



BIG CHIEF CHORUS
SMOKE
SIGNALS



Pontiac/Waterford Chapter
Meetings on Tuesdays: 7:30 to 10 PM

Bulletin #46, February 1, 2005

COTS 2005

We gathered at the Holiday Inn in Okemos, 170 people, representing 25 of the 27 chapters in Pioneer district, along with a training team from around the nation. Here's a summary of the highlights from your leadership team:

Pete Mazzara – Presidents' Group. Much was quite repetitious because we are already doing so many of the suggested things. Reinforced Pete's belief that we have wonderful participation in our chapter. Pete is excited about 2005 – we are starting off much better than last January, when the directorship was a big question mark.

Jack Teuber – Marketing and Public Relations. Jack started off in such good shape because Walt DeNio has handed over so much material. One new thing – a Pioneer district email team was formed based on this meeting, which will help to build up relationships – internal, external, and media relationships.

Bill Holmes – Secretaries' Group. The Secretary is the Chief Operating Officer of the chapter. Bill's instructor stressed the importance of proper documents. Being legal is becoming increasingly important. This is especially important in terms of copying music. Some chapter just incurred a \$250,000 fine from ASCAP for copyright violations. We need proper authorization for the copies that we have and make.

Ron Clarke – Young Men In Harmony. Mostly about how to get money. Some chapters use all of their Valentines monies to get into schools and educate directors. Time availability is an issue for music teachers. So be ready for a 5-minute presentation with a packet and video, and then arrange to return.

Jim Troeger – Directors' Group. Reinforcement of many tips and pointers that Jim has known from elsewhere. Biggest point was the need to increase the amount of time spent singing (from the current national average of 13 to 17%).

John Cowlshaw – Grant-writing. Experienced instructor handed out lots of materials, examples of successful grants, and computer lists of public and private funding agencies. Most important – be very specific about request and how it's to be accomplished and target it to the most appropriate agency.

Roger Holm – Music. Got useful Music Leadership Team booklet. Fundamental is to determine what kind of chapter we are. The legality issue was important in this group too. Quartet development has to be emphasized. And budget.

Zaven Melkonian (for Wayne Chene) – Chapter Development. Disappointed that this group didn't have material to bring back. And we are already doing things like Jim Owens' presentation board, and the tri-fold brochure. Most helpful was Pioneer District development VP Brian Duncel's presence, and his readiness to be a resource. ("Call me!") Membership is everyone's responsibility; the Chpt Dev VP merely coordinates it.

Dick Johnson – Treasurers' Group. We are starting off the year with less available funds - \$13,000 versus \$17,000 and \$16,000 in the last two years, respectively. This is partly due to lower ticket sales, and partly some (one-time?) expenses. It's particularly important, therefore, that we be more precise about our annual budget for FY2005. Board members were asked to present budget requests to Dick. We are also getting closer to the \$25,000 limit on use of the (simpler) 990 IRS form.

AROUND THE PATCH

From Director Jim:

Numerous updates have taken place to our chapter website over the past few days. Many more updates are needed and I am actively working on them. Please make sure you utilize our website when referring people to information about our chapter. Also, take a look at the website when you have a moment and share your thoughts with me.

What about the site do you like?

What about the site do you feel needs improvement?

What do you feel we should include in the site that is not there now?

ALL feedback is welcomed... we need to continually improve our site to realize its fullest potential.

R. D. Mathey Coaching Session with Macomb

Pontiac's response to Macomb's offer was great; we had 18 guys there plus the three dual members that were part of Macomb's 47 guys. R. D. Mathey directs the music education program at Bowling Green University. As he said, he was fine-tuning a sound that he judged to be in the mid-70's already. (What a difference it makes to know that you are going to go to International, that you are going to book those flights, and be on the Salt Lake City stage in front of 10,000 "musicians.")

The Big Chief Chorus 2005 **Singing Retreat** is set to go April 1, 2, 3 at Higgins Lake – as soon as at least 30 men sign up by supplying that minuscule figure of \$75 to Prez Pete, half of the actual cost. That gets you two night's lodging and five meals! Our coach this year is Gene Hanover.

Beth and Tom Ford have volunteered to host the **picnic** again, for Friday, August 19.

From a discussion at the back of the **Christmas sing-out bus** with youthful-looking (for their age) Mike Frye, Bill Nevaux, Zaven Melkonian, Neil Braun and others: Does barbershop attract youthful men? Or does it create youthful men?

Our **special guest** on January 25th was Chuck Colby from the professional quartet **Three Men and a Tenor** to show us a promo video and tell us all about themselves. A recent Harmonet entry called them "the best hope for the growth of our society - they ring chords with the best of them, and can move an audience to tears with their execution of a barbershop ballad, but they don't limit themselves to a KIB repertoire. Furthermore, they execute their various styles with a consistent level of excellence -- their jazz numbers swing, and their rock (!) numbers do just that -- one only had to see the audience reaction at Harmony Explosion Northeast to the quartet's rendition of John Mellencamp's "R.O.C.K. in the U.S.A." to understand the group's broad appeal."

New Repertoire

Goodnight Sweetheart.
Hello, Mary Lou
In My Room
In The Still Of The Night
Let A Smile Be Your Umbrella
Under The Boardwalk

QUARTET NEWS - Impresario

Hi John, this is Gayle. Wanted to let you know we sang at the Springfield inn last Friday the 7th. Needless to say I had visions of the Blues Brothers movie

with the chicken wire in front of them while they were singing. Tough crowd, actually it went well. Jerry Howington's brother is the house band and he invited us blind, to sing up there. I must admit that it went well. We actually made it thru the 4th song before a group of 20 something's (with buckets o beer on their table) started to yell for the band to play again. All in all I'd say that about 75% of the crowd actually enjoyed our songs. And we did get some very Impressive compliments (some about the size of our --alls to do that). But we had a great time and Jerry's brother is very good at rockin' blues. Just thought I'd keep you up to date.

Fair weather, Fair friends, Life is good

Gayle

AROUND THE DISTRICT

The Detroit-Oakland chapter has had the opportunity to reactivate the Detroit River cruise formerly known as the "Moonlight Cruise" on the retired Boblo Boat. The new vessel is the Detroit Princess. It is a stern-wheel riverboat that will travel the Detroit River beginning this summer. There's a link to the flyer on the DOC web site: <http://www.harmonize.com/doc/MoonlightCruise/MoonlightCruise.htm> Reserve Saturday, July 30th for a return to summer fun!

AROUND THE WORLD

Last month it was Power Play on Jane Pauley. This month the Harmonet buzz has been about the "**Early Returns**" **barbershop quartet on the Frontier Airlines ads**. You may have seen them on TV, but if not, go to: <http://www.frontierairlines.com/about/commercials.asp> to hear/see both of their musical commercials.

It's probably not a coincidence that the **founder of Frontier Airlines, Hank Lund**, is a baritone, "a long-time singer, and terrific woodshedder. He was a Barbershopper in the Bloomington, Minnesota Chapter --way back in the early 60's. He moved to Denver to head up Frontier Airlines, sang with the old Denver Mile-hi Chapter in the 60's & 70's, founded a nutty social club called the Goats, and has done his best to encourage and preserve Barbershopping. When Frontier went through some hard times, Hank organized a group to save it. He has since moved from Denver to Phoenix and retired, but is still the majority stockholder of the new Frontier. " (Steve Shannon)

The **Midwinter Convention** just concluded this past weekend in Jacksonville, FL. Quartets performing included Gotcha! (the reigning International Quartet champion), silver-medallist Max Q, Vocal Spectrum (collegiate gold medal winner), and the winner of the new seniors quartet championship Saturday afternoon. (It wasn't our own Antiques Roadshow but they DID finish 3rd out of 24, singing "Walkin' My Baby Back Home" and "Smilin' Through.") Other featured quartets were: Riptide, Metropolis,

Saturday Evening Post, the Suntones (1961 international quartet champion), and Downstate Express (2004 seniors champion). As the Press kit for the convention puts it: "Barbershop harmony's distinctive sound stems from a "melting pot" product of African-American musical devices, European hymn-singing culture, and an American tradition of recreational music. The Barbershop Harmony Society is the largest all-male singing organization with more than 30,000 members in 800 chapters throughout the U.S. and Canada."

BHS Board announces change to convention schedule - Quartet championship to be determined in three rounds of competition.

In December the Society Board took action that it genuinely believed would contribute to increasing ... interest in attending the 2005 international convention in Salt Lake City ... to have two rounds of quartet contests and to allow for a Saturday night show with broad appeal. The Board was convinced by our history that having two rounds rather than three would not affect who earned the championship.

The reaction of many members was not what the Board anticipated ... When such change involves a particularly honored tradition like the international quartet contest, we understand that the process should be transparent and broadly consultative, which it wasn't this time. Accordingly, on January 13, 2005 the Society Board voted to reinstate the international contest rules for 2005 and to have three rounds of quartet contests in Salt Lake City, with the traditional top-ten contest on Saturday night ...

The January/February issue of *The Harmonizer* has already gone to press ... the March/April issue will have the final plan for the convention. In the meantime, why not take advantage of the current reduction in airfares to make your plans to join us in Salt Lake City!

Rob Hopkins, Society President, for the Society Board

MEMBERSHIP (at 57)

New Member: Dave Shantz

Renewals: Jerry Howington (5), Bruce Brede (8), Mike Keith (24)

February Birthdays: Ross Ensign (7th), Bill Pascher (10th), Pete Mazzara (23rd)

Barbershopper of the Month, January – Ross Ensign for all of his enthusiasm and hard work with show music, CD's, show guests, and especially the Valentine promotions.

Accidents: A black eye is all that remains of Ted Prueter's tumble.

MEET JACK TEUBER

Jack was born in Flint Michigan in 1939, where his family had strong musical roots. In the late 1910's and '20's, the car companies had 60 to 80-piece concert bands, and both of Jack's grandfathers had been hired from out-of-state for their instrumental skills, with a job at the Flint Chevrolet plant thrown in as a

bonus. Jack's folks sang, and his mom was a pianist/organist. Her brother had an 18-piece touring band headquartered in Cincinnati on the Ohio River that was Rosemary Clooney's first band. Jack's three brothers also sing, and one is a professor of music composition in South Carolina.

Jack graduated from Flint Township Dye High School in 1958 and then attended Eastern Michigan University for his bachelor and master's degrees in Elementary Education. He taught six years in Mount Clemens, and then 29 years in the Bloomfield school district, retiring in 1997. He enjoys retirement, spicing it with a part-time job driving a senior citizens van in Rochester.



He met his wife, Mary, skiing in Boyne City, where they discovered that they both taught in Bloomfield Hills. They have four children and three grandchildren, with two more on the way this summer. Their son is married to a Japanese woman so the family has been to Kyoto, Japan twice. Jack played trombone in high school and in the EMU Concert Band. He didn't pick up the instrument again until playing in the 2003 Fun Addicts' Dixieland Band. His vocal career began with church choirs as a kid, and picked up again with various church choirs. He was in the St. Perpetua choir when fellow

member Mike Keith pressed him into attending the Big Chief Chorus six years ago. Now Jack sings with Christ the Redeemer Catholic church in Lake Orion, a combined vocal/instrumental group that is Jack's best experience yet.

In the chorus, Jack is a bass, but is also experimenting with tenor, a role that is possible for the pole cat tenor parts, but that Jack found tough in the two contest songs. (He had sung some church tenor, "but barbershop tenor is in a class by itself.") He sang for a year and a half with Harmony Way – Bruce Brede Lead, Jeff Spires Bari, and Tom Jackson and Don Denoyer Tenor. He enjoys quartet singing but the time management is difficult.

Jack has taken on his new role as Vice President of Marketing and Public Relations with considerable energy.

When he isn't singing, Jack and his wife do a lot of bicycling and cross-country skiing. They know nearly all the bike paths in lower Michigan.

HISTORY OF THE WOODSHED CONTEST

(The following has been created from the Complete History of the Pioneer District by Bob McDermott, (available online at <http://www.harmonize.com/Pioneer/history/history.htm>), supplemented by the memories of Bill Pascher.

"In the Detroit area, the local chapters all had established Friday night meetings, and one could barbershop every Friday night somewhere in the area. These meetings featured woodshedding and quartet singing galore, and one attending would get a chance to sing with barbershoppers from all the other chapters in the area. In fact, one would probably see many of the same fellows at every chapter's meeting, rotating every Friday night. It was a tradition that lasted throughout the Sixties and the Seventies, but unfortunately died out in the Eighties in most instances. A good example of the type of meetings held during this era (and which still continues today) was the Pontiac Woodshed contest. This contest was started in 1957 by John Beaudin and Bill Pascher who together created the concept of quartets competing without pre-arranged numbers and without prior knowledge of song selection. The Carroll P. Adams Memorial Trophy was designed and built by Pascher to be awarded to the chapter with the highest percentage of its members participating, and is now the oldest revolving trophy in the Society. A separate medal, the Pontiac Woodshed Lapel Award, is given to each member of the winning quartet." (McDermott, 1962)

The first contest was on March 29, 1957 and publicized as "an 'Olde-Time Woodshed' contest. This event drew 114 barbershoppers including International President Rowland Davis of New York. The contest made up of foursomes selected on the spot, culminated in 14 quartets actually competing. The winning four was composed of Steve Vickers of Redford, tenor; Tom Pollard, Wayne, lead; Bill Carter, Detroit, baritone, and Bob Wharton, Detroit, bass. This quartet received engraved arrowhead lapel medallions... [T]he first annual award of the Carroll P. Adams Bennington Trophy went to the Detroit Chapter for entering the greatest number of individual contestants. Bill Bond accepted the trophy

presented by Chase Sanborn ... This contest, always popular in the Detroit area, has continued to the present day as an annual event. It's truly one of the few remaining woodshedding meetings held in the Detroit area today." (McDermott, 1957)

Bill Pascher says that John Beaudin was a past president of the Pontiac chapter. Those two were the initial force behind the contest, to preserve barbershoppers' ability to create harmony from an unpublished piece of music, to rely more on an individual's ear and intuition rather than on printed notes. Several ideas for a trophy were kicked around, and the winner was patterned after a monument in Bennington Vermont, hometown of Carroll P. Adams' wife. Thus, it was called the Carroll P. Adams Bennington trophy. Carroll P. Adams was the first Pioneer district president (1940-42).

Our **49th Annual Woodshed Contest** is coming up, Friday evening, April 8, 7:30 with its rule that quartets are limited to two members of the same chapter or registered quartet. The usual venue – Pontiac Country Club on Elizabeth Lake Rd in Waterford. As hosts, there'd better be more Big Chief Choristers present than any other chapter.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING Excerpts, Tuesday, January 4, 2005, from Bill Holmes

All 2005 board members were present except Gene Downie, plus members Bruce Brede and Ross Ensign. Two items on the agenda were the Fall Show date of Nov. 5, 2005 and the Valentine Sing-outs for 2005.

Pete reported how he reserved the show dates with the district secretary, Marvin Skupski, for Nov. 6, 2004, Nov. 5, 2005, Nov. 4, 2006, and Nov. 3, 2007. Pete laid out in chronological order his conversations with the district secretary and the show chairman of the Macomb Chapter, Floyd McDaniel.

Following a full and open discussion of the matter, including some of the potential negative impact on our chapter, Wayne Cheyne moved that our chapter not give up the date, Nov. 5, 2005 for our show and not share with the Macomb Chapter. The motion, seconded by Roger Holm, passed unanimously.

The initial concern regarding the Valentine Sing-outs, namely, that there is a lack of tenors to staff a sufficient number of quartets for the program, has been alleviated. It appears that the chapter will be able to provide at least three or four quartets to honor any valentine sing-out requests. It was noted that the purpose of such a program promotes the chapter, provides staff quartet development and raised money for the chapter.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING Excerpts, January 17, 2005, from Zaven Melkonian (acting sec)

Attending were Mazzara, Melkonian, Teuber, Clarke, Johnson, Holm, Ensign, Doig and Murray.

Treasurer report presented by Dick Johnson. Cash On Hand, \$9730.00. Dick requested that all committees submit their proposed budget as soon as possible.

VP of Music & Performance Roger Holm once again voiced concern in the areas of expense for obtaining music (sheet & audio), and maintaining legality in our efforts to copy music. The Executive Board's position is to be certain to be legal with all future music. The board voted to schedule our Lake Orion Concert In The Park performance for Tuesday, June 14th, 2005. The issue of inviting the quartet, "Three Men & A Tenor" to perform at our 2005 show was discussed. It was decided that an offer of \$3000.00 be tendered for them to appear on our show. Ross Ensign said that he would present them with that offer.

VP Marketing & PR Jack Teuber, reported that Eileen Marshall will do Chapter Promotion with Video presentations on the Comcast, Waterford channel. In addition she has provided Jack with a contact at The Oakland Press newspaper. In addition to working out the details of our Concert In The Park performance, Jack is also working on the Oakland County Parks & Recreation Conference, June 10th, 2005, which is a performance in payment for using a Parks & Recreation bus for our Saturday Christmas Tour.

Director's Comments were made by Jim Troeger. He dispelled rumors of his retirement as chorus director as not being true, and stated that he has no plans to leave the chorus. He discussed the many options that he feels the chorus needs to investigate regarding the two annual contests and the rescheduling of our show date to the spring of the year.

Next year's Show Chairmanship was discussed. After much discussion, the show chairmanship was not finalized.

Ross Ensign reported that he has at least two confirmed Valentine Quartets and is working on finalizing a third. As of this date, there are no contracts for Singing Valentines.

Pete Mazzara will prepare a new BCC calendar for 2005.

The board approved a 3rd annual Singing Retreat, to be held April 1, 2 & 3 at the McMullen Center again. The chorus members will be responsible for \$75.00 of the cost for each person with a minimum of 30 attendees needed to finalize the event.

Pete Mazzara presented the 2005 BCC Goals. These will be printed and distributed to the membership.

Because of acoustic issues that arose with our summer rehearsals at Canterbury On The Lake, a Summer Venue Committee was formed to investigate other locations. The members of the committee are Roger Holm, Dick Johnson and Jim Troeger. Jim said that he would contact OU regarding availability of Varner Hall.

The roll of the BCC Chicks was discussed. It was decided that they would be an asset for the chorus in many ways. Two areas that were discussed were the making of the Valentines that will be distributed by the singing quartets, and the possibility of being in charge of our show raffle.

My Wild Irish Rose, 1899

Songs of the 19th century were a series of verses, poems set to music, without refrain, or "chorus," until the 1840s, when refrains began to be added. A new style was developed by Tin Pan Alley songwriters in the 1890s, a short piano introduction followed by the verse-chorus form, but with much more emphasis on the chorus. My Wild Irish Rose, Chancellor John ('Chauncey') Alcott, follows this form. There are two long verses. Here's the first:

If you listen I'll sing you a sweet little song
Of a flower that's now drooped and dead,
Yet dearer to me, yes, than all of its mates,
Though each holds aloft its proud head.
'Twas given to me by a girl that I know;
Since we've met, faith, I've known no repose.
She is dearer by far than the world's brightest star,
And I call her my Wild Irish Rose.

In 1947, 48 years after its publication, My Wild Irish Rose was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Scoring of a Musical Picture for its appearance in the film of the same name. In 1990, 91 years after its publication, this song (second verse and chorus) was sung with musical and lyrical embellishments by **The Naturals** to win a bronze medal in the SPEBSQSA International Contest.

Chauncey Olcott, a leading singer in sentimental operettas on Irish themes as well as a composer and lyricist, commanded a large and loyal audience among the Irish-American community. Other credits are the lyrics to Mother Machree (1911) and When Irish Eyes Are Smiling (1912).

Abridged from historical research by Tom Pearce, Richmond, Virginia, Chapter and published in PROBE.



"When our Lead goes South, I just
hang tough and hold pitch!"

J. Cochrane

CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

Director: Jim Troeger

(248-853-4360)

Assoc. Directors: Dick Johnson, Bruce Collins

President: Pete Mazzara

(313-563-4026)

Past President: Gene Downie

VP: Chapter Dev: Wayne Chene

VP: Music and Performance: Roger Holm

VP: Marketing & PR: Jack Teuber

Secretary: Bill Holmes

Treasurer: Dick Johnson

Members at Large: Ron Clarke, Zaven Melkonian

Chorus Manager: Art Carinci

Music Team: Roger Holm, Johnson, Doig, Ensign, Melkonian, Murray, Prueter,
Troeger

Bulletin Editor: John Cowlshaw

Music Librarian: Ted Prueter

Singing Valentines: Ross Ensign

Polecats: Zaven Melkonian

Quartet Development: Bruce Brede

Sunshine (Chaplain): Walt DeNio/Bill Dabbs

Uniforms Manager: Ron Clarke

Tape/CD Librarian: Ross Ensign

YMIH: Ron Clarke

Calendar

Feb 1, T BCC Rehearsal, Crary

Feb 8, T BCC Rehearsal, Crary

Feb 9, W Exec Bd Mtg, Jack Teuber's

Feb 10, Th Bill Pascher, 90th Birthday

Feb 11-14,F-M Valentine Day Singouts

Feb 15, T Crary Closed

Feb 22, T BCC Rehearsal, Crary

Mar 1, T BCC Rehearsal, Crary

Mar 9, W Exec Bd Mtg, Pete Mazzara's

Mar 29 Crary Closed

Apr 1-3 Singing Retreat, MacMullan Ctr

Apr 8, F, 7:30 49th Annual Woodshed Contest

Apr 29-May 1 District Convention, @Kalamazoo

May 13-15 Harmony Roundup, @ MSU

July 3-10 BHS Convention, Salt Lake City