Jun 2, 2019 Great Lakes Harmony Brigade
- May 29-31, 2020 Great Lakes Harmony Brigade

Harmony Mercenaries (all times 7:30 PM unless otherwise indicated)

- Nov 19, 2016 (Saturday) CDWI Workshop at Grand Rapids
- Jan 23, 2017 (Monday) Harmony Mercenary Rehearsal at Battle Creek
- Feb 21, 2017 (Tuesday) Harmony Mercenary Rehearsal at Lansing
- Mar 11, 2017 (Saturday) Lansing Show, HM invited.
- Mar 23, 2017 (Thursday) Harmony Mercenary Rehearsal at Muskegon
- Apr 25, 2017 (Tuesday) Harmony Mercenary Rehearsal at Holland
- May 23, 2017 (Tuesday) Battle Creek Jug Night
- Jun 2017 Date to be coordinated with Harmony Camp

International Conventions and University

MIDWINTER – SAN ANTONIO, TX. January 17 – 22, 2017.

<http://www.barbershop.org/sanantonio/>



INTERNATIONAL – LAS VEGAS, NV. July 2 – 8, 2017
<http://www.barbershop.org/vegas/>



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

Harmony University - Belmont University, Nashville, TN. July 23-30, 2017



Promotional Flyers



Holly Harmony Christmas Concert

Song Lakes
chorus

International Award-winning Sweet Adelines Chorus performs throughout the midwest

Flint
International
Adelines
Chorus

Over 75 Years of performing patriotic American Standards and familiar tunes from days gone by

Sunday December 4th, 2016
3:00 PM



St. Christopher's Episcopal Church
9020 South Saginaw Rd.
Grand Blanc, Michigan 48439

Tickets
\$10 per adult
\$5 per child under 12

Call 810-742-0977 (Davison)
or 844-370-6470 ext. 1 (Flint)
for tickets

Both Choruses are 501(c)(3) charitable organizations

The Great Lakes Men's Chorus and
Grand Rapids Sweet Adelines
Present
A Musical Holiday


Saturday, December 10, 2016 - 2:00 PM and 7:00 PM

Join Us At:
Grandville High School Auditorium
4700 Canal Avenue SW
Grandville, MI 49518

TICKETS:

Adults	\$15.00
Seniors (60 and over)	\$12.00
Students (6-18)	\$12.00
Children (0-7)	FREE

Tickets Available At The Door or In Advance At:
GreatLakesChorus.org or GRSA.net
Or by calling
(616) 896-8669 or (616) 281-3578



Endgame

Answers to the barbershop quiz:

1. First, a swipe should not be confused with a glissando. They are not the same. A glissando is a seamless merging or sliding of pitches in a continuum of ascending or descending notes, one into the next. A swipe is when two or more notes (the more the merrier) are sung on a single syllable.
2. To be a medalist, a quartet or chorus must place 2nd, 3rd, 4th or 5th in an international competition.
3. Each was the Baritone of one of the 20-ought Gold Medal quartets, and in this order
 - a. Platinum (2000),
 - b. Michigan Jake(2001),
 - c. Four Voices(2002),
 - d. Power Play(2003),
 - e. Gotcha! (2004),
 - f. Realtime(2005),
 - g. Vocal Spectrum(2006),
 - h. Max Q(2007),
 - i. OC Times(2008), and
 - j. Crossroads(2009).

Only nine names, because **Brandon Guyton** was Gold-Bari twice, in FOUR VOICES and CROSSROADS.