Welcome Jim Troeger!
The Director Search Committee recommended, the Executive Board approved, and Jim Troeger agreed, to serve as our Director through Spring Contest.

AROUND THE PATCH

MEMBERSHIP (at 52)

Renewals: Fred DeVries (2), Wayne Chene (3), John Cowlishaw (5), Bill Holmes (6), Chuck Murray (9), Jeff Doig (12), Bob Marshall (14), Dan Valko (15), Mike Frye (16), Tom Blackstone (17), Stanley Mersino (20), Bill Pascher (61)

Birthdays: March: Ted Prueter (9th), Don Sheridan (12th), Fred DeVries (18th), Bruce LaMarte (18th), Dan Valko (19th), Tom Blackstone (22nd), Don Carrier (23rd), Bill Holmes (25th); April: Gayle Mohler (2nd).

BSOM – February – Ross Ensign, for his work on CD’s and tapes and other work on the music committee, his quartetting, and all-round contributions.

Illnesses: Bill Holmes has undergone treatment for prostate cancer.

From the Prez:

Congratulations and Thank You to: Our New Director, the Valentine Sing Out Participants, the Director Search Committee, and Ron Clarke for new uniforms.

Congratulations to Jim Troeger. The BCC is very excited to have you as our new Director. We aspire to move to a higher level of performance (our goal is 775 points in the Spring Contest). We think you are the man to help us achieve that goal. Welcome to the BCC!

Thank you to the Valentine Sing Out participants. Wayne Cheyne did a wonderful job with organizing and coordinating the entire effort. Walt DeNio made significant contributions with Marketing and PR. We had 48 paid gigs, and 7 freebies, and should clear about $1,850. The feedback from clients attests to the wonderful job done by our four chapter quartets.

HARMONY KNIGHTS - Jeff Doig, Ross Ensign, Tom Blackstone, Tom Tailford
SUNNYSIDE - Len Barnes, Dick Johnson, Roger Holm, Mike Frye, and Ted Prueter as 5th wheel
FOUR WHEEL DRIVE - Bill Nevaux, John Cowlishaw, Zaven Melkonian, Al Monroe, and Jeff Spires as 5th wheel and stand-in bari
CELEBRATION - Bruce Brede, Jack Teuber, Greg Moss, Bill Dabbs.

A Big Thank you to our Director Search Committee: Dick Johnson, Chair, Mike Frye, and Bruce Collins, for getting Jim Troeger to join the BCC as our Director. Jim has agreed to Direct us through Spring Contest. This will give him, and us, a chance to see how well we work together.

Thank you Ron Clarke for arranging a great deal for the BCC to obtain a new Class B Uniform for only $70 - Midnight Blue Blazer with Heather Gray Slacks. Members should have their money in by March 9th. Checks should be made out to the 'Pontiac Chapter', as the BCC will be billed. Ron will take measurements. The BCC will purchase chapter patches & ties.

Pete

Bill Holmes has asked members to bring a/some BBShop items to be used as gifts at the Singing Retreat. Things like: CD’s; tapes; records; ties; books; music; cups; pins; clothing; underwear; etc.

Be sure to Register for the Spring Pioneer District competition in Gaylord, April 23-25. We’ll be performing “Back in the Old Routine” and “Old St. Louie.” Off the paper on “Old St. Louie” by March 9!

The Executive Board voted to help defray some of the cost for members to attend Harmony Round Up, May 14-16, in Lansing. Participants can either attend Saturday-only, or stay the weekend. Check your calendars, and let the Music Team know if you can attend.
Gil Jackson, (noted local founder of the Jackson Chorale) will be with us to coach on March 16th. No member should miss this opportunity.

The March 17th St. Pat’s singout at Canterbury includes the following probable songs: Hi Neighbor, I Feel A Song Coming On, God Bless America, Darkness On The Delta, Wild Irish Rose, and Irish Parting Prayer.

Spring Training - Singing Retreat – Mr 26-28
These Chairmen Need Your Help:
1. Risers - Walt DeNio (Transport, Set Up, & Take Down)
2. Bar - Howard Lynn
3. Snacks & Sodas - Jack Teuber
4. Prizes - Bill Holmes
5. Vocal Warm-ups - Dick/Bruce/John
6. Physical Warm-ups - Ross/John/Dick
7. Walking Leader - Bruce Brede
8. Photos - Jim Owens
9. Singing Activities - Dick Johnson
10. MC Group Competition - Art Carinci
11. Woodshedding - Len Barnes
12. Tag Singing - Mike Frye

Your editor, for one, has really appreciated the work the Music Committee is doing to plan each rehearsal evening and to publish it in advance by email. I’ve been in California for a week, and return right in step. I am glad I didn’t miss the Society video training tape on the EEE vowel. That’s been my most challenging vowel. More is planned from the “Uniformity of Sound Through Vowel Targets.”

B NATURAL sang recently for the Redford Senior Citizens.

Bill Kocher, of the Gratiot County MidStatesmen and Saginaw Bay Harbor Sounds choruses, has been receiving and sharing Smoke Signals, the past two years. In appreciation, he donated $30 to the Pontiac-Waterford chapter. Thanks, Bill.

AROUND THE DISTRICT

Al Fisk’s most recent email on the Spring Pioneer District competition in Gaylord notes that there will be four different contests in Gaylord: Senior District Quartet Contest (Friday night only), International Quartet Preliminary Contest (eight make the cut from Friday to Saturday night), District Chorus Contest with new plateau level awards too (Saturday afternoon), and the College Quartet Contest (Saturday night only). The quartet and chorus deadline for entries is April 9th. At this point, (Feb 27th), entered quartets include: NIGHT SHIFT, FOUR MAN FISHIN’ TACKLE CHOIR, FERMATA NOWHERE, MACH 1, BROTHERHOOD, SUFFICIENT GROUNDS, ALCHEMY, INFINITY; and entered choruses include: GRAND RAPIDS, LANSING, MACOMB COUNTY (non-competing), DETROIT-OAKLAND, ROCHESTER, TRAVERSE CITY, SAGINAW BAY, GROSSE POINT, HOLLAND, and – Dah-Dah! – PONTIAC-WATERFORD BIG CHIEF CHORUS.

Remember that in order to compete, each member of the chorus must have paid current dues and be in good standing with his Chapter, the District, and the Society. In addition, each member of the chorus must have purchased an all-events registration to the convention (cheaper in advance).

Lynne Peirce (Director of Huron Valley chapter) has been chosen to direct the Joe Barbershopper Chorus at the Pioneer District Convention in Gaylord. She invites all attendees to join on stage for “Sittin’ On Top of the World” and “One More Song.”

Most of us know “Sittin’” but perhaps not Joe Liles’ “One More Song.” It might be worth practicing as a chorus. The music can be downloaded (I have done so and can share my copy), and a learning tape is also available on line. For both, go to the “Free and Easy” section of the SPEBSQSA website, at: www.spebsqsa.org/web/groups/public/documents/pages/pub_cb_00055.hcsp. “One More Song” has also been recommended as a most acceptable song for memorial services.

From Steve Sutherland: Dick Reinholt has finished the text of all of the chapters from Bob McDermott's Pioneer District History and they are now online. He will be adding photos as he gets them so the work isn’t complete. Check it out at: www.harmonize.com/Pioneer/history/history.htm

AROUND THE NATION

Our Society has a new CEO, Don A. Harris. Harris, an experienced association CEO from Dallas, was selected by unanimous vote of the Society Board of Directors at its Midwinter meeting in Biloxi.

“We had a tremendous pool of qualified applicants,” said Society President Rob Hopkins. “Don brings us an exceptional combination of talents and past achievement in association management, marketing, and strategic planning. We’re excited to bring his fresh perspectives to the operation of our Society.”

As CEO, Harris will oversee an annual budget of $6.5 million, a staff of 34, chair the Society’s Operations Team, and sit on the Society Board ex officio as its secretary. He succeeds Darryl Flinn, executive director since 1996, who will retire in August.
Register for the Louisville international convention
Join us in "Derby Town" for the barbershop run for the roses. Louisville, Kentucky is the site of the 2004 international convention. To register, go to www.spebsqsa.org/louisville or call 800.876.7464 x8462. The international convention runs from June 27 to July 4, 2004.

Harmony College is a week of great fun and total immersion in the barbershop style. Dates are August 1-8, 2004 at Missouri Western State College, St. Joseph, Mo. To register, go to www.spebsqsa.org/hedc, or call Linda Neuenfeld at 800.876.7464 x8591.

The Ancient Harmonious Society of Woodshedders (AHSOW) announced the induction of 25 fine new members so far during 2004. The only Pioneer entrant was POWER PLAY’s Don Slamka.

Why is Maine’s Don Gooding an optimist? (from the Pionet):
“MAINELY A CAPPELLA had a booth at the Texas Music Educators Association convention, the first time that we've been to this mammoth (20,000 people) show.

“On the last day when the all-state students were circulating around the huge convention floor, two young hispanic kids approached our booth. One was tall and thin, a small cell phone was held to his ear, and he wore a black leather jacket with metal spikes decorating each shoulder blade. He approached me and asked, "Do you have some barbershop?" “I blinked, then led him to where we had three boxes full. He said, "I want some good ol' barbershop," again for emphasis I suppose. He ended up buying an ACOUSTIX "New Science of Sound" (without any guidance on my part, I should add).

“This is why I'm an optimist.”

Kenosha is promoting Barbershop with Roadshows.
“The Roadshow will take place in 21 different communities. Each Roadshow will be a huge interchapter event featuring lots and lots of singing, learning a new song, sharing some tags, enjoying some quartets and generally be an evening of barbershop participation. While each attendee will receive a packet of music and ideas for recruiting, the basic thrust of the evening will be to celebrate the art form. No lectures or harangues, just a re-connect with our barbershop roots.”

Kenosha suggests:
- Make the Roadshow your chapter meeting for the week, if possible. We realize it’s quite a distance for some of you, but the rewards will be worth the distance and schedule change.
- Hire a bus for the whole chapter – make it an event similar to the old mystery bus rides we hear the veterans talk about. What better way to get some more singing in?
- Be sure to bring potential members with you. Each potential member will receive a free CD just for attending, not to mention a good look at the organization he will eventually be joining. You can show him his soon-to-be benefits in action.”

The closest to BCC is on Monday, April 26th, 7:30, at the Don S. Hubert Hall (VFW), on 27345 Schoolcraft, Redford, MI. Unfortunately this is the Monday after Gaylord, an odd choice. But, anyway… Mel Knight will be presenting. He's the retired director of Music Education and Services for SPEBSQSA, and the Bari of the International Seniors Champion, OVER TIME, in 2000.

Valentines Quartetting
From Bruce Brede:
Your Chapter Quartet Chairman would like to thank all the BCC for putting up with my shenanigans in January and early February including ensembles, octets, quartets, dual auditions and qualifying. But the end result was five quartets earning Chapter revenue of about $2000.

We should thank the 20 quarteters for their generous sacrifice and energy. A special thanks goes to Greg, Gayle and Bruce, the new quarteters who were ready to venture out to quartet in public for the first time, I believe. If we could get three more new guys next year, we can probably have a sixth quartet and about 40% of our Chapter involved in quartetting. Ask any other Chapters and they will tell you how outstanding that is. SPEBSQSA!

Finally, one of our guys chose a different part to sing, formed a new quartet of just chorus-quality guys, qualified with the Music Committee and did ten gigs. I'll let you decide whether they were good enough...they were asked to sing at a wedding!! Put yourself in Jack Teuber's shoes...consider what other part you might choose, consider three specific other non-quarteters and then expose yourself in public. Whoops! Now that's dedication to our craft. Jack will tell you he's no Tenor but he even told Pete he'd sing Tenor at the Retreat if needed. Thank you Jack! You're a real Chapterman!

And from the quartets involved:
From Bruce Brede (CELEBRATION):
The CELEBRATION BARRBERSHOP QUARTET had a blast singing ten valentines gigs on Friday, February 13th. The trek led us from appreciative kids awaiting surgery and hospital staff from St Jos and the Gustafsen Medical Center clear up to Oxford and included two Nursing Home "pro bonos" and an evening performance at a Valentine's Banquet. "We sang and we sang while the theatre rang". Every BS-er should experience this treat "once in a lifetime" because we only have "one life to live...and one life to give". Thanks Chris and John for getting us to this plateau in our Barbershop careers.

From John Cowlishaw (FOUR WHEEL DRIVE):
Thanks, Wayne, for all your backup yesterday and Friday. And for all the work before that. It was kind of neat to be driving down some back country lane and be talking via cell phone to control-central in White Lake. I think our two days were pretty successful. Lots of tears (not us, the customers), lots of hands reaching out and holding partners, lots of guys with looks of "whew, my ass is saved!" And lots of fun for the 5 of us. (Jeff Spries had to leave us part way thru the day, but he rejoined us briefly at Clarkston Cafe to let us know that his wife was OK.)

From Wayne Chene (CEO)

Thank you guys for putting up with all the running around, esp. Sat. I was happy I had FWD out there, because I knew I could depend on you. We'll have to take some time to debrief on what we can do better next time. I already have a bunch of notes on how to do things better, and have gotten some ideas from the guys on how to get even more gigs next year. (Revenge valentines from all of those we sang to this year.) Thanks to you guys once again. I have received several e-mails already on what a great job was done by all of the quartets.

**Calendar**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mar 2</td>
<td>BCC Rehearsal</td>
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<td>Mar 9</td>
<td>BCC Rehearsal</td>
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<td>Mar 11, Th</td>
<td>Exec Bd Mtg, 7:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 16</td>
<td>BCC Rehearsal (Gil Jackson, Guest director)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 23</td>
<td>BCC Rehearsal</td>
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<td>Mar 26-8, F-Su</td>
<td>Spring Singing Retreat, MacMullan</td>
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<td>Apr 2 Fri</td>
<td>48th Annual Woodshed Contest @ 7:30pm, Pontiac CC, BCC Host</td>
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<td>April 11</td>
<td>66th anniversary of SPEBSQSA</td>
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<td>Apr 23-25, F-Su</td>
<td>District Spring Convention, Gaylord</td>
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<td>May 14-16, F-Su</td>
<td>Harmony Round Up, @ MSU</td>
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<td>June 27-July 4</td>
<td>International Convention, Louisville, KY</td>
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**CHAPTER LEADERSHIP (2004)**

Director: Jim Troeger  
(248-853-4360)  
Assc. Directors: Dick Johnson, Bruce Collins  
President: Pete Mazzara  
(313-563-4026)  
Past President: Gene Downie  
VP: Chapter Dev: Jim Owens  
VP: Music and Performance: Roger Holm  
VP: Marketing & PR: Walt DeNio  
Secretary: Bill Holmes  
Treasurer: Dick Johnson  
Members at Large: Jack Teuber, Zaven Melkonian  
Chorus Manager: Art Carinci  
Music Team: Roger Holm, Johnson, Collins, Doig, Ensign, Melkonian, Prueter  
Bulletin Editor: John Cowlishaw  
Music Librarian: Ted Prueter  
Singing Valentines: Wayne Cheyne  
Sunshine (Chaplain): Bill Dabbs  
Uniforms Manager: Ron Clarke  
YMIH: Jack Teuber  
House of Delegates: Bill Pascher  
State grants: Gene Downie  
2004 Show Chairman: Gene Downie/Len Barnes  
Show Script: Jeff Doig  
Cast Party: Bruce Brede  
Quartet Activity: Bruce Brede  
Pole Cats: Zaven Melkonian  
Woodshedding: Len Barnes  
Rehearsal Coordinator: Mike Frye  
Picnic: Tom Ford, Walt Bachmann  
Website: Yong McDowell  
Singing retreat: Pete Mazzara  
Christmas: Brede/DeNio/Holm/Prueter  
Bus Coordinator: Tom Jackson  
Tape/CD Librarian: Ross Ensign  
Tagmeister: Mike Frye