

The Troub



Enriching lives through singing and serving local communities



PIONEER DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

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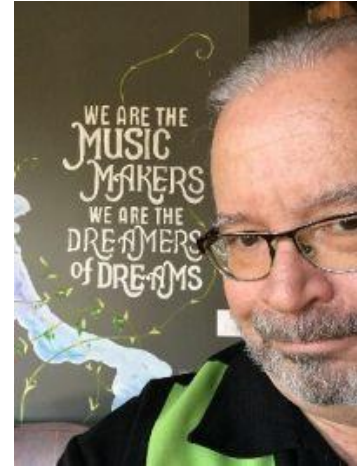
Pioneer District President

Let's Grow Together

Getting out and about, giving and gaining options

Make a Memory this Fall

September brings fall in Michigan... and I love it! Cool, crisp mornings and chilly evenings make it comfortable to be outside in a favorite flannel shirt with the day's first cup of coffee or in the evening with a favorite cocktail. I'm looking forward to a couple of northern Michigan weekends as Jenny and I join friends and family for our first overnights of 2020. I hope you are scheduling some fun this month. Please be safe and use the recommended precautions as you move about the town or country.



New Education Opportunities just for YOU!

I'm excited for the rollout of the new Pioneer Academy! This project will have many facets as it evolves. The first step is to begin to deliver education and training in a virtual way because of the public health environment. Face-to-face events will occur when it's prudent and as allowed. I encourage you to suggest topics and presentation ideas that our education team can explore. Check the information from Joelle Laginess, the district board's director of education, in this newsletter.

Pioneer Hall of Fame

The Pioneer District Hall of Fame committee has concluded its work on 2020 HOF submissions and is excited to announce two inductees this year. Without the fall convention, however, the announcement of the awards will be different this time. We'll share details soon.

District Board and House of Delegate Meetings Coming Up

The fall district board and House of Delegates meetings will take place via Zoom on the previously scheduled convention weekend. First notice has been sent to the chapter contacts and the second notice will go out as the meeting date approaches. I had held out setting the HOD meeting date hoping that it could be a face-to-face event. Alas, it's just not in the cards. A second House of Delegates meeting, required in our bylaws, will take place in early December.

Legacy Quartet Championship Event a Success

The Pioneer District joined other districts to fund the Legacy Quartet Championship. Funds covered the transfer of content from the original media form to digital format. That content is now preserved and available for all of us to enjoy forever. I didn't catch all of the content "live," but I've been catching up on it. It's been fun to follow the social media banter about great quartets and their impactful performances through the years. This event helps new barbershoppers understand our history.

Here's a link to one of my favorites, featuring [the Vagabonds](#). Warning! Once you get to this video, you'll find nearly 100 more Legacy Quartet Championship videos labeled "From the Archive." Enjoy!

NOTE: [BHS is accepting donations to continue digitizing additional archived content. If you would like to contribute, visit the BHS fundraising platform.](#)

What's Next

- I mentioned last month that the 2021 International Convention in Cleveland would have opportunities like no convention prior. I'm excited to share that there are many, many opportunities to experience a convention in your own way. You'll have all kinds of things to do and see. And yes, events will overlap, like most conventions of other organizations. You choose what suits you. Check out the [details on the BHS website](#).

SINGcerely!

Joe McDonald
District President

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

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Pioneer Academy to offer educational opportunities to choruses, quartets

Series of topics available, even virtually

Pioneer's Director of Education, Joelle Laginess, is working on a new project designed to help choruses and quartets improve. The Pioneer Academy will include a series of topics for you and your group to try right away, even virtually! The academy will be user friendly and include a variety of ways to learn.

How can you access it? Since you're subscribed to The Troub, it will show up in your email the same way. It also will be available through the Pioneer District Barbershoppers Facebook page.

Much of Joelle's inspiration for topics has come from connecting with or visiting choruses within the district. If you'd like to be a part of her outreach, please email her at

joelle.laginess@gmail.com

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Meet 2 more district board members

Your September and October Troubs will feature the final four Pioneer District board members. We hope you enjoy "meeting" them. They've all expressed eagerness to meet YOU at future conventions, shows, and Zoom meetings!

Note: Read the June, July, and August Troubs to meet [Roger Lewis, Joelle Laginess, and Zach Schroeder](#) - [Aaron Pollard, and Paul Ellinger](#) - as well as [Brandon Smith and Jim McMahan](#).

Sherry Knight



- Mount Pleasant resident and member of MountainTown Singers
- Co-founder, [Paladin Communications](#)

How long have you been on the Pioneer District Board?

1 year

How long have you been involved with barbershop singing?

5 years

How did you first get involved?

My husband and I first observed a group of men in black shirts and bright, lime green ties at holiday time in a Mount Pleasant tap room. I was thrilled when they sang — so much camaraderie, fun and energy.

We ran into the MountainTown Singers a couple more times and President Joe McDonald, as well as a few other members, connected with us. Pretty soon, they invited me to be one of the state's first community-at-large members. The Mount Pleasant chapter is family now.

Favorite barbershop memory:

*OK, I sometimes break rules. So, here are **two** favorites:*

Running into the MountainTown Singers with my cousin's son along with us. He was maybe 9 years old. Joe and John Scheide got him up singing, and he loved it.

Emceeding my first MountainTown show.

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

I believe music affects people in profoundly positive ways. Plus, the world needs more of the strong sense of family I see in barbershop. My original goals were to expand participation in barbershop across the Pioneer District and to advance Everyone in Harmony. Thanks to the pandemic, I've added a goal of sharing the barbershop energy virtually. Keep singing!

Chris Berry



- Monroe resident and director of the Monroe North, Floral City Harmonizers
- Executive Director of the Michigan Council of Teachers of Mathematics

- Sang in two quartets; each came in 2nd place

How long have you been on the Pioneer District Board?

I served as vice president of chorus director development from 2014 to 2016 and have been district treasurer since then.

How long have you been involved with barbershop singing?

24 years

How did you first get involved?

Friends and I went to hear the Floral City Harmonizers and decided that night to go to the next rehearsal/guest night a couple days later. I went, they didn't. I haven't missed more than a handful of rehearsals since then.

Favorite barbershop memory

One of my cherished memories is singing with the Great Lakes Chorus on stage with my son, Ryan. We were singing side-by-side, "Tell My Father," at the International competition in Orlando in 2018.

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

My life is blessed with all the friends I have made singing in the Pioneer District. I serve on the board to give back to the district for the opportunities I have had.

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Familiar with the quartet called "Pressed Cheese?"

Inside Barbershop Story from Paul Ellinger

Nearly 10 years ago, I was talking with neighbors who lived three doors down. The wife said she had a nephew who sings in a barbershop quartet.

Me: Really? Who is it? I may know them.

Neighbor: His name is Gordie Howe.

Me: You mean, like the hockey player?

Neighbor: Yes. That's his grandfather.

I was impressed by her relationship to Mr. Hockey, but I played it cool and asked if she knew the name of the nephew's quartet.

Neighbor, after pondering: I think they called themselves, "Pressed Cheese."

It took me a moment to process that (no pun intended), repeating it in my head and searching my internal database of groups.

Me: Could they maybe be called 'Prestige?'

Neighbor: Yeah! That's it!



A couple years later, I emceed a show that Prestige headlined. The story of "Pressed Cheese" — the 2011 Collegiate Quartet International Champions — brought an electrifying energy between the quartet and audience.

Ellinger is executive vice president of the Pioneer District board, and a member of the Huron Valley Harmonizers and Da Upper Yoopers Barbershop Chorus

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What I couldn't be ... I want you to be, Little Pal



Here's a bit of steal-your-heart history, thanks to the recent Legacy Quartet Championship, which gave us a view of barbershop harmony through the years.

This one features the Four Rascals and was performed live at the War Memorial Auditorium in Boston, during the Barbershop Harmony Society's 1965 International Convention. Little Pal was first released by Al Jolson in 1929.

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