

Pioneer Troubadour

Official publication of the Pioneer District
Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of
Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc.

Volume 53, Issue 4



Aug/Sept/Oct 2002

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Power Play 3rd at International Four Voices wins quartet gold medal

By Jim Styer and Gary Simon

In their highest placing yet, Pioneer District quartet representative POWER PLAY finished third in the Society's 64th Annual International Convention & Competition, this year held in Portland, Ore.

Quartet FOUR VOICES, placing third last year, became the first quartet to have won the college quartet championship (1996) and go on to win the gold. They scored 7,888 points, 46 more than second-place finisher UPTOWN SOUND (7,842 POINTS), and 129 more than POWER PLAY (7,759 points).

RIPTIDE (fourth, 7,747 points) and METROPOLIS (fifth, 7,737 points) were the other medalists.

POWER PLAY'S scoring improved with each round. After the quarter-finals, they were in sixth place with 2,572 points, singing "I've Been Working on the Railroad" and "Sunshine of Your Smile," the same set that ranked the quartet second in last year's finals round at Nashville.

Because of the quality of their

voices, one announcer on the Society's Webcast said, "They might be called GENETIC BLEND."

In the semi-finals, they sang "Takin' a Chance on Love" and "Time After Time," scoring 2,589 points, which moved them up to fourth place.



Power Play (From left) Tenor Don Slamka, lead Mike Slamka, bass Jack Slamka, and baritone Mark Slamka. (photo by David Wagner)

Many previously have commented on the way Mike displays the emotion of the songs in his facial expressions. During this year's appearances, the whole quartet exuded the emotion, especially in "Time."

Several computer chat rooms were going during the competition, and comments during POWER PLAY'S performance were quite positive: "Awesome," "These

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Accidental Consonance 10th, Great Lakes Chorus 21st at Portland

ACCIDENTAL CONSONANCE, students from Central Michigan University and the Pioneer District's representative to the MBNA America Collegiate Barbershop Quartet Contest, finished 10th in a field of 21 quartets. Singing "I Love You Truly" and "Harmony 101," they scored 774 points.

Bowling Green University's CATFISH BEND won the gold medal, singing "Goody Goody" and "After You've Gone." Its 894 points edged second-place IGUANAS IN FLIGHT by four points. The NILE MANSKI TRIO finished third with 881 points.

Great Lakes Chorus

Led by Musical Director Jamie Carey, Grand Rapids Chapter's GREAT LAKES CHORUS scored 2,125 points, singing a "Side By Side" parody and a "Handyman Medley." Songs in the medley included "Paneling Madeline's Home," "My Putty," "Tile, Darn Ya, Tile," and "In the Good Old Plumber Time."

The singers were outfitted in typical laborer's garb — T-shirts and jeans, coveralls, baseball caps, and hardhats. The set consisted of partitions requiring painting, wall-papering, and wiring. A toilet that needed plumbing was also in-

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Roger Lewis re-elected

Battle Creek Chapter's Roger Lewis was re-elected president of SPEBSQSA at the International Convention & Competition in Portland in July. Roger has been very busy since taking office on January 1. Here are his reflections on his continued role as our Society's leader:



Singing is life ... yet there's been less time for singing this year as the most wonderful volunteer job in the Society often takes priority. I say to friends, "I traded a 50-60 hour-a-week job as a business owner for one that's 24/7." And I love it!

In addition to spending a few hours every day on my computer, responding to 100-150 e-mails on a typical day (not including Pionet or Harmonet), it's been a great time to travel to other district conventions. Sue and I have been all over the country — from Fresno, Calif., to Rochester, N.Y.

Our fall schedule includes Peoria, Ill.; Anchorage, Alaska; and Lake Placid, N.Y. — a couple of trips to Kenosha, too.

In the spring of 2001, when I knew I would be elected Society president, I made a list of a few items that I thought the Society

(Continued on page 7)

Harmony Round-Up

The weekend of May 17-19 was an exciting one in East Lansing. Another Harmony Round-Up was held at Michigan State, with 38 attendees and nine quartets participating in this annual educational and entertaining Barbershop event.

THE NOISE BOYS — Jeff Veteto, Curt Angel, Byron Myers II, and Brian Plunkett — from Central States District, was our featured coaching quartet.

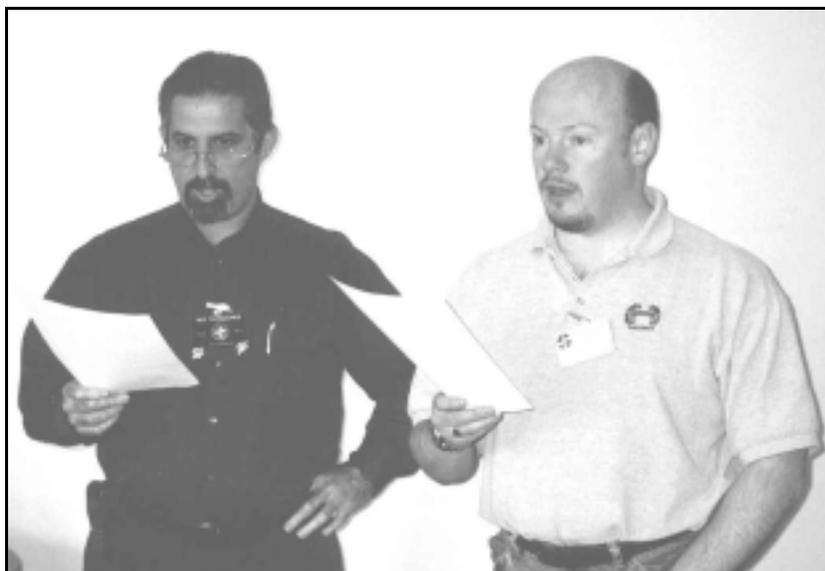
The coaching staff included

Ron Knickerbocker (MAD), Jerry Knickerbocker (SLD), Nick Pappageorge (FWD), Gary Wulf (JAD), Gene Counts (Standing Ovation), and Kirk Young (Society music specialist).

Pioneer District staff members included Dan Bezaire, Al Fisk, Ed Fritzen, Denny Gore, and Gene Hanover.

Plan on attending Harmony Round-Up 2003. Guest quartet will be 1996 Gold Medal Champion quartet, NIGHTLIFE.

(Right) Quartet COLLEGE PARK 4.2 — bari Frank Richards, bass Tim Gerard, lead Reese Olgert, and tenor Stan Williams — shows its improved performance skills at the Saturday night show. Nick Pappageorge and Kirk Young (below) demonstrate how the bass and baritone work together to help produce a rich Barbershop sound.



A Cappella Blast! 2002

By YMIH VP Dave Anderson

Now that the dust has settled on A CAPPELLA BLAST! 2002, I want to thank a great gang of Pioneer Barbershoppers for helping to make this such a rousing success.

We had 75 young men attend the weekend of May 17-19 at MSU, along with six music teachers, 20 chaperones, and a staff of 10.

The students worked hard and performed two songs on the Saturday night show that received standing ovations. They represented 20 different high schools from all over the Lower Peninsula. We also had 32 students return from last year's BLAST!

My only regret is seeing some of the most talented and enthusiastic students graduate this year. However, they all expressed plans to put together college quartets.



(Above) YMIH Coach Ken Gibson explains some of the finer points of the Barber-shop style of singing. (Right) Central States District quartet THE NOISE BOYS sings a song demonstrating four-part harmony.



YMIH Coach Vicki Gibson leads the 75-member YMIH CHORUS in the song "Five Foot Two" at the Saturday night show. Photos by Norm Thompson.

A View from the Top

Al Bonney, President

We purchase our own future!

What's the difference between Worldcom, Enron, Arthur Anderson, and SPEB-SQSA? Hopefully, there are lots of differences. But there may be one alarming similarity: the willingness to accept less from our leadership than we are due.



Al Bonney

There's not a man among us who has not heard the excuse, "I made my three phone calls!" or "I asked everybody I knew!" or "I asked for volunteers, but nobody came forward!" Some people think accomplishing the activity will excuse a lack of results.

Our organization needs tickets sold, ads purchased, risers set up, new members found, products improved, or systems changed — lots of stuff. This is what leaders do. They make things happen.

Results, however, move the organization forward, not activity. Sure, we need actions. Effective actions are what you do to get results. But when activity doesn't get results you still need to do something; the problem is still there.

We elect leaders to bring about the changes we want: improved musical product, more members, better rehearsals, improved organizational effectiveness, or maybe

just more fun. Leaders should accept elected positions solely because they are dedicated to make things happen. This is the crux of the electoral contract: "You elect me and I make something happen." Leaders who are not operating under this contract are worse than no leaders at all — they are in the way of somebody else getting the job done.

While there are many — hundreds — of dedicated and productive leaders throughout our Society, districts, and chapters, there are equally many who fall into the trap I describe here. The problem is that we allow them to continue.

Leaders are the stewards of the organization's future. By accepting the mantle of leadership, they accept a responsibility to ensure this future. Results are the only currency to purchase our future.

A leader who accepts less than sound results squanders the future just as surely as one who wastes the organization's money. Neither the membership nor the leaders who work hard to achieve only quality results should allow this to happen.

Volunteer organizations are no different from paid ones. We have to grow. We have to prosper. We have stockholders (read "members") who depend on the future of the organization. Why would a volunteer organization accept a future with less promise

than one with a paid staff? It doesn't make sense!

We are heading into the time when the district and chapters ask nominating committees to fill out rosters for fall elections. I know some positions are tough to fill, but with the quality of guys we have all over the district and in every chapter, we can have the leadership we need to ensure our future. You can insist on results, not activity, as the standard in your organization. You can participate to ensure Pioneer's and your own chapter's future.

With your help and insistence on results from all of our leaders, "IT TRULY IS GREAT TO BE A BARBERSHOPPER ... IN PIONEER!"

Barbershop is a uniquely American art form that had its hey-day from the late 1800s through the 1920s. In 1938 in Tulsa, Oklahoma, O. C. Cash and Rupert Hall placed an ad seeking men who wished to perpetuate this dying art form.

That ad started a movement that grew from a handful of men into our present-day Society numbering more than 32,000 men, in 800 chapters with 1,800 registered quartets. The Society name, the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, or more properly, the initials, were a spoof of the agency names of President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal administration: CCC, WPS, NRA, etc.

The Society headquarters and the Barbershop Museum are located in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

Here's the Society Pitch

Raleigh Bloch, Society Board Member

I understand the Society bored met

Well, first of all, it's not the Society "bored," it's Board.

I was just trying a little joke. Ha, ha.

Let me tell you that the Board members are not bored. In fact, you'll find that their meetings go on until the late hours of the night.

I'll bet they do, singing and carrying on.

They work at planning and making changes that will make our Society better, review and discuss the financial statements, solve problems that crop up, establish policy, etc.

Hey, all we want to do is sing.

That's the way we want it, too, but there is a lot that has to be done to keep this Society going. Isn't it wonderful that we have some guys who are willing to take their time to keep our Society humming so that the rest of us can have all the benefits of the Society while we're singing?

Well, I guess. Tell me what are some of the things you guys do in those long meetings? Like what specifically did you do at this last meeting?

I'm glad you asked ... 'cause I was going to tell you anyway. We have asked the Events & Contest

and Judging committees to look at what it would take to have more "A"-singing choruses compete at the international contest.

Whoa! The contest sessions are too long already.

You're right, but there are a number of ways we could accommodate more choruses. We have to study what effect it would have on the contest.

Yeah, I guess one thing they could do is split the chorus session. In fact, I think they should do that now. I understand that the chorus session at Portland was about six hours long.

We also approved the 2003 Planning Guidance and the 2003 Society Strategic Framework.

Hmm, whatever those are?

Well, these give the committees information and instructions on what they should be working to accomplish.

Oh, I get it, so they're all rowing the boat in the same direction.

Ah, we like to say, "So we're all singing off the same song sheet."

I guess that is better. What else?

We approved some guidelines for giving away tickets for the international contest.

YOU WHAT? We can't afford to give away tickets.

Hold on. First of all we always have room for more at International and, furthermore, these tickets are for people like the Chinese

students who were at Portland. They may want to start a group in China. We also might want to give some tickets to special youth as an award. It might encourage them to get involved with our society.

Hey, I can dig it.

We also established guidelines for the use of our membership information.

Like, what do you mean.

Well, like telephone numbers, addresses, e-mail addresses, etc. They will not be given to outsiders for solicitation purposes and even insiders will have limitations.

I say "Amen" to that.

We reviewed requests from the Multicultural Task Force, the Heritage Hall Task Force, and the Marketing Task Force. We also want to be more visible about our relationship with Canada. We'll most likely show the two countries' flags on the *Harmonizer* front page or something like that. We are going to use the name Barbershop Harmony Society more in our identification.

Wait, aren't we SPEBSQSA?

Yes. But the name Barbershop Harmony Society was approved for use years ago because it is more relevant in today's Society.

You know, most people stumble over our official name anyway. What else?

I could go on and on. I think that's enough for now. I just wanted to give you a flavor of what goes on in these "bored" meetings.

Do you ever get in a fight?

No, but as you can expect, we aren't afraid to express our opinions and, even if we disagree, we still stand shoulder to shoulder and sing.

This is a great Society and hobby.

Here's the District Pitch

Brian Dunckel, Member Services VP

If you build it ...

Here I am sitting in the Portland airport waiting to return home from another performance with the GREAT LAKES CHORUS. As I reflect on the past week, I am reminded of one of my all-time favorite movies, *Field of Dreams*.



Brian Dunckel

Interestingly enough, our chorus's set last year at Nashville was baseball themed, which is what that movie centered around. This year, we did a builder/handyman package that also goes along with the oft-heard line from the movie, "If you build it, he will come."

I can't help but think we need more members like Ray Kinsella (Kevin Costner's character) in our Society and specifically in our district — a character so driven by his beliefs that he risked it ALL to build his field of dreams.

We as Barbershoppers don't have to start from scratch as Ray did to transform his Iowa cornfield into a baseball park. We already have our field of dreams, a dream that O. C. Cash had and **DID SOMETHING ABOUT**. He **INVITED** his friends to join him for a night of singing — that was the simple part. O. C., like Ray, knew that if he built it, they would

come.

Since then, the hard work of forming our Society (O. C.'s field of dreams) has been done. However, that field now needs its maintenance staff more than ever. The groundskeepers, workers, and repairmen need to put the luster back on the grand old ballpark.

"If you build it, he will come" is a myth — it's Hollywood talking! It's fantasyland, an escape from reality. The fact is if you build it, they **WON'T** come — unless they're asked! We have to **WORK** to make it happen.

Too many of us are relying on the statement to fulfill itself. It doesn't happen magically as it did in the movie — although Ray found out it took a LOT of hard work to get his field to appear.

Many chapters haven't even held a membership drive this year, nor have many members invited a guest to those that have been held. Twelve of our Pioneer chapters have not gained a new member yet this year; another six have gotten just one! That, sadly, represents 60 percent of our chapters!

Chapter Boards: DON'T settle for inactivity in this area, and don't sell your members short. With proper planning and ACTION, they **WILL** come! We can't continue to say that Barbershopping is the best-kept secret in our towns — share it!

Membership growth? Y KNOT!

Roger Lewis re-elected (Continued from page 3)

Board should address. All of them are underway and I'm pleased to share them with you. Most involve a task force that will work on them as a special project: Multi-cultural Task Force, Contingency Fund Task Force, YMIH Long-Range Planning Subcommittee, Marketing Task Force, and Harmony Hall Study Task Force.

We are still declining in membership. There are some simple answers, in my opinion, but they will take some effort at the chapter level. A gain of just one member per chapter will give us the largest membership increase that we've seen in decades.

Today, you could assemble a group of 4,000 North American men over the age of 16, and if you were one of them, you'd probably be the only Barbershopper. Staggering statistic, isn't it? Does that mean that only one man in 4,000 likes to sing? No.

Imagine how many of those men sang in school — sang in church — sing in the shower — sing along with the radio or CDs — or simply sing when they're happy!

We need to find ways to identify and invite these men. And at an earlier age. Almost every member who joined after the age of 45 says, "I wish I had known about this 25 years ago."

We're starting work on a long-range recruiting program, based on *The Music Man*, that we will pilot in 2003 and roll out for 2004.

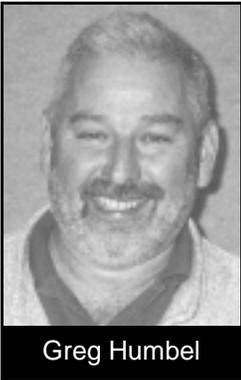
We have a great group of volunteers and staff to work with — they are dedicated, willing, and anxious to make a difference.

Public Relating

Greg Humbel, Marketing & Public Relations VP

Missed opportunities are gone forever!

As our individual chapters, boards, music teams, and members roll through a beautiful, action-packed summer, let's not forget the opportunities that we have to sell our chorus, our quartets, and our hobby to the communities we live in.



Greg Humbel

Consider it a duty and an obligation to share the joy we have for this wonderful hobby. A missed opportunity to place your chorus or quartet in front of your communities or media will never be recouped.

Do at least a little, or a lot of planning. Set some goals.

Get that date for your September "United We Sing" show. The great script written by Ev Nau provides for a great community sing-style show that is especially appropriate with the first anniversary of September 11 coming soon. Please check out the Web site at <http://UnitedWeSing.org> for ideas on how to get your show on the road.

Some other ideas:

- Let the media know you're

sending a group to Harmony College.

- Create some excitement around convention and contest time.
- Establish a holiday chorus that can sing some numbers on your Christmas show (a limited commitment type of hook that may net some members). Mention the fact the we run a tight ship with our COTS training.
- Pre-sell the Singing Valentines program. It's a wonderful program that can double every year. (The HURON VALLEY HARMONIZERS netted \$1,800 last year)

Lastly, the birthday of the Society, April 11, is a wonderful time to get the Governor, mayor, or city council involved in a proclamation making the week or month special for Barbershop harmony in our community.

We are the largest male singing group in the world. Let's keep it that way.

These opportunities will be rewarded with a growth in membership. Really!

**Sing from the heart ...
or don't bother!**

PioNet operator added

By Jim Styer, PioNet Administrator

PioNet now has a second list operator. He is Matt Tipton of the Macomb Chapter. Matt is eminently qualified as both a computer guru and as a Pioneer barbershopper ... in both of our countries!

Matt brings a professional expertise to PioNet. He's a computer programmer and trainer. He has several certifications (MCSE, MCDBA, MCT, A+, Network+, etc.) and runs his own company, IdealisTech Enterprises. His programming background is mostly in Visual Basic and SQL Server, but he uses other programming tools as well.

He's sung lead in BORDER CROSSING quartet for three-and-a-half years (with Rob Grimmell, Roy Gurney, and Dan Bezaire). He's music & performance VP in the Macomb Chapter where he's been a member for four years, and is a Windsor Chapter member in deference to his two-country quartet.

A Society member for 23 years, he started in the now-defunct Coldwater Chapter, later transferring to Jackson (now Hillsdale, where he grew up), then moving to the Detroit area.

"Like about 450 other people in the Pioneer District," he said, he previously sang in a quartet with Johnny Wearing. "We were called MOMENTUM. Other members were Doug Early and Lenny Johnson, who later left, to be replaced by Pete Burns, at which time we became TIME AFTER TIME."

Matt's current e-mail address: matthewt@teleweb.net.

Chapter Coaching

Doran McTaggart, Chapter Support/Leadership VP

Start planning for COTS

The time to plan to attend COTS is NOW! Not only chapter officers, but any Barber-shopper can benefit by attending this outstanding training weekend.

You've been to COTS many times, so why should you attend this year? There are many reasons, but here are just a few:



Doran McTaggart

NEW DATE -

Many asked for a date other than in December because of caroling, Christmas shows, and family obligations at that busy time of year. The new date will be January 4-5, 2003. Mark it on your calendar and remember that from now on the Pioneer COTS will be the first weekend in January.

NEW LOCATION - Even though new COTS attendance records were achieved in the last two years, future growth was not possible at the Kellogg Center. A change in venue was needed and so COTS will be held at the Holiday Inn Express in Okemos, south-east of Lansing. This is a central location and is right at the Okemos exit on I-96. This location will satisfy our current needs and allow for expansion for many years to come.

NEW COTS COORDINATOR - Doug Lynn is new COTS coordinator. He is preparing the registration packages that will be available to every chapter. The new on-line registration will be available by October 1. Hard copies will be ready for the fall convention. Each chapter will continue to register through the chapter secretary.

OUTSTANDING FACULTY - The international COTS faculty will continue to share its training and expertise in the following classes: president, secretary, treasurer, music and performance, member services, chorus director, marketing and PR, and Young Men In Harmony. Your chapter coach will also have a class and will be there to assist you in your chapter planning.

NEW MUSIC - When was the last time that you had the opportunity to learn a couple of songs with more than 100 men? Maybe never! Don't miss this chance to sing with members from many Pioneer chapters.

TOP GUN SCHOOL - It's been a number of years since we have had a "Top Gun Coaching School," but we will have an outstanding one this year at COTS. The minimum qualification for a quartet to attend "Top Gun" is to have won the district championship. A world-class coaching team is being assembled to coach our

very best district quartets. The five quartets that have committed their attendance in this "Top Gun" program are POWER PLAY, WJBC, FOUR MAN FISHIN' TACKLE CHOIR, PHILATOGA TOWNSHIP, and our newest district champion, which will be crowned at our October convention. WOW!

What an afterglow we'll have on Saturday night when we turn these five district champions loose! This alone is an excellent reason to attend COTS next January. I am confident that our attendance record will be broken again.

See you at COTS.

Party of Four wins

By Toby Shaver

On April 16, the national touring company of "The Music Man" opened at the Fox Theater in Detroit. Quartet PARTY OF FOUR was thrilled to be part of the show!



(L to r) Kevin Morey, Toby Shaver, Steve Wilde (JOKER'S WILD tenor), Wally Krause, and Tim Seguin.

The opportunity came when the Fox promotions department held a contest to choose a quartet to sing on opening night. We won the contest and were invited to perform before the show.

Not only did we get to sing for a great audience, but were given free tickets and a chance to meet the cast backstage.

Take Note

Gene Hanover, Chorus Director Development VP

Directors, are you music educators?

As director, are you constantly looking for new ways to communicate with your chorus or quartets that you are working with? How about the individuals that you are working with. Are they making progress?



Gene Hanover

These are questions that we all need to look at. As the chorus director, we are usually the local music educators for our chapters. We have to teach

the chorus how to sing properly, and in tune. We have to teach them that there is really a difference in the way that we approach the songs that we teach. How we can take a classical barbershop, swing, jazz, pop or country approach and still have it be pure barbershop.

First, we have to educate ourselves though. We have several options to do this. We have Harmony Round-Up and Harmony College/Directors College, we have getting coached while singing in a quartet, we have the continuing education that our schools offer every year, and we have the local colleges that offer many options for us to learn.

Then there is taking private voice lessons, going to concerts of all genres to study what they are doing to be successful, and going

to other Barbershop conventions. The list is actually endless, but it does take effort.

Music appreciation is a big part of being a successful director. Anyone can learn to wave their arms, but it takes someone special to feel the music and be able to teach it so the men can understand. Yes, as a director, we have to put the effort forth before we can expect our singers to improve.

But that takes time and money! You bet it does. Some chapters help with the expenses and, when asked, there are few that would reject the request. They may not be able to flip the total bill, but they can help. As to the time, that is up to you to provide. If you truly want your singers to get better, it is part of the price that we have to pay for success.

What is success? That is a great question and can only be answered by you and your singers. Some chapters feel that singing well enough so they are not embarrassed is a success. Others feel that winning a contest is the true mark of success.

Whatever you measure, first you have to have musical and singing goals and know what you need to do to get there; then work on them constantly to achieve success. These are not membership, number of performances, or social goals, but honest-to-goodness singing and musical goals that can be measured and achieved.

The first goal might be to check out your own attitude towards educating yourself and helping others get better. If you have a little "Stinkin' Thinkin'" in there, change it. Then check out the attitude of the Board and chapter and get them right.

The next goal is to come to an understanding of your measure of success and what you are willing to do to see it through. It's not that hard and does not hurt unless you start and never follow through.

So get started TODAY to become the best musician, director, and teacher you can be. The men will be better for it and you will have greater enjoyment than you can ever imagine.

Metropolis earns first international medal

By Staff Writer Jim Styer

Far West District quartet METROPOLIS, with two former Pioneer District champion quartets, placed fifth in Portland, achieving its first medal in international competition.

Lead Bob Hartley and bass Brian Philbin are former members of 1985 Pioneer champs, IVY LEAGUE. They now are members of the Santa Fe Springs Chapter, home of the 2002 international chorus champions, MASTERS OF HARMONY.

In previous international competitions, METROPOLIS ranked sixth last year (Nashville), 10th in 2000 (Kansas City), 14th in 1999 (Anaheim), 12th in 1998 (Atlanta), and 17th in 1997 (Indy).

It was the first Barbershop quartet to win the National A Cappella Harmony Sweepstakes (1998).

Yours 4 A Song

Dan Bezaire, Music & Performance VP

Opportunities for improvement

Everyone of us likes to sing. That's a given or we wouldn't renew our membership. I think it's fair to say that most of us enjoy performing — in our chapter shows, at chorus performances, or when ever there are three other parts and an audience willing to listen.



Dan Bezaire

I'm just as certain that all of us would like to be better performers than we are. Humans have one defining characteristic: we like to be well-thought of.

So what can we do to enhance our performance skills and bring even more satisfaction both to our audiences and ourselves? Here are a few recommendations:

Learn your music. I'm speaking primarily to chorus members here. It is not the director's job to teach the words and music to his chorus. He's there to turn that music into a presentation that will create some kind of emotional or musical impact. There is never enough time for this, but you can help by coming to rehearsal prepared.

Watch other performers. Whether or not they're Barbershoppers, if they are performing, they probably do a lot of things you like. Are they expressive? Do their faces and body movements

convey the music to the audience? **Get coaching.** There are a number of coaches in our district who would be glad to come in and work with your group. We are preparing a roster of Pioneer coaches, which should be available soon. Suggest to your music team that this would be beneficial.

Education. We have a number of programs that will bump up our performances. The biggie is Harmony College, held the first week of August in St. Joseph, Mo. This is a full week of Barbershop classes, coaching, singing, woodshedding, where you can go to get, as Earl Moon once said, "hot-dipped in Barbershop." If that is out of the question, there is Harmony Round-Up on the third weekend in May — kind of a mini-Harmony College. Everyone seems to enjoy this weekend, and I hope many more will plan to attend in 2003.

Standing Ovation. This is not a music program, but a way for groups in our Society to learn how to put on a great performance. The process is very simple: contact your local M&P DVP (that's me) and request an evaluation. Someone comes to your performance and reviews it. Later, the evaluator makes suggestions for improvement. Not about vowel matching or other musical elements, but performance aspects (flow, song selection, costumes, etc.) Cost: price of a ticket or two.

Harmony Round-Up

We had a great Round-Up this year at MSU. Though we couldn't seem to get the temperatures right, everything else went very well. We had a terrific faculty, and those who came indicated that it was a very valuable experience. The featured quartet was the NOISE BOYS from Central States District, and they were a great addition to the weekend.

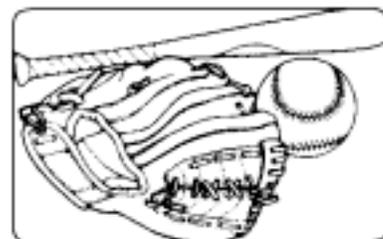
Plan now to attend the 2003 Harmony Round-Up. It will be held May 16-18, 2003.



We have already started to assemble our faculty. We have a gold-medal quartet lined up; NIGHTLIFE (1996) will be on the HRU faculty next year.

Play ball!

The music to "Take Me Out To The Ball Game," 1908, was written by Albert Von Tilzer, brother of Harry Von Tilzer, who



gave us many Barbershop songs. When Albert wrote the music, he had never seen a baseball game!

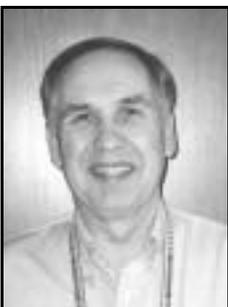
(Source: PBS radio broadcast)

Young Men in Harmony

Dave Anderson, District VP

Great job, guys!

Our second annual A CAPPELLA BLAST! was a roaring success! You great Pioneer Barbershoppers really pitched in and made it go. I want to take the time to thank Ken and Vicki



Dave Anderson

Gibson and their staff for putting this together, and to thank Bob Wisdom for his super job of getting all these people registered.

Now we are busy planning for A CAPPELLA BLAST! 2003, and we will need more staff for running a bigger program. If you would like to work on this project, please get in touch with me.

Our district college quartet contest was won by a great singing group from CMU, ACCIDENTAL CONSONANCE. This foursome is coached by CMU professor and great Barbershop baritone, Dr. David Gillingham.

By the time that you read this, the competition in Portland will be history, and I'm sure that they will have represented us well. You fine people and chapters of Pioneer came through again when this quartet needed funds to get to Portland.

Donations from both chapters and individuals came to a very

healthy \$1,725. ACCIDENTAL CONSONANCE thanks you and I thank you for your generosity.

The good news is that this quartet, hopefully, should be able to compete again next year.

What are you doing for YMIH this summer? I'll bet you thought that with school being out, there's nothing to do.

Wrong!

How about the YMIH person in your chapter teaming up with the membership person and the program VP and putting on a special "Bring your young man" night program. The object is to have everyone bring a son, a grandson, a nephew, the neighbor kid, or any combination to the rehearsal on that particular night.

The program must be tailored to fit the needs of this age group and it must be varied, fast paced, include much singing (camp songs, Sunday School songs, etc.), and, above all, not a lot of talking.

Also remember that this age group runs on a lot of pop and pizza, so have the snacks ready. You might even want to invite the moms along.

Fall program

It's time to begin planning the fall program for getting your contact with the local school music teachers. I have been watching the local public service access channel on my cable TV. They have been showing local school music con-

certs, both band and vocal. From this you will find out just who these teachers are and what type of programs they offer.

Now all you need to do is contact the teachers and compliment them on their television performance. It makes a nice way of introducing yourself.

I found the middle school programs to be very good; it wouldn't hurt to start with this age group. This could also get you an introduction to the high school vocal music teacher.

When you are ready, just give me a call for the music educator's packet and the video about using Barbershop as a teaching tool.

Let's plan now and have a great YMIH Barbershop fall!

Renew membership on-line

There are two ways to get into the "Members Only" section of the Society Website so that you can renew your membership on-line. The first is to click on the "Members Only" link on the SPEBSQSA Web page (www.spebsqsa.org). Enter your member number and your password.

Forgot your password? Just click on "Forgot my password" and a password will be e-mailed to you. You can also get into "Members Only" by using the priority code on the mailing label of your *Harmonizer*.

In "Members Only," click on "Renew your membership online." Follow the steps using a Visa or MasterCard to renew.

It's convenient, quick, and easy and your renewal is processed right away. You can also check if you are due for renewal or already paid.

The Judge's Corner

Ed Fritzen, Contest & Judging VP

Quartet evaluations for fall competition rescheduled

I'm still recovering from a fantastic International Convention as I write this article. The quartet contest was one of the closest con-



Ed Fritzen

tests in recent years. FOUR VOICES came out on top, but I have to admit, I think the contest was too close to call from where I was sitting.

I'd like to congratulate all of our Pioneer District representatives on fine performances. POWER PLAY continues to improve; there's no doubt in my mind that they are poised for gold in Montreal.

The GREAT LAKES CHORUS gave a solid entertaining package that was enjoyed by the audience. Our college quartet, ACCIDENTAL CONSONANCE, placed 10th in what has become a very tough competition.

Congratulations to all of our representatives.

Quartet evaluations rescheduled
As you know, your district Board of Directors is always looking at ways to improve our conventions and contests. President Al Bonney and I have talked at length about this and we have a number of ideas we plan to implement in the com-

ing conventions. One change I am going to implement this fall is the scheduling of the quartet evaluations.

Each DVP-CJ has been asked to schedule evaluations of the finalist quartets immediately after the competition on Saturday night, rather than on Sunday morning. Other districts have tried this with great success.

I polled our competitors after the spring convention and, with the exception of one quartet, there wasn't a lot of support for Saturday night evaluations. The main objection is that it would interfere with singing in the hospitality rooms.

From what I've heard from the other DVP's-CJ, this has not been a problem in their districts.

So what I'm going to propose to do is to schedule the top three finishers for the first hour of

evaluations as soon as possible after the contest. During this first hour, the remaining quartets can start things off by singing in the hospitality rooms.

These remaining quartets will receive their evals in the second hour, while our top three quartets head off to the hospitality rooms.

This scheduling has been tried in Ontario District, and both competitors and those hosting hospitality rooms have liked it. I would like to give it a try this fall in Pioneer District.

You might ask why the change? Well, for one thing, all of the competitors are warmed up, ready to sing, and ready to be coached, much more so than on Sunday morning. The judges feel they can get more accomplished with coaching on Saturday night.

Also, this scheduling allows our judging panel to leave early Sunday and get home at a reasonable time. All of the districts have been asked to try this and see if it would be more beneficial to the competitors and to the judges; so don't think this is necessarily permanent. I would like to try it this fall and see how it goes.

Fall convention registration

Don't forget to register for our fall convention. I would like to try to handle all entries electronically. Please visit our district Web page for instructions on how to enter the fall contests; you'll find links there.

I respond by e-mail to every entry I receive; if you don't hear back from me, you're not officially entered. I must receive all entries by Friday, October 4, 2002.

Hope to see you this fall on stage in Battle Creek.



Quartets Champions Association

Dennis Gore, PR & Communications

QCA continues to pick up momentum

Hot news:

POWER PLAY medals again

QCA member **POWER PLAY** returned home from Portland sporting brand-new third-place medals. In one of the most competitive contests in recent memory, **POWER PLAY** was bested by only two other quartets. The Pioneer District foursome sang three strong sets and received one standing ovation after another. **CONTRATULATIONS**, **POWER PLAY**. You've made us all proud!

QCA Activities

The Pioneer District QCA met during Harmony Round-Up in Lansing on Friday, May 17. A smaller number of participants than was expected attended the meeting and rehearsal, but progress was made on the songs, and the songs to be performed on the show were selected.

Some of our members (Ken Gibson, Bob Wisdom, Norm Thompson, and Mark Wilson) were busy working with the Young Men in Harmony group that this year increased from 50 to 75 attendees.

After our scheduled rehearsal and meeting, we joined the YMIH group and, with the members mentioned above, sang a couple of songs for the YMIH participants.

With the approval of the members, President Russ Seely presented a check to our International quartet representatives, **POWER PLAY**, to help defray expenses as

it prepares to compete in Portland. The donation was presented at the Send-Off in Windsor on June 14.

The QCA Web page has now been permanently established. You can view the site at www.pioneerqca.org/. Please take a look. If you have any suggestions or contributions to make to the Website, they would be most appreciated.

After the site was launched, I sent the URL to the contacts from all of the other districts. I received a call from Joe Sullivan, president of the Illinois District QCA, with some nice comments about the new site. Please take a look at the Illinois site at www.harmonize.ws/ILL/qca/. I think you'll recognize some future Barbershop stars in the pictures contained there – it's very interesting.

Calendar

September 22 - QCA gathering to rehearse songs and organize the fall show

October 18-20 - Battle Creek. QCA show Friday night after the contest.

QCA Show

Show details are still being formulated, but we are planning for at least three past district champion quartets along with the QCA CHORUS.

If you have any comments or suggestions, please send an e-mail to me at dgore132@comcast.net.

Power Play 3rd

(Continued from page 1)

guys are great," and "That's the tag of the contest."

One chatter said about the semi-finals: "UPTOWN SOUND and FOUR VOICES took a huge step up tonight and POWER PLAY is matching them." Another: "The top five or six have all been about the same level, and they all raised the bar this evening."

In the finals on Saturday night, **POWER PLAY** came out in blue sport coats over yellow T-shirts. The guys opened with "Side By Side," and included a solo phrase by Dad, "How can I keep these clowns in line?" The younger set responded, "Mom thinks we're just fine."

The extended tag did a masterful job of jumping all over the chart before resolving.

Then an intro of "No Place Like Home" led into "Love at Home." Throughout the number, the joy and peace of home shone through their eyes and facial expressions.

Those two songs scored 2,598 points — enough to move them into third place. They had finished fifth in both the 2000 and 2001 International competitions, and seventh in 1999.

Don noted about the convention, "I was more relaxed this time. I enjoyed myself and felt more like a convention-goer than a competitor."

When asked about the competition at the medalist level, he said, "Our only competition is ourselves. We can't control how well the other quartets sing. We give it our best and hope it's good enough."

**Accidental Consonance,
Great Lakes Chorus**
(Continued from page 1)

cluded.

In a hotly contested chorus competition, the MASTERS OF HARMONY from the Santa Fe Springs (California) Chapter, won their fifth gold medal in five attempts, scoring 2,758 points (91.9 percent). Their new director, MICHIGAN JAKE lead singer Mark Hale, led the 133-man chorus in outstanding presentations of “Song of the South” and “Here Comes the Show Boat.”

Finishing second with 46 singers, was Toronto Chapter’s NORTHERN LIGHTS with 2,714 points. They sang “Polka Dots and Moonbeams” and “Alabama Bound.”

The ALEXANDRIA HARMONIZERS, from the Alexandria (Virginia) Chapter, were third with 2,680 points. The 107-man chorus sang “Remember/How Deep is the Ocean” and “Alexander’s Ragtime Band.”



ACCIDENTAL CONSONANCE: (l to r) Baritone Jeff Mallecki, bass Ben Rodgers, lead Nicholas Allen, and tenor Steven Shaw.



Chorus members celebrate the opening of “Phase II.”



The GREAT LAKES CHORUS tries to build a “winning” performance at Portland. (Photos by David Wagner)

Photos from Portland

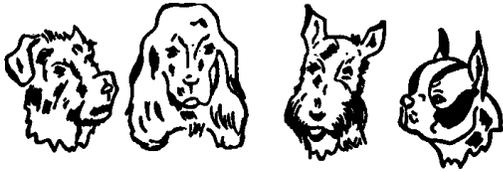


(Left) FOUR VOICES — Brandon Guyton, Jayson Van Hook, Lester Rector, and Chad Guyton.



(Right) CATFISH BEND — Noah Campbell, J. R. Muth, Jim Koenig, and Armando H. Linares — wins the MBNA Collegiate Barbershop Quartet Contest. (Below) Musical Director Mark Hale leads the Far West District's MASTERS OF HARMONY to its fifth gold medal in five tries. Photos by David Wagner.





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Pedigree: Barbershoppers

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Doug
(517) 351-9587

Rich
(517) 482-0365



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ACAPELLA
 QUARTET

PROBE recognizes Pioneers

By Staff Writer Jim Styer

Three Pioneer District Barbershoppers and POWER PLAY quartet were honored at the international convention by the Society's PROBE (Association of Public Relations Officers and Bulletin Editors).

ELBERT FORD of Traverse City, editor of *The Chorister*, placed fifth in the International Bulletin Contest. He also placed fifth last year, when he received an award as Most Improved Editor.

In placing fifth again, Elbert scored 1,804.8 of 2,000 points, just 13 points out of fourth place, and 123 points below first place. His highest category score (717) was in Content. The other categories are Grammar & Style (573.8) and Layout & Reproduction (514).

In each of his three years in the international contest, Elbert has received a higher score. He has done the same in the district contests, and last spring amassed the highest score ever in the Pioneer District contest. About five years ago, after retiring from work following a stroke, Elbert offered to edit the chapter bulletin. He has since achieved his goal, set at that time, of winning the district contest within three years and scoring well at the international level.

BOB RANCILIO of Grosse Pointe, editor of *The Pitch Pipe*, placed 23rd of 28 entrants, scoring 1,584 points. This was Bob's first

entry in the PROBE bulletin contests. He has been a bulletin editor for only two years, but has taken advantage of the mentoring program offered by PROBE.

Under this program, any editor may ask to be matched up with an experienced editor or bulletin judge, who monitors the editor's work each month and offers suggestions for improvement.

Any editor in Pioneer may learn more about this program by e-mailing Grant Carson at wmgcarson@aol.com.

Elbert and Bob were entered into the international contest after having placed first and second in the Pioneer District competition last spring.

Outstanding Achievement Awards

Two Pioneer representatives were among the recipients of PROBE's annual Outstanding Achievement Awards.

ALEXANDER BOLTENKO of Kalamazoo was honored "for his outstanding work organizing the 'Barbershop Night' on January 31, 2002, during the appearance of *The Music Man* on tour."

Alex coordinated the activities with the national touring company and with Steve Iannacchione, tenor in 1994 international champs, JOKER'S WILD, a member of the cast. Activities included radio appearances and quartet singing before nearly every show.

On Barbershop Night, Barber-

shoppers hosted a show cast party, which included Society President Roger Lewis of Battle Creek. The activity was publicized in the *Harmonizer* and used as a model for activities in other cities on the nationwide cast tour, including Lansing and Detroit.

Alex continues to act as a liaison between the touring company and Barbershoppers in other cities. He also posted show reviews from various cities on the Kalamazoo Chapter Web site.

POWER PLAY (Don, Mike, Jack, and Mark Slamka) were recognized "for their outstanding performances on the 'Grand Ole Opry' in July 2001." The show, during the international convention in Nashville, Tenn., was carried on radio nationwide. The quartet was so well-received that the guys were asked to perform a second number, which rarely happens.

Membership

All chapter members who are involved in public relations or bulletin editing are encouraged to join PROBE. The association provides support for these activities and publishes a quarterly newsletter, *PROBEmoter*. Dues of \$10 a year are a legitimate chapter expense.

For more information, e-mail PROBE Treasurer Dick Girvin: DickGirvin@juno.com, or go to the PROBE Web site: www.harmonize.com/PROBE/.

Singing is Life ... *the rest is just details*

Bush League 2002

Bush League, the greatest quartet development event of the year, has been taken to the next level with the addition of coaching of the quartets after their performances. This special addition to Bush League was made possible because of grant monies the Pioneer District has received from the Michigan Arts Council.

This event is open to all quartets that wish to enjoy the camaraderie, fun, and “Let’s-see-how-we-do” attitude that Bush League intends. Some participants use this program to “warm up” for the district fall competition, which is fine. The experience of singing in

Bush League may only help the quality of all competing quartets and, perhaps, even increase the quality level of the quartets in future competitions.

This will be one of the most exciting events of the year. Bring your family, friend and fellow Barbershoppers to Gaylord for a weekend to remember. It’s a true double header ... and with the addition of the Saturday night show, we have a triple play.

What a HOME RUN for the district!

[Quartet registration form is on inside back cover of this issue.]

Jim Stephens celebration

By Bob Wisdom

Over 325 relatives and friends of the Stephens attended the celebration of Jim’s life on Saturday, June 15. Suffice it to say that all speakers and singers put their hearts and souls into this memorable evening.

We were graced by the performances of three quartets that included NEW WRINKLE, the SILVER DOMES, and FERMATA NOWHERE.

In addition, the Detroit-Oakland County, Huron Valley, and Wayne choruses joined in with their well-performed musical presentations that so much enhanced the spirit of the evening.

We are pleased to report that donations to the SPEBSQSA Harmony Foundation in Jim’s memory were generous that evening.

After expenses were paid, \$2,200, including a personal donation by Judy Stephens, will go to the Harmony Foundation’s Founders Club. The Stephens will become bronze members of the Club with Jim in memoriam and Judy as an active, recognized member.

In addition, some friends of the Stephens made direct donations to the “Keep a Melody Ringing” fund prior to the celebration. This fund is also part of the Harmony Foundation.

As a result, Jim’s name will be inscribed on a nameplate on a plaque with the names of other deceased Barbershoppers previously memorialized there. This plaque is displayed in Harmony Hall in Kenosha for all to see and honor. Many thanks to all who remembered Jim in these ways.

Pioneer District COTS

By COTS Coordinator Doug Lynn

It’s time to start thinking about your chapter’s 2003 slate of officers. They cannot run your chapter alone. Everyone in your chapter should know how the chapter operates.

COTS is not just for officers anymore! We continue to expand our COTS training and have chosen a new, more-convenient site where we can grow.

The Holiday Inn Express in Okemos (near Lansing) is a new convention center that has many classrooms, an auditorium, and a dining room — all under one roof. Being located off of I-96 and close to several airports allows for ease in getting our instructors in and out, and is much more centrally located in the district.

The #1 reason for not getting to the school was a date conflict! We moved the date to the first weekend in January to get out of the busy Christmas season.

The #2 reason was repeating classes in the same chapter position (i.e., I already know it all!) Things are changing to fast in our society! NO, you do not know it all!

The afterglow alone, with the talent that we have coming to run the school, will be worth the price of admission!

A special thank-you goes to John Gillespie for his many years of service as our COTS coordinator.

Look for us at the fall convention. Want to take a peek at our new home? Click on www.SixContinentsHotel.com/HIExpress.

I can be reached at DWLynn@yahoo.com.

2002 PIONEER DISTRICT FALL CONVENTION

OCTOBER 18-20, 2002

CONVENTION REGISTRATION

PLEASE FILL IN NAMES AS YOU WOULD LIKE THEM TO APPEAR ON YOUR BADGE(S)

**REGISTRANT NAME _____

**SPOUSE/GUEST NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____
(Area Code)

**COMPETING QUARTET? YES NO QUARTET NAME _____

**COMPETING CHORUS? YES NO CHORUS NAME _____

**CHAPTER NAME _____

**VOICE PART: TENOR LEAD BARITONE BASS

EARLY REGISTRATION: \$20.00 PER PERSON; LATE REGISTRATION: \$25.00 PER PERSON
EARLY REGISTRATION MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 1, 2002.

FEE FOR _____ PERSONS @ \$20.00/\$25.00 TOTAL REGISTRATION FEE: _____

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: PIONEER DISTRICT SPEBSQSA, INC.

or MASTER CARD or VISA NUMBER _____ EXPIRATION DATE _____

MAIL CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM AND FEE TO:

**Stan Williams
421 Franklin Street
Leslie, MI 49251**

All event passes will be at the convention registration desk, located in the McCamly Plaza Hotel (Headquarters). Single-event partial registrations can be purchased at the convention registration desk or W. K. Kellogg Auditorium: Friday \$12.00; Saturday Noon \$12.00; Saturday Evening \$12.00. Children, 12 and under are admitted free.

Each member of a competing quartet or chorus must be registered for an all-events pass. Failure to do so will disqualify the quartet or chorus from the contest.

REFUND POLICY: REGISTRATION FEES WILL BE REFUNDED TO PERSONS CANCELING **IN WRITING** PRIOR TO THE 11:00 OPENING ON FRIDAY.

District convention facilities are handicap accessible. Please indicate any special requirements you need to fully participate: _____

In Memoriam

Bill Essmann
1918-2002

Bill had a heart attack on Monday, July 1, after a weekend with family in Indiana. Bill, who had a history of heart problems, was rushed to Beaumont Hospital, where he seemed to be getting better. But Tuesday evening, his weakened heart gave out on him.

The body was cremated and the ashes were deposited at Northbrook Presbyterian Church. A small ceremony was held there including 21 of his Barbershop cronies from DOC.

Bill had sung bass in the GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS CHORUS for the past 12 years.

From Tom Uicker, Detroit-Oakland County

Bill Juchartz
1916-2002

Bill Juchartz, DOC's oldest and longest active member, died suddenly on Sunday, July 7, of an apparent heart attack. The body was taken to the Harry Wills Funeral Home, Six Mile and Newburgh, in Livonia.

Bill sang with Detroit #1, Dearborn, and DOC. He sang in quartets before the Society had choruses. At age 86, he was a Society member for 57 years.

From Tom Uicker, Detroit-Oakland County

Leon "Red" Shaw
1919-2002

Red Shaw, long-time member of the Jackson Chapter, passed away recently. He was well known throughout the Pioneer District. He was a very jovial guy and could make anyone laugh.

Red sang lead with the FOR-TUNE TELLERS quartet for almost 40 years. They were the featured quartet at many shows.

One time when heading up the Milford Chapter show, the show chairman told them, "Sing as long as you want to. The crowd loves you."

Red could also fill in as the director of the JACKSONAIRES CHORUS when needed, and was the director of the JACKSON SWEET ADELINES.

Red and the FOR-TUNE TELLERS brought laughter to thousands and, even though he is gone, his music lives on in the memory of his many fans.

From Cris Davis, Hillsdale

Chapters in Action

Saginaw-Bay

By Ralph Brown

Another successful spring contest and what a great time. We had new faces on stage with us again this competition. One was new to the contest stage and did a great job in the front row, lead Larry Thomas.

Dave Deming, created most of the choreography and taught it to us, which in and of itself was no small task. He did a superb job. Even the judges were pleased and had several favorable comments as to its content and delivery. Thanks, Dave!

Our chapter president, Paul Ward, also contributed to the choreography, but was not able to participate due to, as he said, "ticker problems." On Monday following the contest, he had a heart valve replaced. He is back singing with us on Wednesday nights.

Our performance at the Wanona Park Shell with the Tri-City Chapter of Sweet Adelines for the Bay Arts Council was once again a real crowd pleaser. Every year this show gets bigger and better.

(Continued on page 24)



BILL DAN

A BARBERSHOP QUARTET

Contact: Dan Casamatta
6705 Adaridge Dr. SE
Ada, Michigan 49301
(616) 676-8814
E-Mail: porgyt@aol.com

JOEL MARK

2002 PIONEER DISTRICT FALL CONVENTION

OCTOBER 18-20, 2002

HOTEL RESERVATION FORM

All spaces must be filled out completely

A credit card is required for room reservation

Confirmations will be sent to the individual whose name and address appears below. Please contact the VCB if you do not receive your confirmation within 3 weeks

Reservations accepted only at the VCB via mail, email, or fax

There are a limited number of rooms available at the headquarters hotel and they are reserved on a first come, first serve basis

Reservation requests must be received no later than September 17, 2002.

Please mail, fax, or e-mail form directly to:

Calhoun County Visitor & Convention Bureau Housing Department
77 East Michigan, Suite 100 Battle Creek, MI 49017

Fax: 616-962-6917 E-Mail: conventions@battlecreekvisitors.org
Phone: 800-397-2240 or 616-962-2240

Contact Information

Member of Host Chapter _____

Name _____ Phone (Days) (____)_____

Address _____ E-Mail _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Hotel Information

Please indicate your first and second choice hotel. Hotel rates do not include tax.
Rooms are available on a first come, first serve basis.

McCamly Plaza Hotel - \$85 _____ Fairfield Inn - \$79.00 _____
(HEADQUARTERS)

Arbor Inn - Marshall - \$50.00 _____ Knights Inn - \$44.95 _____

Econo Lodge - \$49.95 _____

Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____ Number of Rooms _____

Type of Room 1 Bed Special Requests Barrier Free
 2 Beds Non-Smoking
 Smoking
 Other: _____

Credit Card Information: Card Type: AE D MC V

Expiration Date: _____

Card Number: _____

Headquarters hotel fills up quickly, so get your reservation in early!

Chapters in Action

Macomb County

By Roy Gurney

Obviously, we are very proud of POWER PLAY and their move up to third place in the world! It would be nice if we could send another quartet to go with them next time. How about it guys!

In the meantime, the HARMONY HERITAGE CHORUS is working on new music for the coming year, with a retreat in August with coaches Barry Towner and Don Slamka. It will be an all-day affair followed by entertaining the campers at Waldenwoods Resort. Also in August, we will be singing at the third annual Bath City Festival in Mt. Clemens.

Our music team has “kicked it up a notch” to get us better prepared for competition in the fall, our show in the spring, and hopefully, MONTREAL!

Keep the whole world singing and singing.

Pontiac-Waterford

By John Cowlshaw

Chapter quartet HARMONY WAY (Mike Keith, Bruce Brede, Jeff Spires, and Chuck Murray) was featured at this year’s Walk for Epilepsy, which has become a Big Chief tradition.

FOUR WHEEL DRIVE (Al Monroe, Wally Plosky, John Cowlshaw, and Zaven Melkonian) sang June 7, at “Savvy Showhouse Preview Party,” a fundraiser for Lighthouse Community Development. Over 200 benefactors crowded the yard of a new home built to model “affordable housing” in the Unity Park neighborhood in southeastern Pontiac.

Barbershoppers from the Flint and Pontiac chapters attended the Flint summer picnic at Frankenmuth June 25. On the banks of the Cass River, the two choruses sang, along with several quartets, including B NATURAL (John Smith, Lyle Howard, Dick Johnson, and Roger Holm), FOUR WHEEL DRIVE, and BEST OF SHOW.

Long-time member Don Denoyer died in May. The chorus sang at his service, May 21. Bruce Brede spoke, and his remembrances are published in the

June issue of *Smoke Signals*. It’s available on-line, as are all of our bulletins, at www.PontiacChapter.com, under “Officers/Members.” The June issue also includes a lengthy interview with director Chris Miller.

Our fall show will be November 9, “Dorothy Returns to Oz,” with invited quartet, CHORDIAC ARREST.

Wayne

By Bob Wolf

The Wayne Chapter has been very active this year. Our RENAISSANCE CHORUS has performed several times. The annual show in March was a success, having FOOLS’ GOLD as the front-line quartet, and IN CAHOOTS, A LA MODE, TREBLESOME, and THE MELLOW FELLOWS from the chapter.

We participated in the spring convention & competition and were rather disappointed in the results, but were not discouraged. We learned from our mistakes and are working very hard to improve. We believe that our performance at the Windsor Send-Off was some indication of that.



Wayne Chapter President
Ed Bax — BOTY for 2001.

We had a very successful guest night and are looking to bring some new members aboard from that evening.

We recognized our ladies for their support and help through the year by having a Ladies Appreciation dinner at Pick-A-Bone Restaurant in June. At

the dinner, we presented the Al Fricker, Jr. 2001 Barbershopper of the Year award to President Ed Bax.

Lansing

By Paul Howe

First let me add my congratulations to all of our representatives to the International convention in Portland. From what I could see via the Webcast, you all entertained the audience well, and appeared to have a lot of fun doing so — and that is what this great hobby is all about.

(Continued on page 25)

Our Krazy Kwartet Kontest on July 23 promises to be a really wild event, with 19 kwartets entered and a new set of rules this year. The new rules are that there are no rules, and that you may receive points or deductions for being too tall, too short, too fat, too thin, too bald, etc. Oh, yes, singing might also enter into the judging criteria, but not necessarily. Actually, that pretty much sounds like a couple of district conventions I've attended in the past.

We'll be singing the National Anthem at the Lansing Lugnut baseball game Tuesday night, August 20. Then we start getting serious (?), with lots of practices and coaching sessions in preparation for the fall district convention and our Wharton Center show package for next March.

Holland

By Art Lane

One enthusiastic quartet singer is replacing another as Jim Johnson succeeds Myke Lucas as director of the HOLLAND WINDMILL CHORUS.

According to President James Hall, Lucas suggested about four years ago that the chapter seek a replacement. After 13 years of directing, he would like to concentrate on quartetting, coaching, and theatrical performance.

Jim has directed the choruses in Lansing and Grand Rapids and also the WEST SHORE SWEET ADELINES CHORUS. He has been in several district champion quartets and competed on the International quartet stage three times: CLASSMATES in 1976, SOUNDS AROUND in 1980, and OPENING NIGHT in 1992.

Myke led the WINDMILL CHORUS to district championships in 1963 and 1993. His early quartet, Holland's CHORD COUNTS, used to work out songs around the grand piano at the home of chapter founder and Society arranger Bill Diekema in the 1950s, and went to International in 1958 and 1959.

Two new quartets emerge

There's a new quartet on the corner of River and Tenth in Holland. VIER ZANGERS (that's Dutch for four singers) got its start when fairly new Barbershoppers Stan Zachery and Kyle Jurries helped deliver Singing Valentines for the first time. Stan and Kyle teamed up with veterans Karl Klomprens and Steve Foster. The quartet debuted at the afterglow of Holland's Tulip Time show and are now doing gigs around town.

Another Holland quartet, HALL AND OONKS, had the honor of singing patriotic songs at the Governor's Luncheon which began the main Tulip Time festivities. The honor was there even though the governor was late.

The WINDMILL CHORUS performed an original show, "Let's Get Away From It All," written by member Jack C. Oonk, to a capacity crowd during the Tulip Festival. Guest quartets were GENUINE BLEND, 1994 district quartet champion, and FOUR MAN FISHIN' TACKLE CHOIR, 2000 district champ.

The 17th annual Chester P. Oonk Memorial Tag Contest will be held starting about 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 3, at the Holland American Legion Post, 10820 Paw Paw Drive, Holland, Mich. All Barbershoppers are welcome.

Traverse City

By Elbert Ford

Quite a lot has transpired since our last input to the *Troubadour*; I believe it was back in the Jan/Feb issue. I spent the winter in Florida and wasn't up-to-date on chapter activities. A large amount of this may be old news to some of you, but to catch up

We had a very successful Singing Valentines program with well over 100 deliveries. We have just completed a series of 10 performances with children from various elementary schools in our area in the "Get Northern Michigan Singing ... Again" program. We've had numerous coaching sessions with Don Bazely and Gene Hanover and more are scheduled with Don and Gene as well as with Barry Towner.

We competed in Lansing and placed 10th — an improvement over 13th place last fall — as we continue to rebuild and go back to the basics of good singing.

We had a change in directorship. District President Al Bonney is presently filling the podium as interim director while we conduct a director search.

Our June Night of Harmony was the best ever, not only our opinion, but the audiences', the one that really matters! We had UPTOWN SOUND as our headliner, along with the FOUR MAN FISHIN' TACKLE CHOIR as the opening act.

We have the new International Champion Quartet FOUR VOICES signed for next year. Don't miss it!

Harmony College is just around our corner and 26

(Continued on page 26)

Chapters in Action

(Continued from page 25)

of our guys are ramping up for that. We are supposed to be coached as a chorus also, thanks to the efforts of Al Bonney.

We're looking forward to seeing many of you, visiting us this summer. Just call me at 231-947-8714 beforehand to see if we're meeting that particular night. It's 7:00 p.m. at The Presbyterian Church, 701 Westminster, off Airport Access road, in Traverse City.

Huron Valley

By Greg Humbel

The HURON VALLEY HARMONIZERS have had a very active couple of months, including several paid quartet and chorus performances.

The Board and music team continue to define our goals and objectives for the 2002-2003 strategic plan.

The Jim Stephens Celebration, held June 15 in Ann Arbor, was a very moving tribute to our past director. Jim had a tremendous impact on several choruses and quartets in the district.

The celebration team, chaired by our own Dick Reinholt, put together an evening to remember. There were lots of fellowship, tributes, and songs throughout the evening. More than \$2,000 was donated to the Harmony Foundation in Jim's honor.

The HARMONIZERS has established its own Jim Stephens Musical Scholarship Fund to aid chapter members in need of help with their music growth. The fund has been blessed with more than \$800 to date.

We are proud to announce that our musical director, Lynne Peirce, has earned her director's certification from the Society. She is only the second director in the district to have achieved this distinction.

A very successful guest night was held on June 18. We have had several new members in recent weeks, with a few pending memberships and two reactivations of old memberships.

The chorus is currently focusing on our contest package and the September "United We Sing" show.

Benton Harbor-St. Joseph

By Earl Krieger

Just in case some of you are wondering, the FRUIT-BELT CHORUS is still "hangin' in there" ... with a vengeance! Our interim director, Dave Mohr, has kept our group on the straight and narrow. We count our current membership at 19 with nine active.

Our most recent performance was at the Zion UCC Church, where we rehearse each Monday. The occasion was the church's annual Swiss steak dinner which was attended by more than 600.

This "Chapters in Action" article is really about one of our members, Gus Reeves. Gus has been an active member of Benton Harbor-St. Joe for 47 consecutive years, and a familiar face at every convention and contest.

In his mid-80s, he found it increasingly difficult to manage his domestic chores, and recently moved to an assisted-living facility. While there, he fell and broke his hip, requiring him to move to Lakeland Rehabilitation Center in Berrien Springs.

Last week at the Big Boy Restaurant after rehearsal, someone said, "Hey, why don't we sing for Gus next week in lieu of rehearsal?"

"Good idea. Let's do it!"

The following Monday, we went to Berrien Springs. We had arranged to have Stub Kesterke (52 continuous years) and former member, Vern Tollas, meet us there.

I really don't think Gus expected 10 of us to walk in. We sang several Polecat selections, including "Nellie," "Sweet and Lovely," and, of course, "The Old Songs" and "Down Our Way." We also sang "Shine On Me" (with the "Bober" add-on).

Gus was able to add his baritone voice — feeble, but audible. He had tears streaming down his cheeks and found it hard to sing at times. It was obvious to us that Gus was mentally traveling back in time and reminiscing on 47 years of Barbershop camaraderie. It was an emotional moment for us all.

By 8:30, we could see that Gus was getting tired, so we closed with "I Believe," together with many hugs and handshakes.

As we silently filed out of Gus's room, I'm quite certain we all shared a common thought ... the fond hope that Gus would soon be back in his apartment.

"We love you, Gus."

(Continued on page 28)

Combined Bush League Contest and Quartet Coaching Weekend September 27 – 29, 2002, Gaylord Michigan

Quartet Name:		Today's Date:
Contact:		
Address:		
City, State, Zip:		
Phone:	E-Mail:	
Tenor:	Bari:	
Lead:	Bass:	

WE WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES: Master Class: _____
 Fri Afterglow: _____ Contest: _____ Coaching: _____ Show: _____ Sat Afterglow: _____

THE BUSH LEAGUE WEEKEND AGENDA AND COSTS		
Activity	Cost	We plan to participate in these activities
Quartet registration fee for the basic program	\$40.00 per quartet – see below for inclusions	\$40
Friday night Master's Class by the International-level quartet	Included	\$0
Sing with everybody at the Friday night afterglow and tag contest	\$3.50 per person extra	(Pay at the hotel)
Compete in the Saturday Bush League Contest with certified judges 9 am – 11 am	Included	\$0
Get great coaching from the championship quartets and several other great coaches on Saturday Quartet Coaching 1 – 5	Included (Note: coaching will take place in YOUR hotel room at the Headquarters Hotel)	\$0
Attend the Gaylord show Saturday night featuring Fools' Gold, Philatoga Township, and the International Quartet – 7:30	\$ 10 per person extra – performers no charge	(Pay at the hotel)
Sing on the Saturday Gala Afterglow – after the show	\$ 6.50 per person extra	(Pay at the hotel)
Total registration fee and tickets:	(Make check payable to Pioneer District)	\$40.00
Visa or Master Card? Number: _____		Exp Date: _____
Name on the card: _____		

INSTRUCTIONS AND NOTICES:
1. Each quartet is responsible for reserving and paying for its own hotel accommodations and meals during the weekend.
2. Quartet coaching will take place in YOUR hotel room at the Holiday Inn. If this will be a problem for you, you MUST let us know BEFORE the weekend begins.
3. Registration is limited to 16 quartets. Please register early
4. Payment for coaching is required at the time of registration. Payments are non-refundable after August 1, 2002. Show and Glow tickets sold at the headquarters hotel.
5. Please go to the Pioneer District Web Site for detailed weekend agenda, contest rules, show details, coaches' bios, additional hotel information, and other great stuff.

... New edit 710

When weeding, the best way to make sure you are removing a weed and not a valuable plant is to pull on it. If it comes out of the ground easily, it's a valuable plant.

First things first, but not necessarily in that order.

The best way to forget all your troubles is to wear tight shoes.

My humility is the source of my greatest pride.

Wayne Chapter, SPEBSQSA, Inc.
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Livonia MI 48150

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Upcoming Events

2002

Aug. 15-18 - 14th Buckeye Invitational, Columbus, Ohio.
Contact: www.SingingBuckeyes.org.

Aug. 30-Sept. 2 - Harrisville Harmony Weekend. Contact
Craig Pollard: caponyx@entropytech.com.

Sept. 14 - Huron Valley Show.

Sept. 27-28 - Gaylord Bush League. Contact Hank
Hedges: 517-731-1169.

Sept. 28 - Muskegon Show.

Sept. 28 - Grosse Pointe Show.

Oct. 5 - Gratiot County Show

Oct. 6 - Hillsdale Show.

Oct. 12 - Alpena Show.

Oct. 18-20 - Pioneer District Convention & Competition,
Battle Creek, Mich.

Nov. 2 - Rochester Show.

Nov. 9 - Pontiac-Waterford Show.

Dec. 7 - Huron Valley Christmas Show.

2003

Jan. 19-26 - SPEBSQSA Mid-winter Convention, Albuquerque, N.M.

Note: All chapter show activities must be cleared through Pioneer District Secretary Marvin Skupski (contact information on page 2).

Chapters in Action

Hillsdale

By Roger L. McCaskey

It has been an exciting year for the members of the TOWN AND COUNTRY CHORUS. We returned to the chorus competition stage after a long absence and look forward to the next competition.

We are also very proud to have chapter members involved in quartets PHILATOGA TOWNSHIP and POWER PLAY.

"Love Comes Along" was the program we presented on May 19, 2002, at Hillsdale College's Sage Center for the Performing Arts. The first half was a combination of songs from the chorus and four chapter quartets. The HILLSDALE HIGH SCHOOL CONCERT CHOIR sang some of their recent competition songs as well.

The second half featured songs by our very own HOME GROANS quartet, setting the stage for the featured quartet, 1999 Pioneer District champions, WJBC.

The attendees at the sell-out afterglow were treated to a buffet of prime rib and chicken topped off by an ice cream bar dessert. All of the groups featured at the show again participated, in addition to a ladies quartet, MUSICALITY.