

Volume 15, August 2021

# The TROUB



Enriching lives through singing and serving local communities



## PIONEER DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

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### **A Message from Joe McDonald**

Pioneer District President

## Traveling the New Path Forward

*The GREAT REUNION — Don't miss it!*

Are you singing every chance you get?

Singing when you wake up, when you're getting ready for your day, when you see a bright blue sky with fluffy white clouds?

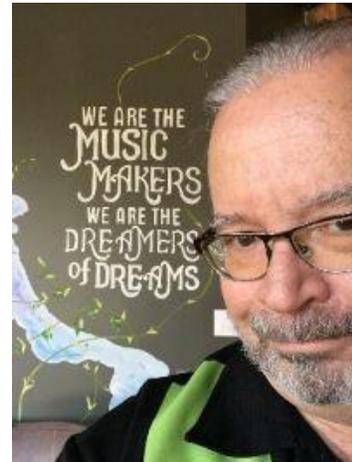
Are you singing when your Facebook feed puts you in touch with barbershop friends near and far? When you're needing some positive jujū? Singing when you're feeling happy, sad, energized or blissfully chill?

Let's get ready! At this point in time, the Pioneer District is proceeding with plans for its fall convention in Kalamazoo — the first in two years. (It gives a person goosebumps, doesn't it?)

We continue to monitor COVID information and maintain contact with Kalamazoo-area officials. We're talking with our chapters, choruses, quartets and members. I hate to say it, but of course there's a chance we'll have to delay again. We'll pivot if we have to (watch for September's Troub), and in the meantime friends, let's roll with this excited energy for now and let it inspire our \_\_\_\_\_ days.

Consider these **Top 10 reasons to sign up today for *The Great Reunion!***

10. A city with life happening and a hotel with convention facilities — remember those?
9. Pre-convention Singfest at Shakespeare's Pub Thursday evening.
8. Free merchandise and other merchandise for sale, all with the new Pioneer logo.
7. New, exciting Hall of Fame dinner Friday night, recognizing our 2021 honorees and those of the \_\_\_\_\_ past.
6. Unprecedented opportunities to perform, solely for the sheer joy of it. (Excited yet?)



5. Two showcases, featuring champion quartets, and you?!, Friday and Saturday night.
4. REMIX, Silver Edition, Frontier, OC Times, live and in person.
3. The Great Reunion Chorus — sort of like a Joe Barbershop Chorus, only better.
2. Tags. Tags. Tags. Did we say tags?!?
1. Old friends. New friends. **All of them, eager to see you.**

If you've never been to a district convention, I sincerely encourage you to consider this one. Come join us. It will be an experience like none other.

Further details about the fall conventions are shared throughout the rest of this newsletter. Keeping reading. And keep singing!

**Hope to see you in K-zoo, my friends!**

Joe  
District President

McDonald

**[REGISTER TODAY](#)**

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

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## **Showcases featuring champion quartets — and you!? — highlight Friday, Saturday**

This year, the Pioneer District is bringing the family back together — and everyone is invited to the stage. Friday and Saturday night will each feature a showcase where any quartet, VLQ or

chorus can perform. Each show will feature performances from some of Pioneer's best, including REMIX, the 2018 District Champions made up of Kalamazoo-area locals; our first ever Mixed District Champions, The Heights (2019); 2019 District Champions, Silver Edition; 2015 District Champions and International Youth Champions, Frontier; and special guest quartet, OC Times, the 2008 International Quartet Champions. Plus, there will be special surprise performances along the way.

If your quartet or chorus wants to be part of the showcases, [sign up online](#) before September 15th. You don't have to be a registered BHS group, and the style of music is completely up to you. We hope to see a variety of talent cross the stage this October when we all come home together.

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## Reconnecting starts the evening before the official reunion

When the Pioneer District reunites this October, it won't just be about the singing — it'll be about all the time we spend catching up with friends we've missed for nearly two years.

Start your catching up a day early at the Singfest at [Shakespeare's Pub](#) in Kalamazoo. On the eve of Pioneer's Great Reunion, Thursday, Oct. 14, join your quartetmates and chorusmates at one of the city's favorite watering holes. Enjoy 44 beers on tap and a menu brimming with classic American pub food starting at 6:30 p.m. Plus, at just a [10-minute walk](#) from the hotel lobby, you might find yourself staying through X-treme karaoke to croon with bar locals and barbershoppers alike.

Mall City Harmonizers president Michael Sobel picked Shakespeare's Pub for its wide selection of Michigan craft beers and an ambiance that can't be beat in his hometown.

"After so long without seeing each other, Shakespeare's will be the perfect place to celebrate the great return," Sobel said. "We're looking forward to seeing all of you here for a great time!"

For more information, stay tuned to the announcements on the [district's Facebook page](#) and [website](#).

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## Meet The Great Reunion Chorus director!

Wait. What's The Great Reunion Chorus? You probably knew it formerly as the "Joe Barbershop Chorus," but now it's had a name change to fit the theme of our own great reunion at the Fall District Convention this October!

So anyways, who is The Great Reunion Chorus director? This year it will be directed by Dan Wessler, the bass of the 2018 International Quartet Champion, After Hours.

More information about participating in The Great Reunion Chorus will be announced soon. Make sure to follow the Pioneer District [Facebook page](#) for the quickest updates.

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## Special Friday dinner is a new event celebrating Hall of Fame members

While we're all looking forward to seeing each other again, singing some tunes and watching each other perform on stage, there is another, new major event for you to look forward to during this upcoming convention. The district's Hall of Fame reception will be a special dinner where new and former Pioneer Hall of Fame members will be honored and recognized for going above and beyond in serving the district.

Also, you can look forward to a new award being given. The President's Award will recognize an individual who has done extraordinary things for the Pioneer District during the past year. You won't want to miss this!

The Hall of Fame reception will take place on Friday at 5 p.m. Location and price will be announced as soon as possible. Watch the district's [Facebook page](#) for updates. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

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## Book your hotel room today!

Pioneer District's fall convention will be located at the Radisson Hotel in downtown Kalamazoo. Showcases and quartet contests will be in the ballroom, and all of the hospitality rooms that we typically enjoy at the Radisson will be available as well.

Please note there are fewer rooms available at the Radisson due to renovations; we only have 90 instead of our usual 180. Discover Kalamazoo has secured rooms at three overflow hotels: Avid, Candlewood Suites and Fairfield Inn East. All are in the Sprinkle Road/I-94 area.

We suggest booking soon. Rooms may fill up quickly, with Western Michigan University and Kalamazoo College homecoming football games happening the same weekend). Most hotels will allow a 24-hour cancellation with no penalty, but be sure to check when reserving your room.

**Radisson** - [Register online](#). Under "Special Rates," select "Promotional Code" and enter PDB21. Or call 269-343-3333 Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in order to reach a person in Kalamazoo. Rate: \$120/night

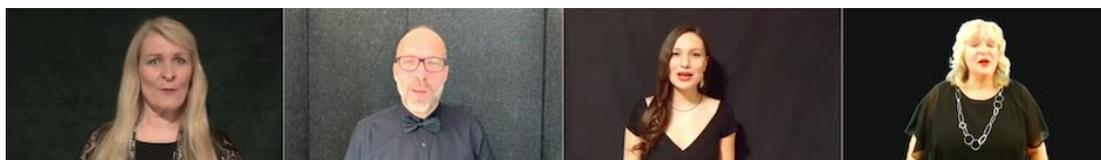
**Avid** - Call (269) 488-7073 and ask for the Barbershop Harmony Society group rate. (Online link not available at Troub publication time.) Rate: \$119/night

**Candlewood Suites** - [Register online](#) through Sept. 27 or call (269) 270-3203. Rate: \$139/night

**Fairfield Inn East** - [Register online](#) through Sept. 27 or call (269) 557-0007. Rate: \$119/night

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Speaking of energy and excitement...  this!



## THE SOUND OF HARMONY



### **The Sound of Harmony**

By Heavy Medal Chorus

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