

EXCITING NEWS!

A "Friend of the Pioneer District" will match, dollar for dollar, up to \$6,000 for contributions or pledges made to the Pioneer District's new Endowment Fund made during the convention – this weekend only.

If each of the 200+ attendees this weekend gives at least \$15, we could match this generous gift and help pay barbershop forward, so the next generations can enjoy this wonderful hobby as we do.



Use the QR code on this flyer or convention program to donate, or contact a Board member.
THANK YOU!

2026 Pioneer District Board of Directors

President	Jamie Carey
Immediate Past President	Mike Hansen
Vice President	Kendra LaPointe
Secretary	Tom Ennis
Treasurer	Jay Bylsma
Contest & Judging	Chris Berry
Communications	Joelle Laginess
Events	Doug Weaver
Outreach	Dave Ebersole
Education	Paul Keiser
Board Member at Large	Mark Wilson

Convention Administration

Convention Chair	Doug Weaver
Chairs of Host Chapter	Stephen Park-Jackson, Paul Johnson IV
Contest & Judging	Chris Berry
Housing	Roger Lewis
Stage Management	Jeff and Kathy Woodworth
Judge Services	Karla Moylan, Jason Hall
Publicity	Joelle Laginess
Registration/Tickets	Justin VandenBrink
Harmony Marketplace	John and Shirley Baker
Livestream	Carson Greene, Brendan Monroe, Jim Russell, Jimmy Russel, Sam Patrie, Johnathan Costello

Judging Panel

PC Admin	Ben Porter (FWD)
Admin	Fraser Baguma (ONT)
Musicality	Alex Morris (BHA)
Musicality	Cay Outerbridge (NED)
Musicality	Jake Bavarsky* (JAD)
Musicality	Maggie McAlexander Mendez* (MAD)
Performance	Patrick Brown (ONT)
Performance	Dan Krackhardt (MAD)
Singing	David Mills (SUN)
Singing	Chad St. John (JAD)
Singing	Lucas Bitzer* (BinG!)
	*Candidate Judge

PIONEER DISTRICT 2026 SPRING CONVENTION

April 23-26 | Livonia, MI

Hosted by City Lights Chorus
Hotel: Livonia Marriott Courtyard 17200 N Laurel Park Dr
Performance Venue: Stevenson High School 33500 Six Mile Rd

Schedule of Events

Thursday April 23

SingFest 6pm – 9
Knights of Columbus
19801 Farmington Road

Friday April 24

Registration 10am
Hotel Lobby
Moves to Stevenson at 5pm

Marketplace/History Display 10am – 6pm
Suite 162, Courtyard Hotel

District Board Meeting 10am
Meeting Room A

PAC Meeting 10am
Meeting Room B

House of Delegates Meeting 1pm
Meeting Room A

Educational Sessions 1pm
See page 3 for more details

QCA Meeting 4pm
Boardroom

Group Tag Singing 4pm
Meeting Room A

Quartet Semifinals 6pm
Stevenson High School

Saturday April 25

Registration 9am
Stevenson High School

Marketplace/History Display 9am
Suite 162, Courtyard Hotel

Family Mic Tester 9am
Chorus Rehearsal
Stevenson Choir Room

Chorus Contest 9:30am
Stevenson High School

Pickup Quartet Contest 3:30pm
Stevenson Cafeteria

Quartet Finals 6:30pm
Stevenson High School

Chapter Hospitality Rooms 10:30pm
TBA (approx.)

Sunday April 26

Worship Service 9am
Meeting Room A

Post-Convention Meeting 10am
Meeting Room B



Announcements

Did you miss a quartet or chorus?

Our contest shows can be found on Facebook and YouTube!

District Merch on Amazon

Search “Pioneer District Barbershoppers” on Amazon to find Pioneer and District Quartet/Chorus Merchandise!

Interested in Leadership in the Pioneer District?

The PIO District Board is always looking for passionate members who want to help shape the future of our organization. Whether you're interested in stepping into a current opening (such as a Backstage Manager) or simply curious about leadership opportunities down the road, we'd love to start the conversation. Some roles open occasionally, while others benefit from having assistants or future leaders ready to step in. If you've ever thought about getting more involved, this is a great time to explore what that could look like. Reach out to a board member or visit pioneerdistrict.org to submit your interest!

Pioneer Harmony Mercenaries

Harmony Mercs give the opportunity for PIO Quartets and Choruses to fill in needed voices for performances and share comradery with other barbershoppers. Visit [Facebook.com/Pio-HarmonyMercs](https://www.facebook.com/Pio-HarmonyMercs) to learn more!

Donation Match: This Weekend Only!

See the back of this program for more details.

Upcoming Pioneer District Dates

May 31: Last day to submit 2026 Hall of Fame nominations

June 10: 3rd Annual Doran McTaggart Memorial Send Off Show

June 20: Quartet Boot Camp in Lansing

August 7 & 8: Bush League in Cadillac, MI

October 15-18: Fall District Convention

QUARTET FINALS

Saturday, April 25 | 6:30pm
Livonia Stevenson High School

Welcome

Jamie Carey, District President

Presenter

William Stutts Jr., Motor City Metro President

*Please join in singing
O Canada and The Star-Spangled Banner*

Mic Tester Quartet

Finalist Quartets

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Intermission

Finale

Youth Quartet champion

Senior District champions

Quartet Qualifiers

District Chorus Champion

Keep the Whole World Singing

QUARTET SEMIFINALS

Friday, April 24 | 6pm
Livonia Stevenson High School

Welcome Doug Weaver
District Director of Events

Presenter Aaron Pollard
City Lights Director

Mic Tester Vocal Adventure
Grand Rapids, Huron Valley, Monroe North, Motor City Metro

Tenor: Jim Self Lead: Dan Vogt
Bari: Rob Pettigrew Bass: Chris Berry

1. Lady A Capella*^o

JAD – Frank Thorne
Tenor: Stacey St. John Lead: Deidra Ronfeldt
Bari: Kerry Denino Bass: Gretchen Holloway

2. Muse*

Southeast Michigan, Livingston County, Frank Thorne
Tenor: Cindy Sommerville Lead: Julie Frey
Bari: Martha Delargey Bass: Sacharissa Suthers

3. IPA*^o

CAR – Muncie, Fort Wayne, Defiance
Tenor: Jace Crossland Lead: Kurt Ives
Bari: Scott Trout Bass: Patrick Garmire

4. Olde Thyme Harmony Quartet* *Grand Rapids,*

Lansing, Marquette County, Pontiac-Waterford, Motor City Metro
Tenor: Pat Hefner Lead: Brad Sharlow
Bari: Tim Oliver Bass: Jim McKay

5. West Side Sound**

Grand Rapids, Saginaw-Bay
Tenor: Alan Coombs Lead: Bill McAndrew
Bari: Bill Fak Bass: Tom Ennis

6. Paint Creek Quartet^E

Frank Thorne
Tenor: James Dippel Lead: Craig McCardell
Bari: Richard Anderson Bass: Ken Klein



7. Let's Sing A Polecat!*/***

Grand Rapids, Saginaw-Bay, Frank Thorne
Tenor: Shoshana Sprecher Lead: Charlie Gross
Bari: Matt Bidigare Bass: Cole Carey

8. Evenin Gentlemen*

Greater Detroit, Motor City Metro
Tenor: Paul Keiser Lead: Keith Opal
Bari: Joe DeSantis Bass: John Paul

9. Elderkids**

Battle Creek, Lansing, Flint, Frank Thorne
Tenor: David Worley Lead: Mike Hansen
Bari: Roger Lewis Bass: Charles Martin

10. Ultra^{E/o}

Purdue University, Wisconsin University, Indianapolis
Tenor: Samuel Rickerd Lead: Michael Peterson
Bari: Samuel Copeland Bass: Ted Lewis

11. Two Suited*

Kalamazoo, Southeast Michigan, Motor City Metro
Tenor: Joelle Laginess Lead: Brooke Harris
Bari: Jonathan Woolf Bass: Brendan Monroe

12. Solstice*

Southeast Michigan, Frank Thorne
Tenor: Sonnet Rumora Lead: Emily Ogg
Bari: Kathryn Summers Bass: Nanette Peters

Intermission

*International Qualifier
**Senior District Championship
***Youth District Championship
^oOut of District
^EScore/Eval Only

QUARTET SEMIFINALS (continued)

Friday, April 24 | 6pm
Livonia Stevenson High School

13. Mixture*/**

Saginaw-Bay
Tenor: Teresa Brink Lead: Lee Leffingwell
Bari: Patricia Osborne Bass: Cyril Sieveke

14. Vintage Blend*

Grand Rapids, Graftiot County
Tenor: Cole Carey Lead: Jamie Carey
Bari: Kirk Wood Bass: James Masalskis

15. The Hideout*

Greater Detroit
Tenor: Sarah Bradley Lead: Anna Danielson
Bari: Paul Keiser Bass: John Paul

16. +48*

Motor City Metro, Southeast Michigan
Tenor: Matthew Harrell Lead: Tyler Wells
Bari: Carson Greene Bass: Johnathan Costello

17. Triple Threat*^o

LOL – Northbrook, Nashville, Greendale, Frank Thorne
Tenor: Tyler Leibengood Tenor: Shane Frantz
Bari: Mitchell Greenberg Bari: Steve Schoultz

18. Family Tradition*

Southeast Michigan, Motor City Metro, Hillsdale
Tenor: Staci Slamka Lead: Holli Houtz
Bari: Don Slamka Bass: Jonah Houtz

19. Penciled In*/***

Frank Thorne
Tenor: Russell Zhang Lead: Jake Grafitti
Bari: Ryan Gilmore Bass: Ryan Pitasky

20. company*

Motor City Metro, Southeast Michigan
Tenor: Kyle Kolebuck Lead: Ryan McCall
Bari: Brandon Smith Bass: Cody Harrell

21. The Midwestern Goodbye^E

Southeast Michigan, Motor City Metro
Tenor: Cara Skrzycki Lead: Kayla Wells
Bari: Rozzie Bloch Bass: Austin Suthers

22. Burning River Boys*^o

JAD – Independence, Frank Thorne
Tenor: Chris Foisy Lead: Alex Phan
Bari: Kevin McClelland Bass: Mike Van Kerkhove

23. Cruise Control*

Grand Rapids, Saginaw Bay, Frank Thorne
Tenor: Shoshana Sprecher Lead: Catie Carey
Bari: Kayla Reed Bass: Cole Carey

*International Qualifier
**Senior District Championship
***Youth District Championship
^oOut of District
^EScore/Eval Only

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DISTRICT CHORUS CONTEST & SHOW

Saturday, April 25 | 9:30am
Livonia Stevenson High School

Welcome Doug Weaver
Director of Events

Presenter Doug Smeltz
BHS Ambassador

Mic Tester Family Mic Tester Chorus
Directed by Alex Morris

The Family Mic Tester Chorus will be singing *Hello, Mary Lou* and *Can You Feel the Love Tonight*. All who are familiar with the songs are welcome to attend the 9am rehearsal in the Stevenson Choir Room.

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------|--|-------------------|
| 1. Harmony United*²
Paul Keiser | Greater Detroit | 9. Cherry Capital Men's Chorus*²
Chad Hall | Traverse City |
| 2. Harbor Sounds Chorus*²
Cole Carey | Saginaw Bay | 10. Huron Valley Harmonizers*³
Rob Pettigrew | Huron Valley |
| 3. HarmonyTown Chorus*²
Scott Casey | Wayne | 11. Capitol City Chordsmen*²
Brad Sharlow, Cole Carey | Lansing |
| 4. Pioneer Spirit Chorus**
Cole Carey | | 12. Livingston Lamplighters*³
Jay Hall | Livingston County |
| 5. MI-X^E
Brandon Smith, Holli Houtz | Southeast Michigan | 13. Essex Vocal Express*²
Steve Pauling | Windsor |
| 6. Guardians of Harmony*³
Matthew Tipton | Rochester | 14. Lighthouse Chorus*²
Gene Hanover | Michiana Metro |
| 7. Mall City Voices*³
Dave Woolf | Kalamazoo | 15. Great Lakes Chorus*¹
Jamie Carey, Cole Carey | Grand Rapids |

Intermission

Plateau Winners

District Championship Chorus

Chorus Feedback Sessions Announced

*District Championship

**Senior Qualifier

^EScore/Feedback Only

¹Plateau 1

²Plateau 2

³Plateau 3

Educational Sessions

Friday April 24
Livonia Marriott Courtyard

1pm

Singers Posture Myth Busters – Lucas Bitzer, Meeting Room B

As singers, we learn a lot about posture from an early age. But are all these exercises beneficial for every individual? Since each person is different, we should focus on exercises that are suitable for everyone! Join us as we explore alignment exercises for groups and individuals, discuss common misconceptions, and apply new ideas based on the Alexander Technique.

2pm

What Are You Doing with Your Hands? – Dan Krackhardt, Meeting Room B

This would be a physical performers' workshop designed to help singers feel more comfortable on stage and reduce tension and unnecessary movement while singing. It would also delve into understanding the location of a character within your body. It would explore how to access that character and determine when to detach from it when it might become overwhelming.

3pm

BHS Townhall – Doug Smeltz, Meeting Room A

Learn the latest news and information about HFI and BHS, and ask any questions you may have about the organizations' work, programs, and partnerships.

Performance Category: Ask Me Anything – Patrick Brown, Meeting Room B

Take an opportunity to ask ANY question you want about the category that can often be the most foreign or uncomfortable for barbershoppers. If you want to understand the category better, figure out how to best approach your own performing skills or are generally curious about anything Performance related, this is the place for you!

Introduction to Woodshedding – Pete Stephens-Brown, Boardroom

Woodshedding is three individual voices (tenor, bari, bass) creating barbershop harmonies by ear to a lead's melody without any written arrangement. This art harkens back to over a century ago, to the origins of barbershop quartet singing, where four singers would gather (frequently at the local barber shop) and harmonize to the familiar tunes of the day.

