

# NEWS from



**Holland Windmill Chorus**  
The Holland MI Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society



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*Caption-release to accompany group photo (see jpeg "HWC Officers" separately attached)*

## HOLLAND WINDMILL CHORUS NAMES 2009 OFFICERS & BOARD

HOLLAND, JAN. 30, 2009 -- Holland Windmill Chorus, the local chapter of the international Barbershop Harmony Society, has announced new officers and board members recently elected for 2009. New officers are (front, L to R): Jay Bylsma (Holland), president; Chuck Kreun (Otsego), treasurer; and John Ellis (Holland), secretary. Standing behind (L to R) are: new board-members-at-large Jim Essenberg and Victor McBride, both of Holland; Art Lane (Saugatuck), VP chapter development; Bill McAndrew (Holland), VP programs; Mike Oonk (Holland), VP music; and John Peters (Saugatuck), VP public relations.

The Chorus, organized in 1945 as a not-for-profit, volunteer-based organization open to all men who enjoy singing four-part harmony, offers public barbershop concerts at Christmastime and during Holland's Tulip Time Festival, and performs on request at a variety of other public and private events throughout the year. Men interested in exploring membership possibilities may inquire at (269) 857-2781.

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EDITOR FYI: following is brief supplemental information on each person named above:

Jay Bylsma, Holland, is Controller at Kalfact Plastics Co. and teaches business administration courses at Grand Rapids Community College. He has been a barbershop singer since high school and a Chorus member since 2007.

Chuck Kreun, Otsego, is retired from 35 years in banking and 14 years as treasurer of Holland Charter Township, currently owns lawncare business Tuff Turf Mowing Co. He has been singing barbershop since 2000 and was the Chapter's 2005 "Barbershopper of the Year".

John Ellis, Holland, is retired from 40 years in the steel industry and does volunteer work at Zeeland Community Hospital. He discovered barbershop singing in 1992, joined Holland Windmill Chorus after moving here in 2001, was the Chapter's 2003 "Barbershopper of the Year", is a Chapter past-president and manages the Chapter's Singing Valentines program.

Jim Essenberg, Holland, retired in 1997 from his own Essenberg Studio of Photography. He started singing with the Chorus in 1977, has served as treasurer, chorus manager and board member.

Victor McBride, Holland, retired from 27 years with Lifesavers, Inc., now concentrates on bowling with the Friday Senior Open Bowling League and singing barbershop. He joined the Chorus in 2001, was named "Barbershopper of the Year" in 2002.

Art Lane, Saugatuck, is a retired journalist, most recently was owner/editor of The Commercial Record in Saugatuck. As the son of a championship barbershop quartetter, he started singing in 1986. He organized the Chapter's performing tour in The Netherlands in 1998, was named Windmill Chorus "Barbershopper of the Year" and the national Barbershop Harmony Society's "Public Relations Officer of the Year".

Bill McAndrew, Holland, is IT Systems Administrator for Magna Corporation, and serves on the board of directors of West Michigan Savoyards (a Gilbert & Sullivan performance troupe), the Park Theater and Holland Civic Theater. He joined the Chorus in 1990, has held several VP positions and is a regular performer in chapter quartets, one of which won a Novice Quartet Championship in 1994.

Mike Oonk, Zeeland, is an independent insurance inspector, holds a Hope College music degree, has directed choirs for a number of local churches and Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp and directed West Shore Chapter of Sweet Adelines (female barbershop chorus), in addition to performing professionally in folk, rock and classical groups and as a soloist. He joined the Barbershop Harmony Society at age 13, the son of a championship quartetter, and directed the Holland Windmill Chorus in the 1970s.

John Peters, Saugatuck, retired from his own industrial public relations agency in 2005, helped organize LAND (Laketown Alliance for Neighborly Development) and is an active volunteer with Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society. A former college and church choir singer recently introduced to barbershop hamony, he joined Holland Windmill Chorus in 2007.

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