

Volume 1, April 2020

The Troub



Enriching lives through singing and serving local communities



PIONEER DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

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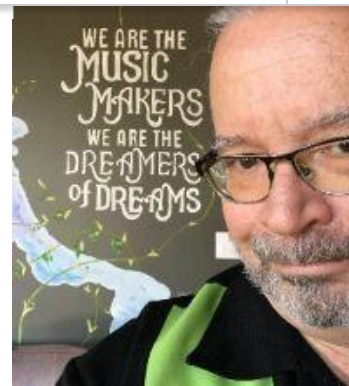
Pioneer District President

Let's Grow Together

by staying more in touch

The old weather-related saying about March coming in like a lion and out like a lamb has been replaced in 2020. Now we're dealing with a microbial animal that reversed the sequence and has made the end of March a very surreal time.

and frustration to our barbershop world, especially for those who had sights set on the contests within these conventions.



The Troub

I am excited and proud to announce your new Pioneer newsletter has come to life. I want to thank board members Joelle Laginess, Sherry Knight and Pioneer enthusiast Chris Bateson for their work and creativity. We decided early on that we respect the history of the original Troubador newsletter and the dedication of all former editors. The name of the new newsletter is a tip of the hat to those leaders. The new version is somewhat different, and we promise you will enjoy it! You can expect to see the Troub monthly and special editions as needed.

The Troub is being delivered via Mail Chimp to about 1,000 subscribers. Please invite others to subscribe by using this [SHARE LINK](#) or [SUBSCRIBE NOW!](#) Let's see how quickly we can get to 2,000 subscribers and make this publication the new standard for barbershop newsletters!

What's Cookin'

- Your district board will meet on April 25 despite the canceled district convention. It will meet face-to-face if possible, although we may end up with a video conference call. The Spring convention House of Delegates meeting will be postponed.
- Pioneer now has an **Instagram** account! We're keeping up with the times and joining this photo/video-based social media platform. Follow us at [@PioneerDistrictBHS](#). Have great photos we should consider sharing? Forward your own posted Instagram photos to the Pioneer account or email photos for consideration to Joelle Laginess, one of our district board members, at joelle.laginess@gmail.com.

Please be safe, keep your distance from one another and reach out to friends and family via your digital method of choice to stay connected. We will prevail, the world will return to order, and there will be barbershop on the other side of this. Please take care of yourself and your loved ones in the meantime.

SINGcerely!

Joe McDonald
District President

Read previous president updates by [CLICKING HERE](#)

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Something new to look forward to!

With all the cancellations thus far and the likelihood of more to come, members of your district board have created a fun new event to fill a void before Fall convention.

The digital Pioneer Smartphone Showcase is in the last stage of development. Imagine uploading videos of your quartet or chorus and vying for awards ... almost on par with the Grammys. (Not quite, but let's say they are, just to add another level of excitement!) We'll share more information and an FAQ as the event approaches. Watch for future announcements about categories and timing.

No entries will be accepted until a few weeks after gathering restrictions are lifted! Please don't get together now. You will have lots of time to plan your entry and a couple of weeks to get it recorded and submitted.

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He's 13. And He Sings Barbershop

An Interview with Charlie Gross

Have you met Charlie Gross? He's from Portage, sings with the Kalamazoo Mall City Harmonizers, and he's only 13 years old! Barbershop (and emojis) is clearly his passion as he states on his Facebook profile, "Barbershop, barbershop, and more barbershop 🎵🎵🎵🎵🎵🎵🎵🎵🎵🎵🎵🎵." He also runs the Facebook page, "PIO District Discussions 🗣️🗣️🗣️🗣️," where Pioneer members can share highlights and other information with each other.

In light of our district convention being canceled, it's a good time to reminisce. This month we are featuring Charlie to share his thoughts about one of his favorite times of the year.



How did you get involved with barbershop? When was that?

>My grandpa got me started in barbershop in 2018.

What keeps you involved?

>The community experience.

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>Barbershop lets me unwind and experience and create some amazing music.

What would you tell someone about why they should sing barbershop?

>Barbershop is a great way to socialize with people who just love to sing.

What's your favorite part of a convention?

>The quartet finals or the hospitality rooms.

What's your favorite barbershop song and/or tag?

>Favorite song: Georgia May or Let's Go Fly a Kite

>Favorite Tag: Lost or Go The Distance

What's your greatest barbershop memory?

>When Remix won state in 2018."

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Marlina Martinez

BHS first female chapter president

Marlina Martinez — in Michigan's U.P. — began as a fan of Dapper Dans

The transplant from East Los Angeles was singing the Star-Spangled Banner with the rest of the audience during the 2016 summer concert of the Marquette City Band in the Upper Peninsula. Her son was a band member, and she'd always loved to sing, so of course, Marlina Martinez joined in.

That's when Pete Stephens-Brown, founder and director of the Marquette Chapter and "da Upper Yoopers Barbershop Chorus," turned and asked if she sang. Her response? "I just did."

And another barbershopper was born.

Martinez grew up visiting Disneyland, where every year she'd followed the Dapper Dans along Main Street. They loved the little girl who loved their songs. But she had no idea what they did was "actually a thing." Until Stephens-Brown coaxed her to check into da Upper Yoopers.



The child who loved singing "old music" and musicals with her sisters had grown up to become a groundbreaking leader.

Today, most barbershoppers are thrilled to meet her, although it wasn't always that way.

"During my first convention in 2016, people would notice I wasn't wearing a spouse name tag. They noticed it said, 'tenor,'" she said. "The reaction was probably 50/50 in support. Some people thank me for what I've done, and I acknowledge it's been difficult.

up for rehearsals immediately. She became involved with the leadership team, helping them harness the power of a strong plan and budget.

By 2017, she was the “chorus president.” When BHS began accepting women as full members in 2019 and approved the option of mixed choruses, the Marquette Chapter was one of the first to apply. It received chapterhood as a mixed chorus and at that point, Martínez became the first female president in BHS history.

Hispanic female, in a new chapter. As one of the first chapters to welcome ‘the other 50 percent,’ we will grow,” Martínez said. “Most barbershoppers are really excited about that.”

Martínez is a mom of two, including her son, a student at Northern Michigan University, and a daughter, who joins her in da Upper Yoopers. Martínez also is administrative assistant in the Office of Diversity and Inclusion at NMU.

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Deadline Extended for Pioneer Hall of Fame Nominations

It is the time of year to nominate individuals or groups to be considered for the Pioneer District Hall of Fame. Submissions will be accepted through **April 15**. A standing committee (detailed in the district’s Rules and Regulations, see link below) will review the submissions. If/when a nomination is endorsed by the committee, the candidate will be announced and awarded at the Fall Convention.

To see the Rules and Regulations and access the application - [CLICK HERE](#)

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Media of the Month



An impromptu quartet gathered recently — **before the lockdown and mindful of staying six feet apart!** — to ring a few tags. We're naming them "The Social Distance Four." This one has a useful message. HOLD ON!

Featured in the video:

Ale César | William Stutts Jr. | Chris Bateson | Joelle Laginess.

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April Events Canceled/Postponed

We're disappointed to say this, but April district events in Pioneer have been canceled or postponed. The Spring convention has been canceled. The Leadership Summit will be rescheduled. Registration refunds from the convention have been processed and the venues notified.

Now we look ahead. DISTRICT CONTESTS that would have been held in April will move to October and be integrated into those sessions.

[See Full Calendar Here](#)



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