

The Troub



Enriching lives through singing and serving local communities



PIONEER DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

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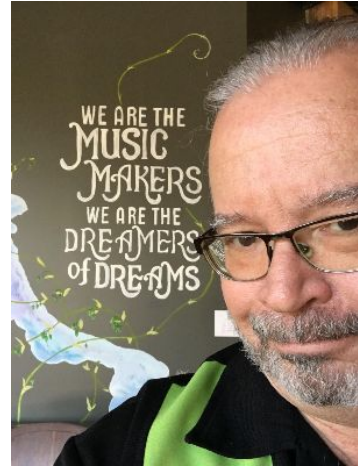
Pioneer District President

Designing a New Path Forward

A return to singing comes ever closer

Life has changed. Let's get ready.

I'm not sure how many times I've heard people say "I can't wait for 2020 to be over." I appreciate that sentiment and am happy to have a crazy year in the rearview mirror. While 2021 is starting off tough on multiple fronts, factors such as vaccines are renewing our hope for better days ahead. It's possible now to envision a return to activities we enjoy and face-to-face interactions with people we cherish.



As that time comes closer, we must be mindful that singing — not to mention our perspectives on community and life as a whole — will be different. Returning to exactly what we were doing in February 2020, and how we did it, is likely not the best option. Audiences will be different, livelihoods may be different, our available time may be different, interests and life balance may be different, and on it goes. I believe a new normal will evolve in day-to-day life, in social groups and in singing groups. (Did you get goosebumps reading that, just thinking about how fun and rewarding it will be to create harmony together again?!)

Now is the time to start planning a New Path Forward. Schedule a conversation with your quartet, your chorus or your chapter soon and begin to work through your path forward. Do everything you can to design a clear plan for what comes next. If you wait until the time arrives, you'll be months behind. Your district board is here to support you in that process. Ask us to join your conversations or let us provide or find resources to help you move forward.

Retiring secretary McMahan lived for the details

I want to thank Jim McMahan for his years of dedicated service as our Pioneer District secretary. It takes a certain individual to savor the nitty-gritty details that come with the position. Jim has performed the job well and with ultimate diligence for seven years. We owe him our gratitude. Please [drop Jim a note via this Google survey](#). Thank you, Jim McMahan!

Ebersole joins board from Detroit Sound Machine

And replacing Jim McMahan as district secretary is David Ebersole, who's been a barbershopper for 16 years. I am excited to work with Dave and get to know him better. He's an avid quarteter with chorus and chapter experience to boot. He's an active arranger and is

currently the tenor in Detroit Sound Machine. Welcome aboard, Dave! You can [drop Dave a note via this Google survey](#). Best wishes, Dave!

30 minutes of fun; loads of valuable info

Pioneer District communications agents serve a vital role. They receive timely information during monthly sessions and then take the news back to their chapters. Pioneer Executive Vice President Paul Ellinger leads the communications agents' fast-paced and fun 30-minute sessions. About half of the Pioneer chapters are regular participants. ALL CHAPTERS would benefit from participating, especially as they plan their New Path Forward. Invitations go out via email to the contact persons provided by each chapter. Want to join us and help your chapter? Please reach out to Paul at ellinger.paul@gmail.com. (Chapter presidents: If you don't have a communications agent, please recruit one!)

New website launching soon!

The group working on the updated district website is doing its final coding and testing as you read this Troub. I eagerly anticipate proclaiming the new website is live very soon! Many thanks to the district board committee and the developer for their work. We will provide more detail about the group and the site when it launches.

Don't miss your (hopefully) last chance for a digital convention!

Please circle the last weekend in April on your calendar. Plans are under way to produce UnConventional Convention #2. We have taken feedback from our first online convention in November and have added some new activities and more great speakers, all aimed at providing an enjoyable and educational substitute for a traditional convention. I guarantee you'll have a good time. (I don't want to jinx us, but October is our regular time for fall convention. Fingers crossed it's live and in person!)

Be well, my friends!

Joe McDonald
District President

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

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Da Upper Yoopers gain national attention caroling from their cars

LA Times flies in for a quick video on socially distanced rehearsals



Da Upper Yoopers were doin' what they love, eh — just singin'. Together.

As chorus members sat in their individual cars, clad in winter coats, hats and gloves, they were rehearsing Christmas carols. And a reporter from the LA Times was taking notes. They'd found a way around the pandemic dangers of singing together.

The result was a nearly [two-minute LA Times video](#), and then a [feature story in their hometown paper, The Marquette Mining Journal](#).

You have to love those hearty, creative souls in the U.P. — true role models in overcoming all obstacles!

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Thank you, Jim! And welcome, Dave!

McMahan passes the pen (or keyboard?) to Ebersole as District Secretary

Jim McMahan, note taker and record keeper extraordinaire, has stepped down after seven years as secretary of the Pioneer District Board.

Those who've worked with him in this role know he's a stickler for spelling, grammar, punctuation and meeting details. He also seems to have memorized the district bylaws, or at least knows where to find whatever details are needed — including from the archives.

“Jim is diligent and thorough. He cares deeply about preserving our history, and his passion for barbershop is exemplary,” said Pioneer District President Joe McDonald. “I can’t thank Jim enough for his leadership and contributions.”

Dave Ebersole, of Detroit Sound Machine and City Lights fame, began learning from Jim late last year as he prepared to transition into the secretary’s role.

“Dave proved immediately that he shares the appreciation and dedication that Jim has,” McDonald says. “He understands the immediate and long-term impact of the role. We’re thrilled and fortunate to have him on the board.”

You can learn more about Dave in his biographical feature below.

Dave Ebersole



- Macomb resident
- Senior account representative with Elkins Family Allstate Agency in Troy
- Tenor and principal arranger for Detroit Sound Machine quartet and member of the City Lights chorus
- 2006 international collegiate (youth) quartet competitor with Insignia; 2011 district chorus champion with The Motor City Metro chapter; 20-time district quartet content competitor, six finishes in the top 3 with Moxxy, Now Playing and Detroit Sound Machine; have arranged for Chordiology, Detroit Sound Machine and Moxxy quartets,

Rochester Guardians of Harmony chorus, and international competitor quartets The Hemidemisemiquaver 4 and Frontier.

How long have you been involved with barbershop singing?

Since 2004.

How did you first get involved?

My former roommate at Eastern Michigan University invited me to the Motor City Metro chapter, which met on campus at the time.

Favorite barbershop memory:

It's hard to choose a favorite, but a formative one was at my first SlamkaFest, performing for the first time with my first quartet, Moxxy. I was so green that I didn't know who Power Play was — much less that my quartet was singing their charts! When they closed their set with their moving rendition of "You Know Better Than I," I was awakened to the possibilities of the impact our art form can make on an audience.

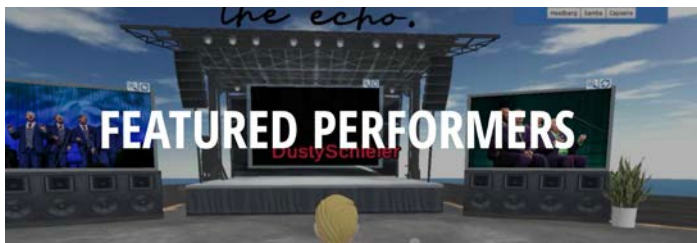
Why you agreed to serve on the board (or what you plan to accomplish):

I'm excited to participate in our long-term growth and sustainability initiatives, particularly with regard to outreach among youth and underserved communities.

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Shows and afterglows and an opening night beach party — oh my!

Virtual Midwinter includes keynotes, Harmony U. sessions, barbershoppers around the world



It's being called a one-of-a-kind virtual barbershop experience.

The Barbershop Harmony Society's Virtual Midwinter Convention will occur Jan. 28 through 31 and include:

- A Pioneer District “building” for special activities, socials and meeting up with friends

from across the district

- 3 shows
- 3 afterglows featuring live quartets on three stages
- 3 keynote addresses
- 1 opening night beach party
- 50 Harmony University sessions to choose from
- 4 evenings of hospitality rooms
- 24/7 access to Harmony Marketplace & Exhibit Hall
- 24/7 fun with barbershoppers around the world

[Learn more and register online](#). Note: You'll save \$50 by registering by midnight Friday!

See you there!

(As a special attraction, you'll get to see your district board members (and all of your friends) as avatars! And they can't wait to hear who you think is the most creative. Not that they're competitive or anything...)

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Views of 2020 — Music, connection, memories



While saying 2020 was a different year is an understatement, the Wayne Chapter's Harmony Town Chorus persevered. Members still made music. They still connected. They still made memories.

[Thanks for inspiring us all with your video, Harmony Town!](#)

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Photos by Barbershop Harmony Society, Joe McDonald, TODO ADD PHOTO CREDITS