



Pioneer Troubadour

Official Publication of the Pioneer District January/February 2004 Volume 55, Number 1
The Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc.

Pioneer Bari wins at Indiana Harmony Brigade event

By Roger Lewis

Society President, Lead, Harmony Hounds Bari, Antiques Roadshow

Mark Ream of Huron Valley sang in the winning quartet, **Just Cause** at the recent **Indiana Harmony Brigade** weekend, topping a field of 27 quartets from Indiana, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Michigan and elsewhere.

What is the Indiana Harmony Brigade?

The story began 13 years ago when **Charlie**

Rose of North Carolina wanted to begin a "quartet only" weekend, inviting guys who could learn new music, show up for the weekend, and sing in a quartet.

Mark was a part of that early group, and is a **North Carolina Harmony Brigade** charter member. After moving to Michigan, Mark continued to learn the songs and attend the NCHB every year.

So when Mark got an invitation to be a part of the Inaugural **Indiana Harmony Brigade**

(IHB), he jumped at the chance. He recruited fellow Chapter member **Dave Herge**, and they were joined by **Roger Lewis**, who heard of it through other sources.

For each of us, the process for IHB began last spring, when we sent in our \$75 deposit and received our music and voice part learning tapes for eight songs.

We were then expected to learn our part, so we could sing every song in a quartet on IHB weekend. **Please see INDIANA Page 6**

Crisis or opportunity?

By Bob Rancilio

As state governments continue to cut budgets including arts grants, the **Grosse Pointe Chapter** recently offered a textbook example on turning a crisis into an opportunity.

A decades-old Grosse Pointe Chapter tradition was in peril this past holiday season when the source of the Chapter's bus rental funds was cut off.

Our tradition has been to rent a bus, pick a Sunday in December close to Christmas, and set a course for 12-15 nursing homes in Detroit and the eastern suburbs to sing carols to the residents and distribute Christmas gifts. For years, the City of Grosse Pointe has contributed to the Chapter's bus rental fees through grant programs from the State of Michigan.

But this season, economic times had caught up with the municipality's economy and their only recourse to help their budgets was to cut back on programs that helped causes like ours.

With the sudden loss of our contributions the Chapter faced a major decision-to sing or quit.

A few members felt it was time to pull the plug on this worthwhile public relations effort, which often results in singing

to more than 1,000 area senior citizens and many of their family members. But others felt the "pinch of necessity" and decided to develop a plan to replace the City of Grosse Pointe as the donor this year-no easy task in these lean economic times.

Two leading voices of our Chapter, **Russ Seely** and **Scott Houghton**, both also members of a local Elks Club, decided to see if the Elks would be responsive to a bid to support the Chapter's Christmas bus tour.

Seely had been at an Elks meeting where a member had a need for financial help in a personal endeavor, and the Elks accommodated him with a stipend.

Seely felt a worthwhile cause like the Barbershop nursing home tour should be a shoe-in for support. Houghton then put together a letter to the Elks' hierarchy describing the Chapter's outreach program. The Elks said they would grant us the funds and would be delighted, in return, to have the chorus sing for their Christmas party that happened to be held on the same day.

Meanwhile **Joe Serwach**, our incoming president for 2004, contacted a writer he knew at the **Please see Opportunity, Page 3.**



Thanks Frank!

Pontiac-Waterford's Art Carinci playing the legend who started his career in a Barbershop quarter, **Frank Sinatra**. Details. page 11.

Barbershoppers aiding 20,000-strong Collegiate A Capella movement

By Amanda Gish

Nearly 20,000 college students are doing it. It's been seen on the **West Wing** and the **Today Show**. It's the latest trend in campus life, it's coming soon to a concert hall near you: college a cappella.

The **International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella** begins its eighth season this year, bringing together more than 1,500 college a cappella singers in 108 groups from around the United States and Canada. The **University of Michigan** alone includes 13 a cappella groups.

These singers are competing for the chance to sing at Town Hall Theater in New York City, vying for cash prizes and the title of International Champion. Out of the 250 groups who apply to compete, only six groups – representing the South, New England, MidAtlantic, Northeast, Midwest and the West – will advance to the Internationals.

This year, the ICCA hopes to team up with SPEBSQSA to provide quality adjudicators for our 25 regional shows. To find a show in your area, please visit: <http://www.varsityvocals.com/icca/shows.shtml>

College a cappella singers are not just music students. They know just as few limits to their repertoire, and the audience is likely to hear covers of anything from **Dave Matthews** to **Dave Brubeck**, with the instrument sounds reproduced vocally.

The number of college students in the U.S. and Canada singing sans instruments is growing. Only 15 years ago, there were barely 100 groups on U.S. campuses. Today, there are more 900 in the U.S. and **Please see COLLEGE Page 3.**



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COLLEGE

Continued from Page 1

Canada, and dozens more are forming in Taiwan, Japan, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Denmark, to name just a few. The ICCA even has a sister tournament starting up in Asia.

The ICCA is committed to providing quality feedback from trained professionals, and we hope to have your help. If you are interested in judging a show, please submit your information at <http://www.varsityvocals.com/icca/judging.shtml> or contact me with any questions. For more information about the ICCA, please visit www.varsityvocals.com/icca

OPPORTUNITY

Continued from Page 1

Grosse Pointe News who, in turn, wrote an article describing the Chapter's plight. Within days, donations from sympathetic readers began flowing in.

At last count, the donations added up to a sizable amount, well over \$300 of the \$525 needed to rent a bus. The power of the press worked!

The Elks then said they would grant us the full \$525 and would be delighted, in return, to have the chorus sing at their Christmas program and all the excess funds accumulated have been earmarked for the 2004 nursing home tour.

Necessity "pinched" this 58 year old Chapter into the realization that it would have to get out of its comfort zone if it wanted to save a tradition. It proved to be a wakeup call worth answering.

Traverse City shows Singing is Life... In the fourth grade too...

As part of the fourth year of supporting school children learning standard American songs in over 50 local elementary schools, the **Traverse City Chapter** invited two local elementary schools to be part of their annual show last June to sing some of the songs that the students had been working on throughout the year.

The show was a great success, so it was agreed that another collaboration should happen as soon as school reconvened in the Fall.

Seventy-five fourth graders and 40 chorus members joined forces playing to a packed gymnasium of over 300 parents and friends.

Each chorus sang alone and



then the students joined the chorus in singing "Teach the Children to Sing" for the show finale.

Shown in this picture, chorus

director **Al Bonney** joins music educator **Peggy Pierson** who proudly models her souvenir "Singing is Life" shirt which she wore as her director's uniform for the joint concert. The students were especially proud of their work on two large posters that greeted the chorus and audience on the way into the gymnasium. We thought **Roger Lewis** would be especially pleased that his motto has received such wide attention!

(Note that one student suggested that "Life is a game . . . singing is serious!" sic. Too bad Rob already has a motto!)

Good News Singers impress school audiences

By Dave Anderson
Pioneer Young Men in Harmony

The **Good News Singers**, a fine seniors quartet from the **Grosse Pointe Chapter**,



have really been doing some great work in the YMIH field this year and need to be applauded for a job well done.

Gordy Dubrul is the organizer for all of these events and his perseverance and proactive leadership has paid off. The quartet consists of Gordy on tenor, **Howard Masters** on lead, **Sterling Berry** on bari, and **Frank Maranzano** singing bass.

Here, in Gordy's words, is what happened on their visit to the Clintondale Schools:

Our quartet was bowled over by the response of not only the students, but also of the teaching staff. It was our plan and intention to present two demonstrations of Barbershop harmony to

the youngsters, one for the senior high, and later the junior high.

As it turned out, we were also called upon to entertain the office staff, the administration office personnel and a flock of teachers in the teachers lounge....

We had so many in the lounge, it makes one wonder who was watching the kids! In each and every instance, we sang, and then had the listeners sing with us, using songs familiar to all...Star Spangled Banner, America The Beautiful, It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas and Silent Night, etc.

Again, much to our surprise, we had individual teachers ask to sing a song with us on their own. In the classroom demonstrations, the youngsters also joined in on these songs in groups. We sang for them, they sang for us, we all sang together...they appeared to be thrilled....

I know we were! The high school group consisted with about 30 young men and women (mostly women), the junior group numbered about 40 boys and girls, not all being members of the music class. In our closing

classroom statements we explained to the music teachers and students how they could learn more about Barbershop harmony by accessing the SPEBSQSA website and/or The Sweet Adeline's website.

Your Pioneer YMIH Team has been busy attending the **Michigan Music Educators National Convention**



and Workshop that was held January 15-17 in Ann Arbor. I am writing this prior to the event, so will give you more information on this in the next issue.

What I really need from all of you fine Pioneer Barbershoppers is to stir up some interest in your local high schools and get the young male students to attend our **Harmony Happening** on

March 12th and 13th.

This is an experience that the young singers will never forget as they will be taught by a trio of clinicians that are the best of Pioneer Barbershop. They will also get to spend a little time with **Power Play** and also be on the **Lansing Chapter Show** that Saturday

Night.

This show is held at the Wharton Center on the **Michigan State University** campus and we encourage all of you to come to this show and support Lansing Chapter as well as our YMIH efforts. If any of the teachers are interested, please have them contact me by email at PDSing@peoplepc.com.

Understanding value, purpose, values leads to direction

By Bruce A. Smith
Pioneer District President

Why should I care about things like value, purpose, and values?

I just want to sing Barbershop. I love the harmony. I enjoy the good fellowship. Ringing chords causes the hair on my arm to tingle.

My answer is: If you are concerned about the future of Barbershop, and unhappy, if not down right scared, when you see fewer men on the risers and older men standing beside you, then it's time to care about these words and their importance to our hobby.

Let's explore the importance of these words:

Value - We place levels of importance on what we as humans need and do. As **Abraham Maslow** noted, we seek to meet basic needs first.

He called these "Physiological Needs" and listed



such items as food and shelter followed by safety and security. As these survival needs are met, we seek to fulfill "Growth Needs." Needs that help define and differentiate us. Needs like belonging, love, affiliation with others, acceptance, self-esteem, and to gain approval and recognition. Our Barbershop hobby helps us meet these growth needs.

To understand what could bring others to Barbershop, we need to ask ourselves what it is about Barbershop that we value. We need to dig deeper than saying we like the harmony.

We need to ask why we like it. What does it do for us? As we begin to understand what we value, we can craft information for others that explains how their needs can be met through Barbershop.

Purpose - Great organizations, like our Barbershop Harmony Society, have a deep and noble purpose, a purpose that seeks a greater good, a purpose that generates excitement and commitment, and, a purpose that tells everyone why we exist.

Have we defined our

purpose? If you answered yes, can you state it? Is it exciting? Is it noble and compelling? Does it draw men to our organization?

Values- These are the concepts that announce "How" we will act. Our deeply held beliefs that define what we consider right and important. Once defined, they provide the roadmap for our actions and choices.

Values must be plainly stated so that it is clear to all when they are being lived and applied. Our organizational values must be in line with our individual values if they are to be accepted by us.

Direction - **Rob Hopkins**, our incoming Society president, has asked us to consider "Who we are now, and who we would like to become?"

Quoting **Marcel Proust**, he noted that "The only real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes."

This challenges every member, quartet, Chapter, and District to look through "New Eyes" and explore and define who they are currently and who they want to become.

Seeking our direction, our

vision of the future won't be easy, but it is something we must do together, and must begin now before we get older and fewer. One way to take the first step is to ask what you seek and receive from Barbershop.

For each item, ask "Why is that important?" and make a list.

There are no wrong answers. Follow your individual exploration with a discussion at a Chapter meeting. You'll be amazed at the similarities, and you will have begun the Real Voyage of Discovery.

On a more personal note: Please join with me in thanking **Al Bonney** for all that he has accomplished as District president, and all that he will accomplish through his service in the Pioneer District and our Society.

We are fortunate to have this tireless worker with insight, understanding, and drive within our ranks. Pioneer District thanks Al and Joan for their outstanding service.



Huron Valley's new fund-raising/fun-raising notion: How about a Singing Christmas Card party?

By Jim Ryan

The **Huron Valley Chorus** gathered on Sunday, December 21, during this festive Christmas season, for its inaugural **Singing Christmas Card** party. Approximately 15 chorus members and would-be carolers

gathered at member **Jeff Alden's** home in the Ann Arbor area.

The purpose? This was our opportunity to call and deliver Singing Christmas Cards to almost 30 surprised and elated friends, family, and supporters of the **Huron Valley Harmonizers** at a very reasonable cost.

As this was the maiden voyage of this seasonal performance, the chorus stayed with the traditional, "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" as the message delivered in our season's greetings.

As usual, food and beverages, stories and laughter, quickly turned this gathering into a Christmas party

with singing, conversations, and even a tree decorating.

As we began to dial numbers and deliver the singing Christmas Cards, it seemed that the pile of requests began to grow (we didn't want to miss someone).

While we did not expect this to be a major Fund-raiser this year, limiting our sales by targeting our own chorus members for the orders, we did want to "get our feet wet" to see if this would be a future fund-raising opportunity. It was also a great way to send well wishes to those close to us at Christmas.

With such a successful evening, it is likely that the Huron Valley Chorus will add this as a new tradition to the holiday festivities.

Frank Fortier(Lead)	Tom Smeltzer (Bass)
ENTERTAINMENT IN FOUR PART HARMONY	
IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD	
A Barbershop Quartet (SPEBSQSA)	
Jim Grogan (Tenor)	Mike Proffitt (Baritone)
(313) 881-1465	

PLANNING FOR SUCCESS

By Doran McTaggart

Having a successful 2004 doesn't just happen by accident. It takes a concerted effort by many dedicated people to achieve the worthwhile goals that will make 2004 a memorable year.



Both the **Music Leadership Team** and the **Chapter Board** need to formulate the plans for success.

The **Music Leadership Team** planning should be completed before the Chapter yearly programming takes place.

A Five Year Plan can be a real advantage in giving a long-term direction to the music program and pin-point where you want to be at a future date.

The planning for 2004 will stress choosing show tunes, competition songs, the current repertoire, selecting new music and learning tapes, providing for quartet and chorus coaching, and planning for purposeful retreats to move the Chapter forward musically.

All of these are worthwhile endeavours. Support of Young Men In Harmony programs in our schools is always a win-win undertaking.

Singing in the community in a chorus or quartet makes the rehearsals meaningful, is an enjoyable experience and lets the people in our own hometown know we are part of them. Preparing a budget to present to the Chapter Board will ensure that the music program is on a firm financial footing.

The **Chapter Board Yearly Planning Meeting** will include all of the events your Chapter plans to do throughout the year from January 1st to December 31st. Start with the big things like your Annual Show and the District Conventions (April 23-25 and October 15-17).

Include learning opportunities like **Harmony Round-Up** (May 14-16), **Harmony College** in August and COTS next January. Plan two Membership Drives at appropriate times so new members can participate in your Show and Conventions.

Inter-Chapter events such as **Canada Night**, **Uncle Sam Night**, the **Send-Off Show**, **Jug Night** and a myriad of local Chapter happenings ensure membership enjoyment. Do include social events that include family members such as Picnics, Fish Fries, Installation Nights, Past President Nights, Christmas Parties, Golf Outings, Campouts, Corn Roasts, Pig Roasts, etc.

Above all don't forget to plan for exciting Chapter Meeting Nights. If it's going to happen at all, it will happen at the Chapter Meeting.

Your **Chapter Counselor** has the material and human resources that can be of great benefit to you. Include him in your planning so he can help your Chapter become the best it can be.

We have many interesting and unique Chapters in our District and I am confident that your Chapter Leadership working with your Chapter Counselor will ensure a successful year. Give him a call today. You'll be glad that you did.

Muskegon aids young singers

By Frank Scott

Our 63rd annual show, "A Barbershop Hit Parade," last October 11 went very well with good performances by the chorus and quartets, a good audience and an increase in ticket sales over last year.

Cheers to all the Chapter members and friends who contributed to making it a success. We had a special performance by 11 high school singers from Mona Shores and Reeths-Puffer high schools.

The Chapter helped send this group to the **Harmony Explosion Camp** at LaCross, WI. this past summer. The audience really appreciated the **Four Man Fishing Tackle Choir** who were in great form and sang a few new tunes.

The Afterglow at the Doo Drop Inn was well attended, with good food and a performance by a high school quartet from Mona Shores high school. The boys are only sophomores. They have enjoyed singing Barbershop style songs and plan to continue singing as a quartet.

The Chapter chorus did not compete at the fall contest but plans to compete next spring. The Christmas chorus has brought in some new voices and we hope some will be joining the Chapter.

We are slowly recruiting younger and better singers which makes for better singing and a more optimistic outlook. We hope to continue this direction. We sang at the lighting

of the Community Christmas tree at Hackley park on Nov.29. We have five other performances scheduled for our Christmas Chorus including two performances at senior citizen homes.

We will have a new secretary next year as lead, George Doyle, assumes that job. **Charles Kitchka**, last year's president, will move back to Chapter development VP.

Chapter Development VP **John Tyler** moves back to Chapter president. **Mart Bomers** is our Music VP. and **Barry Hall** continues as Treasurer. Several other members are on the board and will be appointed to other Chapter tasks. We have officers enrolled in the January 04 COTS. We are very pleased that **Joel Prather** has agreed to lead the chorus for another year.

Last summer, **Keith Clark**, a former member of the Muskegon Chapter died in Rochester NY where he had lived for the past 30-some years. Keith played saxophone in several local bands and he fell in love with Barbershop singing the first meeting he attended in Muskegon.

He sang in local quartets and after moving to Rochester he held about every office in the Chapter and District. He was an instructor at many COTS sessions. He was one of the most enthusiastic Barbershoppers I ever met. "Happiness Is a Barbershop Quartet" was the decal on his station wagon. We will miss his visits to the Muskegon Chapter.

Holland to sing with symphony

By Art Lane

John Ellis, new president of the **Holland Windmill Chapter**, has started his term with a survey. He's asking members to tell him what they want out of their Chapter. And what they're willing to put into it.

Sixteen acts performed at a Chapter talent night put together by **Maestro Ken Cook**. They included vaudeville routines, poetry readings, voice solos, five Barbershop quartets and several musical groups featuring singers along with string bass and guitars.

The Windmill Chorus didn't say "Humbug" when the **Holland Civic Theater** decided to put on its Christmas show, "Mr. Scrooge." in the Park Theater, where the chorus usually practices.

Instead, the singers and the actors traded theaters for four weeks. And at a special fund-raising performance of "Mr. Scrooge." the chorus sang carols before the show to an appreciative audience.

The chorus also went caroling in downtown Holland with **Matt Van Maastricht** and **Bill McAndrew** directing.

Now the chorus is working on Singing Valentine sales and preparing for a March 14 performance with the **Grand Rapids Symphonic Band**.

INDIANA

Continued from Page 1.

Prior to everyone's arrival on Friday night, chairmen **Duane Henry** and **Terry Silke** drew names from a hat to form quartets, and also drew the song that was assigned to the quartet.

At the opening meeting, quartet "draws" were handed out, and 27 quartets scurried off to rehearse their song for the 9:30 contest (since there was a shortage of some parts, a number of guys sang in two quartets). Also, somewhere along in here, I should mention that I opted out of the quartet draw.

The time that it takes to be Society President plus sing in two quartets and a chorus didn't leave enough time to add eight songs to my memory bank. I did sing in the chorus, however – more later on that.

At 9:30, the 27 quartets sang "their song", and were judged. The top eight were to go on to

Saturday night's contest. Nine made the cut for Saturday. Either there was a tie, or the judges had trouble counting? More on Saturday night later.

Saturday afternoon was spent in a chorus rehearsal. Imagine singing in an 85 man chorus where every guy knew his part well enough to sing it in a quartet!! We were directed by four top-rate directors – another great experience.

Saturday night was a show. There were two or three registered quartets in the chorus, and a few more invited, including a top Harmony, Inc., quartet **Hot Topics**, and the **Louisville Times** chorus.

The 500-seat auditorium at a nearby school was almost sold out – helping to defray the costs of the weekend. Another great emotional experience in the best and largest chorus most of us have ever sung in.

Then back to the hotel for the quartet finals. The order of

appearance was drawn. As a quartet came on stage, they drew the name of one of the eight songs from the hat, and had to sing that song for the judges. There were two conditions: they couldn't sing the same song they sang the night before, and they could sing a different song if they felt the one they drew was too difficult – with an automatic disqualification.

The evening finished with pizza and beverages, still a part of the total \$125 package each of us paid, which included our room, two dinners and one breakfast. (Duane Henry is one heck of a negotiator!)

Singing went on till 3 or 4 in the morning, or so I'm told. Mark, Dave and I chatted all the way home about the weekend, and how we could bring this to Pioneer. Stay tuned for some future ideas.

Since 1995, when the Society Board voted to change the structure, I've been concerned about the lack of emphasis on



quarteting in the Society. My main goal in going to IHB was to watch what was happening and try to find a way to expand such an event across the Society. On top of that, I got a wonderful bonus – it was a gr-r-r-r-r-r-reat weekend!

Quartet Champions Association: Meet Dave Drouillard

By Al Fisk

Our annual meeting will be in January. Stay tuned for our latest happenings.

Let's feature, in his own words, another QCA member: **Dave Drouillard**.

Dave is a self-professed "Barbershop brat". His father, **Chuck**, was long-time director of the **Floral City Chorus** in **Monroe**. Dave grew up listening to great quartets from the 70's.

The Vagabonds, **The Gentleman's Agreement**, **The Bluegrass Student Union** and **Grandma's Boy's** were among his favorites.

Dave joined the Chorus in Monroe on his 15th birthday. Not long after, his younger brother **Dan** and his best friend **Willy Scott** formed a doo-wop trio called **The Tiers**.

The Tiers eventually picked up electric guitars and drums plus a couple more members, and formed a rock band quite appropriately name **Chaos** (Just like **Hanson**, only they had talent and got famous, and Chaos didn't).

As Chaos was wrapping up their storied career, Dave was singing with the **Washtenaw County Friends of the Chord**, when he met Scott. Scott mentioned that he may be looking for a new bass for **The Ivy League** after their summer stint at Cedar Point. Dave mentioned that he just happened to know one that would be adequate.

Dave sang with The Ivy League for eight years, winning the **Pioneer District Championship** in 1985. The Ivy League went on to qualify for international four times, their best (and first ironically) finish being 24th place. After being on 200+ shows and singing all over the country, The Ivy League hung up their pitch pipe (and superhero, cub scout, nerd, straight jacket outfits, just to name a few) in 1991.

After The Ivy League's demise, Scott and Dave formed a new quartet within the **City Light Chorus** called **Gangbusters**. That quartet ended when Scott moved to Hawaii to direct the **Honolulu Chorus**.

Since then, Dave has sung with, and has been dumped by some of the finest singers in the Pioneer District.

In late 1997, he joined a mixed a cappella ensemble called **Fanfare**, a group of Barbershoppers and Sweet Adelines that enjoyed singing a variety of musical styles. Dave also sang in a smaller group formed from Fanfare called **Kindred Spirits**.

Kindred Spirits began by singing contemporary Christian music but has since branched off to include other styles. Fanfare has since gone their separate ways, but Kindred Spirits still exists now as **Vocal Montage**.

Dave found it necessary to leave Kindred Spirits in 1990 to join Dan and Willy again in

a Christian band called **Heaven Sown**. "That was one of the toughest decisions I've ever had to make" says Dave. "Kindred Spirits was such an awesome group to sing with, and some of the finest people I've ever been associated with". They managed to replace him with one of Dave's bass heroes; **Norm Thomson** (Vagabonds).

Heaven Sown Ministries (www.heavensown.com) is a musical ministry that performs a wide variety of styles. They have a rock band; complete with large drum kit and Marshall Amplifiers.

For smaller venues and church services, they can go "unplugged" bringing only their acoustic guitars and light percussion. They also perform as an acappella group called "Shout", singing R&B style acappella and maybe some day a Barbershop arrangement or two.

In the daytime, Dave works (or so he says) at **United Brass Mfg.**, a company that produces brass fittings and valves. He wears many hats at United Brass, Engineer, Tooling manager, Machinist and ISO 9001 manager.

Dave's other hobbies include bench rest rifle shooting, gunsmithing, fly tying and fishing, guitar building, and computers. He has an associate's degree in manufacturing technology from Monroe Community College.

How you can make a difference to your Chapter: 100 ways you can help out the men...

1. Bring a guest to rehearsal once a year.
2. Show up early and help set up the risers.
3. At the end of rehearsal, help take down the section of risers you are standing on.
4. Thank the director for all of his/her effort.
5. Thank your chorus administration for all of their work.
6. Bring in doughnuts on your "Barbershop anniversary" night - bring in a special treat for after rehearsal.
7. Don't talk on the risers and don't let others talk on the risers.
8. Smile. Act like you're enjoying your hobby and show it (let the director know you're "really" there).
9. Take your quartet to retirement homes and share your hobby. Family members are often there visiting and recruiting new members is part of your performance.
10. Volunteer to do a little more than you really want to in fundraising or committee work.
11. Take your camera to chorus functions and turn in the pictures to your history book/scrapbook person.
12. Subscribe to the Harmonet and print out hints & suggestions that look applicable to your chorus and pass them on.
13. Talk to two or three people (before, during break or after rehearsal) that you normally don't talk to.
14. When you are at social gatherings, quartet performances, etc., always talk about your Chapter, you never know where your next guest might be.
15. Surprise an ill member with a card or a phone call. Call an absent member and let him know you missed him.
16. Offer to clean the Chapter's storage facility or update the inventory.
17. Keep your comments to yourself concerning choreography and costumes, espically when on the risers.
18. Learn your part (words, notes, choreography, stage presentaion) early so you can help the slow learners & new people.
19. Offer to car-pool with others when possible.
20. Learn to use a pitch-pipe and then memorize the keys to songs in the chorus repertoire.
21. Go to Harmony College and other regional/District/international education events whenever possible.
22. Offer to help the newsletter/bulletin editor with whatever you can do.
23. Write an article for your newsletter/bulletin.
24. Review a Barbershop show or album for your newsletter/bulletin.
25. Volunteer to work with an experienced member to learn a new Chapter administration skill.
26. Start a Chapter quartet. Encourage the formation of Chapter quartets.
27. Offer to help an officer.
28. Take a non-meeting night to help another baritone (or lead, or tenor, or bass) learn his/her part.
29. Don't come to rehearsal with a contagious sore throat or anything else you could spread around.
30. Be on the risers (or wherever you normally rehearse) 5 minutes early and eager to start.
31. Offer to help any standing committee in which you are interested.
32. Videotape the chorus in rehearsal.
33. Turn in your recordings to your section leader anytime prior to the deadline.
34. Volunteer to do anything.
35. Don't wait to be asked to do a job, volunteer. How will anyone know that you're interested if you don't express your desire to get involved?
36. Bring a portable humidifier or vaporizer along to contests to help keep you and your roommates' vocal apparatuses hydrated.
37. Sing everyday! Use proper technique of breathing and vocalizing regularly to the point that good singing is natural for you. \
38. Return from breaks on time.
39. Bring a tape recorder to rehearsal - and use it.
40. Teach a tag.
41. Write a tag and then teach it.
42. Contribute to your Chapter's charity fund.
43. Don't invite prospective members to a chorus rehearsal where the chorus will be spending three solid hours on the risers. Varied meetings/rehearsals are the key to pleasing everyone.
44. Learn show music quickly so it can be polished to contest standards.
45. Volunteer to help with another area of "show business" such as script writing, costuming, staging, emcee work, hosting, afterglow, etc.
46. Sell show tickets to as many friends, family members and strangers as possible.
47. Practice your facial expressions in a mirror.
48. Thank your ladies auxiliary.
49. Take all side conversations out of the rehearsal hall.
50. Man the guest registration table with a smile and a section buddy to help the guest(s).
51. When flyers are made for Chapter events (shows, membership drives, etc.), take a few and commit to posting them in various places around town.
52. Sponsor a young person to an International, District or Chapter youth outreach camp.
53. Learn your words, notes, choreography, interpretation to the songs the chorus is singing. Be the singer in your section that others look to for help.
54. Start your mental warm-up in the car on the way to rehearsal.
55. Offer to drive potential members to Chapter meetings/rehearsals.
56. Take care of your chorus outfits and accessories, be sure they are always cleaned and pressed according to whatever directions, so you and your chorus look your best and they last a long time.
57. Put a picture of your chorus up in your office and talk to anyone who asks about it.
58. Save those "important questions" of the director/section leader/your neighbor, until the break or after rehearsal.
59. Make coffee/tea or whatever for breaktime.
60. Without fail, use the director's signal for the pitch as your cue to mentally and physically prepare to sing.
61. Mark music manuscript changes/presentaion notes in pencil on your own music, these things are generally not cast in stone.
62. Show the person up front that you're paying attention by your face and body language.
63. Rehearse your songs at least once a week at home.
64. Wear your name badge.
65. Organize a picnic, golf outing, card game, etc., for the Chapter.

Continued on Page 8.



Want to really make a difference? Here are 100 ways you can take part in your Chapter...

Continued from page 7

Bring a gift to rehearsal to raffle off as a quickie fundraiser for the Chapter.

66. Review the music to your old songs periodically, to make sure you're still singing all the notes correctly.

67. Sell one or more ads to businesses you patronize.

68. Offer to lead physical warm-ups.

69. Find a new member and let him "fifth-wheel" with you (Note: Fifth-wheeling is by invitation ONLY).

70. Greet a guest by name when it's obvious that you haven't read his/her name tag.

71. Try to refrain from joking, carping or otherwise interrupting while on the risers.

72. Realize that learning your part means learning all the interpretive planning, not just words and notes.

73. Take voice lessons or a voice class.

74. Perform every time you sing,

even if the only audience is the wall. This will help the director and coaches to correct problems and give everyone around you a burst of energy.

75. Bring back as many handouts from educational weekends/functions as possible for the chorus administration/music team to go over.

76. Offer to help a member of you Chapter with his dues or give a monetary gift to your treasurer to be used for a member who needs some help.

77. Encourage local youth to start a "harmony club. Form a high school boys or girls Barbershop chorus. Assist local high school music directors with education of Barbershop harmony.

78. Send a picture and article to your local newspaper.

79. If you find yourself with some free time, call your president and offer to help.

80. Donate a Barbershop tape or CD to your local library.

81. Send a Barbershop CD to a

local radio station.

82. Help set up blackboard/flip chart/dry erase board, whatever is used to teach craft during rehearsal.

83. Offer to coach quartets, teach music theory or give one-on-one vocal production instruction.

84. When offered a stick of gum or breath mint - accept it.

85. Stay "positive."

86. Learn to read music.

87. Lend a fellow member a Barbershop tape or CD that they haven't heard.

88. Form an ad-hoc/pick-up quartet and sing for the chorus.

89. Always show up prepared for a performance, correct uniform/costume, correct make-up (if applicable), warmed up and ready to perform.

90. Offer to help build props for your annual show.

91. Support all of the Barbershop organizations (SAI, SPEBSQSA, HI) and fellow Chapters/choruses by attending every show and event in your

area you can. We are all in this together!

92. When travelling, try to visit a Chapter meeting where ever you happen to be.

93. Be mindful of members individual personal lives, everyone can only give what they personally can.

94. Take what you can get from each member and encourage him to be happy, relax and enjoy the hobby.

95. Support youth outreach however you can/

96. Take your quartet to a local high school and give a presentation on Barbershop harmony.

97. Never give anything less than your best effort every time you sing.

98. Give "100 Ways You Can Take Part in Your Chapter" to your bulletin editor.

99. Distribute "100 Ways You Can Take Part in Your Chapter."

100. Keep the Whole World Singing and Harmonize the World!

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Plus five more!!

Pioneer needs more judges: become one...

By Al Fisk
Pioneer C&J VP

We are looking for guys to get into the judging program. Pioneer is woefully short of certified judges. If you have any interest in this, please contact me.



The next three-year cycle will begin in August for the class of '07. I will be putting out information on the net as well as in the Troubadour regarding the time, talent, and financial demands. Stay tuned...

We'll be incorporating a couple of changes in our next contest (April in Gaylord,

hmmm...sounds like a song title...).

In order to alleviate some of the confusion regarding the **Senior Quartet Championships** we will be moving the Senior District Quartet Championship to the spring while leaving the International Prelims in the fall.

This also puts us in line with other Districts. So, all you senior quartet competitors, you now have two shots at competing.

We'll also revise the chorus plateau championship. This gives the smaller groups an incentive to go after a title. Based on input from other DVP of C&J's from around the country, here is the new format:

Plateau awards will be given in

the spring contest (double panel).

A chorus is placed in a plateau based on its previous score whether it was in the previous fall Inter. Prelims, in the previous year's District Championship, or in either contest from the past three years.

Average scores on multiple contests are not used. Any chorus that has not competed in more than three years automatically gets placed in plateau 4. I have the scores on file, and they are on the Pioneer site.

Plateau 4 - scores at 600 or less (or not competing for over three years)

Plateau 3 - scores at 601 - 700.

Plateau 2 - scores at 701 - 800.

Plateau 1 - scores at 801 and above.

The District Championship

Chorus would not be the plateau winner. Whichever group in that plateau that finished second would be the plateau winner (like the Gold, Silver, and Bronze divisions from years back).

Thus, here are our choruses in their respective plateaus going into our next contest in Gaylord:

Plateau 4: **Monroe, Gaylord, Rochester and Alpena.**

Plateau 3: **Holland, Grosse Pointe, Windsor, Hillsdale, Wayne, (Saginaw-Bay, from spring 2003), (Muskegon, from fall 2002), (and Flint, from spring 2002)**

Plateau 2: **Michiana Metro, Traverse City, Motor City Metro, Lansing, Battle**

Creek, Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids, Pontiac and Gratiot County.

Plateau 1: **Macomb, Detroit-Oakland, and Huron Valley.**

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Windsor Report: McDermott is the mayor of Essex

By Bill Strong

The past year was good for the **Windsor Chapter** as we increased membership and improved the quality of our Chorus as evidenced by our being the "Most Improved Chorus" at the Fall Convention.

Hats off to Director **Dan Bezaire** and also to our Chorus members. We look forward to being improved in the Spring.

Our new slate of Officers was installed at our Christmas party and we were so honored to have the ceremony performed by none other than Society President **Roger Lewis**. Roger had the pleasure of installing **Doran McTaggart** as President for 2004. This will be a significant year for our Chapter as we celebrate 60 years as a Chapter in this fine Society.

Many sing-outs have taken place in the last quarter, not the least of which was, the performance of our Chorus at the inauguration of one of our members, **Ron McDermott**, as **Mayor of the Town of Essex**. No one was more surprised than Ron as he was completely unaware. Good luck in your new job, Ron.

Windsor was well represented at **Canada Night** and what a great night it was. This event along with our **Uncle Sam** night are two very fine visitations and underscore the International scope of our Society.

Ron Gibb was unanimously chosen as our Chapter **Barbershopper of the Year** and was presented with this honor at our Christmas Party. Ron's many duties include Chapter Development which encompasses the **Young Men In Harmony** program. This award is very deserving to a guy who works so hard for his Chapter.

Thanks should also go out to **Bob Bell**, our out going President who did such a fine job of leading our members in 2003.

Big Hillsdale "Irving Berlin" show featuring Power Play will be May 23 at Sage Center

By Roger McCaskey

December was probably one of our busiest times, a time to pay back the community for their support of the chorus in the previous months. Our weekly commitments are two sing-outs a week however, this year it ended up being three.

Our **Singing Valentines** program is well under way with six quartets ready to cover most of the areas from where our members call home, Hillsdale, Coldwater, Jackson, Fremont Indiana, Charlotte, Hudson.

For those of you who missed out on our show and after-glow last year mark down this date: Sunday May 23, 2004 at 3:00, at **Hillsdale College's Sage Center**.

This year's theme is "Tribute to Irving Berlin" and our featured quartet will be **Power Play**. Tickets will be \$10 each for the show and \$12 for the afterglow, which will be held at the Curtis Dining Hall on the College Campus immediately following the show.

Afterglow tickets can only be purchased with show tickets. Information on the show and the chorus can be located on our web page "town and country chorus".

DOC's Canada Night draws 114

By Tom Uicker

The first Friday of November was **Canada Night** at **Detroit-Oakland**. We had 114 people attending from 10 Chapters. Eight mini-choruses competed for the **Old Oakland Bucket**, including two from Detroit-Oakland, two from **Windsor**, and at least one each from **Macomb** and **Huron Valley**.

Unfortunately, I don't have it in writing as to where the other two choruses called home. I believe they were a mixture from **Pontiac/Waterford**, **Wayne**, **Flint** and **Motor City Metro**.

Macomb's mini-chorus won the coveted prize this year. The mini-chorus competition was interspersed with gang singing and quartets including our judges, **Border Crossing** and **Night Shift**.

At Christmas, the Gentlemen Songsters did our annual caroling at Providence and Beaumont (Royal Oak) Hospitals. This year we also helped out at a benefit show put on by the **Providence Hospital Associate Choir** at the **Millennium Theatre**.

And we are busy preparing for our annual show on February 20 and 21. This time we feature **Gotcha** and **Chordiac Arrest**. You can find an ad for our show elsewhere in this bulletin.

Finally, I want to report our officers for 2004. Leading off with President **Herb Hebner**, we also have Membership VP **Don Jones**, Music VP **Jim Kunz**, Program VP **Paul Millis**, Secretary **Don Block**, Treasurer **Tom Uicker**, and members-at-large **John Balint**, **Dave Poling**, and **Bob Steiner**. They will be installed at a party in early January.

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Show goes on for Pontiac

By **John Cowlshaw**

Our 59th show has come and gone. We'll never forget the process of putting "The Big Chief Chorus Remembers the Ed Sullivan Show (...but our memory isn't very good!)" on the stage at the wonderful Clarkston High School Auditorium.

The late great **Chris Miller** started fleshing out the concept months ago, writing a script, selecting songs, and putting parody lyrics to "Darkness on the Delta." It was in rough form when Chris went in for surgery.

Then the Music committee took over and honed it, with the help of many people. Actors were auditioned and chosen. Stage antics were tried out and refined or eliminated. Ad kits were assembled and programs created.

At a critical stage, **Bruce Collins** agreed to see the process through as interim Director. Quartets arranged old jingles harmonically. In the meantime, **Pete Mazzara** took up leadership where Chris had left off and worked on the script, praised us and cudgeled us, kept the whole process rolling along (I don't know how he had time for anything else in his life. Note: check with Hermine!)

A new quartet got baptized – **Local Color**. Ex-band leader **Lew Mahacek** got the rust off some old tooters and pounders to form a house band. Actors were researching and studying their characters for accuracy – **Doug Corliss** nailed all those old Ed Sullivan postures. **Neal Braun's** clown outfit was remarkable.

Pete as Elvis and **Art Carinci** as Frank Sinatra brought the house down (and brought a few hysterical fans with them, obviously). And **Jeff Doig** was everywhere. Chris was right on target about the nostalgic value of old jingles – Brylcream, Coca Cola, Ajax, Faygo, and Gillette. **Gene Downie** pulled it all together as show chairman.

The thousand or so ticket-buyers obviously loved it. Wasn't it wonderful that we could tell potential ticket-buyers that they would hear the #1 quartet in the world?

The only downside was that **John Smith's** treatment for cancer left him unable to participate.

Almost a dozen new and "re-new" singers have joined us this season in the Christmas chorus. **Roger Holm**, Walt DeNio, and **Bruce Brede** have arranged the singouts, at 13 different venues (at last count). **Bill Holmes** had our Christmas song books ready, and **Bruce Collins** and **Dick Johnson** handled the directing.

Huron Valley:
 Something old,
 something new

By **Jerry Mangona**

The **Huron Valley**

Harmonizers is kicking off the new year with a new philanthropic endeavor called, **Healthy Postures, Healthy Voices**.

This project, headed by **Darrell Richmond**, teams up the Chapter with a local chiropractor, named **Kathy Guerreso**. Kathy will demonstrate trigger point therapy and provide posture analysis for the singers. The fee collected for Kathy's service will be donated to the **Big Brothers-Big Sisters of Washtenaw County**.

Continuing with the tradition of the Chapter, the Harmonizers took two days to go on a Christmas caroling marathon to retirement homes and adult living centers in the metro Ann Arbor area.

This is one of the Chapter's favorite activities, and bringing brightness and color into the community is time well spent.

In a new direction, the Chapter is taking a cue from the Society's Valentine tradition and offering Singing Christmas Cards via telephone for the holiday.

An afternoon of

camaraderie for the membership will culminate in voices singing telegrams over the speakerphone, hopefully adding joy to many this season!

Of course, December would not be complete without the **Huron Valley Harmonizer Holiday Show!** Holiday Harmony was a very successful performance, featuring the high-energy, tight-harmony sounds of **Altar Ego**, a gospel trio hailing from the westside of Michigan.

As well, **Novelty Shop**, an award-winning Sweet Adeline quartet brought the crowd down with their unique combination of comedic talents and their beautiful blend of rich sound. The show was directed by **Lynne Peirce** and was chaired by **Dave Herge** and **Tom Peirce**.

As the end of 2003 comes near, the Huron Valley Chapter counts its many blessings. Membership growth and improvements in vocal production made up the recipe for a fulfilling year for the Harmonizers.

So much is happening, and it's happening very quickly! We're glad to be a part of great District and look forward to another successful year with all of you in '04!

Looking to add spice and sparkle to your next show?

Then get on board with the **Four Man Fishin' Tackle Choir** and let us entertain the folks in your "neck of the woods."

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HARMONY HAPPENING !

PRESENTED BY THE PIONEER District Barbershop HARMONY SOCIETY

WHAT: A learning experience on the joy of singing close harmony. Proper vocal and learning techniques taught by expert clinicians Jamie Carey, Kenneth Gibson and Vicki Gibson. This HS chorus will learn two songs and perform them on the Saturday Night Show. This will be a part of the opening act for the Lansing Chapter Barbershop Show. Our gold medalist quartet, Power Play, will be with the group on Saturday and they are headlining the show.

WHEN: March 12-13, 2004 Begins at 4PM Friday and concludes Saturday Night after the show. Friday Night accommodations at the Comfort Inn in Okemos.

COST: This program has been subsidized by a grant from Harmony Foundation, so the cost is only \$35 per student, teacher, or chaperone. This includes one night's lodging at the Comfort Inn (two per room), a pizza party on arrival Friday, and all meals on Saturday. A few scholarships are available, so in case of financial need please inquire about these.

WHAT WE NEED FROM YOU: Encourage your sons, grandsons or any other HS age boy to attend this fun event. Start planning for this now as we have a limited number of openings. Call or email and request your enrollment packages.

FOR ENROLLMENT INFORMATION CONTACT:

Bob Wisdom (248) 879-7083 robwwis@aol.com

Or

Dave Anderson (586) 286-4860 pdsing@peoplepc.com

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Class I 9:00 - 10:30

- Woodshedding
- Tags

Saturday, May 15

Class II 9:00 - 12:00

- Vocal Techniques / Vocal Production
- Fundamentals of Music
- Sight Reading for Barbershoppers

Class III 2:00 – 5:00

- Sight Reading for Barbershoppers
- Vocal Techniques / Vocal Production
- Fundamentals of Music
- Standing Ovation Training Session, Part One

Class IV 7:00 – 8:00

- How To Be A Great MC
- Repertoire
- Standing Ovation Training Session, Part Two
- Judging Program, Part One

Class V 8:00 – 9:00

- How To Be A Great MC (*not* a continuation of Class IV)
- Repertoire
- Standing Ovation Training Session, Part Three
- Judging Program, Part Two

Sunday, May 16

Class VI 9:00-11:00

- | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------|--------------------------|------|--------------------------|
| How to be a great | Lead | <input type="checkbox"/> | Bari | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Tenor | <input type="checkbox"/> | Bass | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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APRIL 23-25, 2004

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**SPOUSE/GUEST NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

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(Area Code)

**COMPETING QUARTET? YES NO QUARTET NAME _____

**COMPETING CHORUS? YES NO CHORUS NAME _____

**CHAPTER NAME _____

**VOICE PART: TENOR LEAD BARITONE BASS

EARLY REGISTRATION: \$25.00 PER PERSON

LATE REGISTRATION: \$30.00 PER PERSON

EARLY REGISTRATION MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN April 8, 2004

FEE FOR _____ PERSONS @ \$25.00/\$30.00 TOTAL REGISTRATION FEE: _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: PIONEER DISTRICT SPEBSQSA, INC.

OR: MASTER CARD OR VISA NUMBER _____ EXPIRATION DATE _____

MAIL CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM AND FEE TO:

Robert Smith Jr.

46210 Copper Lock Lane

Macomb, MI 48044-6202

All event passes will be at the convention registration desk, located in the TREETOPS RESORT(Headquarters). Partial registrations can be purchased at the convention registration desk or Gaylord Evangelical Free Church, Gospel Center, Multipurpose Room: Friday 7:00 PM- \$15.00; Saturday 11:30 AM-\$15.00; Saturday Evening 6:45-\$15.00. Children 12 and under 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. _____

2004 PIONEER DISTRICT SPRING CONVENTION

April 23-25, 2004

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 CTB if you do not receive your confirmation within 3 weeks.
- * Reservations accepted only at the CTB via mail, or fax.

- * There are limited number of rooms available at the headquarters hotel and they are reserved on a first come, first served basis
- * Reservation request must be received no later than March 19, 2004.

Please mail, or fax form directly to:
Gaylord Area Convention & Tourism Bureau
 P.O. Box 3069 * 101 W. Main St., Gaylord, MI 49734
 Fax: 989-732-7990 * Phone: 989-732-6333
www.gaylordmichigan.net

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 are per night and do not include Rooms are available on a first come, first serve basis.

Treetops Resort: (Headquarters)

Inn & Chalets, 1 or 2 people \$69 _____

Inn & Chalets, 3 or 4 people \$79 _____

Lodge Rooms King or Queen \$99 _____

Best Western Alpine Lodge - \$69.00 _____

Quality Inn - \$55.95 _____

Otsego Club -

Tyrol Lodge-Standard Rooms \$82.00 _____

Blue Spruce & Loft Value Rooms \$55.00 _____

Hampton Inn - \$59.95 _____

Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____ Number of Rooms _____

Type of Room 1 Bed 2 Beds

Special Requests Barrier Free 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!

2004 CALENDAR: Upcoming events

January 3-4

COTS - Lansing

January 16

Uncle Sam Night, Windsor

January. 25-February. 1

Mid-Winter Convention, Biloxi, MS

February 20-21

Detroit-Oakland Chapter Show

March 6

Wayne Chapter Show

March 12-13

Harmony Happening

March 13

Lansing Chapter Show

Kalamazoo Chapter Show

April 23-25

District Convention - Gaylord

May 1

Windsor Chapter Show

May 7

Holland Chapter Show

May 14-16

Harmony Round-Up

May 15

Grand Rapids Chapter Show

Huron Valley Chapter Show

May 22

Macomb Chapter Show

May 23

Hillsdale Chapter Show

June 27 - July 4

International Convention, Louisville, KY

September 18

Grosse Pointe Chapter show featuring 2002 Gold Medal Champs 4 Voices

October 15-17

District Convention - Kalamazoo

October 30

Rochester Chapter Show

November 5-7

Leadership Forum

Wayne Chapter, SPEBSQSA, Inc.
36500 Ann Arbor Trail
Livonia MI 48150

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An official publication of the Pioneer District Association of Chapters of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc.

Chapter Locations

