From the Prez:
We are now beginning our second month of 2006, and are well on our way to what I hope will be another banner year for the BCC. Last year was one of the most active for the chorus since I joined in 2000. Even with some of the thorny issues with which we had to deal in 2005, we managed to walk through the mine field of those problems and emerge as a cohesive, dedicated "band of brothers". Collectively, we each contributed our share of involvement on the road to success, but a major factor was Dick Johnson. Dick stepped into the director's shoes and marched us through performance after performance, culminating in one of the most successful shows in recent chapter history, plus a record-setting number of sing outs in December. Credit should also be given to Dick's assistants, Fred McFadyen, Bill Holmes, and Lyle Howard who shared the director's duties with Dick. Gentlemen, the Big Chief Chorus thanks you.

Our next mountain to climb will be our annual Singing Valentines Project. From a profit making perspective, nothing could be easier. From the perspective of having fun, it's the greatest!! I hope that we'll be able to capitalize on the wonderful article that Jack Teuber (when does that guy sleep?) managed to plant in the Oakland Press, detailing our Valentine Program. At last count, I was told that we had three quartets available, but more would be nice. As this message goes to press, the Valentine Committee will attempt to put together other foursomes. If you are asked to become a part of a quartet, please don't slam the door shut before you give it a try. The magic number is TWO...TWO SONGS...THAT'S IT. Just learn two Polecat "Love Songs" (we've got part dominant learning tapes), and you're on your way. If you absolutely do not want to be a part of a quartet, but still want to participate, become a "fifth wheel". He's the guy who drives (or travels with) the quartet from job to job, locates the recipient, takes the Polaroid photo and presents the rose and card. Sound like fun? Be a part of this project this year, and I'll guarantee you'll be anxiously awaiting Valentine Day 2007, so you can do it all over again.

Keep America & The Whole World Singing!!

SINGOUTS
On January 19, the Big Chief Chorus performed at American House in Auburn Hills. The chorus sang “Hi Neighbor,” “I Feel a Song,” “Ain’t Misbehavin’,” “Heart of my Heart,” “Hello Mary Lou,” “Something,” “Boardwalk,” “In My Room,” “In the Still of the Night,” “Good Night Sweetheart,” and “God Bless America.” B Natural re-formed to sing several songs.

The chorus had a few mental lapses (as you can see from Dick’s face).

(Photos by Dave Myre)
Show Reprise
On January 24, we re-created our *Jukebox Classics* show at Holly High School to a small but wildly enthusiastic crowd. We sang and rotated in our black outfits and cardboard platters. Holly’s Varsity Choir and their Sherman Middle School Concert Choir also sang. *Four Wheel Drive* sang “Zip-a-dee-doo-dah” and “Silhouette,” and *B Natural* sang “If I could Write a Song,” “San Francisco Bay Blues,” and “Breaking Up is Hard to Do” (fortunately for BCC!)

BCC Valentines Singouts:
1. Price for two songs, rose, hand-made card, Polaroid photo is still $45.
2. Valentine Chairmen---Bill Holmes/Jack Teuber
   
   Bill.holmes@pontiacchapter.com
3. or Hotline phone contact 248-698-9133
4. or one can reach our own personal web site for valentines at http://www.singingvalentines.com/showentry.asp?ID=3893
courtesy of the BHS Valentines process at www.singingvalentines.com

We had a nice write-up in the Our Town section of the Oakland Press on Jan 26, thanks to Jack Teuber.

AROUND THE PATCH
The Board has hired Dick Johnson as our Director. Congratulations, Dick. May we continue to grow under your directorship. Dick points out that he will be counting on his stable of assistant directors – Freddie McFadyen, Lyle Howard, and Bill Holmes

Our Spring Singing Retreat is scheduled for March 24-26, but we need 30 guys to make their $100 deposit by February 7. Chapter pays the other 50%. What a deal, for two nights’ lodging, five meals, and much fun and fellowship. (Just ask the 2004 attendees!) We’ll be practicing our competition songs. Plan on two per room.

   When? Friday, March 24, 3pm to Sunday, Mar 26, 9:30 am
   Where: McMullan Center, Higgins Lake (on the beautiful North shore).
   What: Coaching with Gene Hanover focusing on our two Contest songs.

Lew Mahacek, visiting in Mazatlan last month, met an old acquaintance and owner of *The Purple Onion*, who has invited our Dixie band down to Mexico for a few months gig. A nice dream, even if it doesn't materialize.

   Dave Shantz has agreed to be our new Bari section co-leader.

   Greg Moss has agreed to lead us in the speech-level singing exercises.

   A few old faces showed up this past month. Bill Auquier had a transient change in job hours that allowed him to join us for a couple rehearsals. Marv Wilson visited and received 50-year recognition. Doc Mann stopped by on his west to east tour.

   Jim Troeger has joined another quartet, *Full Throttle*, as their Lead.

   How about that Neil Braun, continuing to bring Bill Pascher, our charter member, soon to celebrate his 91st birthday, to each and every rehearsal and singout.

   Jim Owens has formed a new political action committee to stimulate preparation against the possible catastrophic consequences of Avian Flu.

   Thanks once again to Barbara Workman and the BCC Chicks (Barbara Holmes, Sandy Northey, Jackie Murray, and Lynne and Jeni Densmore) for producing the Valentines cards we will use during our singouts.

   Tuesday, January 31, Jeff Doig will record us singing The Star Spangled Banner, God Bless America, and O Canada to audition for a possible gig at a Tigers baseball game this summer.

   **50th Annual Woodshed Contest (April 7)**

   Fifteen Michigan barbershoppers have responded so far to our special invitation to all past Woodshed badge winners. If you, or someone you know, has been a past badge winner, could you please reply to our V.P. of Marketing and Public Relations, Jack Teuber, at JackTeuber@aol.com or 248-334-3686.

MEMBERSHIP (at 63)

   New Members: Darwin Johnson, Dave Monroe, Dave Myre. Welcome guys!

   Renewals: Ted Prueter (5)
   Pending: Len Barnes, Dave Bartilson

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

   Medical: After many years of patient waiting, Jeff Spires’ wife, Sharon, has finally received a liver transplant and is doing well. On the same day, January 25, Bob Marshall had heart valve replacement. Jim Troeger’s father-in-law underwent extensive (13-hour) surgery.

AROUND THE DISTRICT

   Infinity, with Big Chief Bruce LaMarte, has decided to retire. “We sincerely appreciate the support and encouragement of our immediate family and extended
family (the Pioneer District) over the past 3 years in Hospitality Rooms, Hotel lobbies, District Contests, Prelims, and International Competitions. We will remember these events for years to come. It was our honor to represent you in Louisville & Salt Lake City.

AROUND AMERICA AND THE WORLD

The Young Men In Harmony (YMIH) name has officially been replaced by Youth In Harmony (YIH). Now that the Harmonizer has arrived with the name change, we can start using this new title in our chapters and other functions. This change was discussed at some length at the Leadership Forum in Racine in November and all of the district YMIH people were in favor of the change.

The main reason for this change was the perception of our program by the music teachers. Most of their students are female and when we asked to come into the classroom with a presentation, they thought that there would be nothing for the female students, so they often categorically rejected us.

We also are conducting Harmony Explosion Camps that are with both male and female, so we are really teaching "youth" as well as young men. The other facet of our program is in the middle and elementary schools where the programs are co-ed.

I hope that we can make this change with no disruptions in programs and I appreciate your help in doing this.

Your Friend in Harmony,
Dave Anderson, Pioneer Director, YIH

BHS Society Headquarters to move

The Society Board at its 2006 Midwinter Convention in Sacramento, CA has adopted a motion instructing the Headquarters Relocation Committee to find an appropriate site for Society Headquarters in the Nashville, Tennessee area.

"The Board feels that Nashville will prove the greatest location in which we can achieve our vision of the Society's future," said Society President Drayton Justus. "Nashville's international reputation as 'Music City USA' connects our musical art form with many other resources to advance our mission and vision."

Strong possibilities for tourism, an excellent business and employment climate, and a transportation-friendly central location were also cited as reasons for the choice.

New Lyne-dance?

Keep a lookout for this new chorus which may be "dancing" on the stage in the Far Western District (FWD)! On Jan 3rd, the members of the Bay Area Metro and San Jose chapters approved a merger of their groups to form the Bay Area Chapter, and they have hired Dr. Greg Lyne as their new Musical Director. The new chapter will meet in the Milpitas/Fremont area.

The Westchesteraires, a barbershop quartet from the Westchester County, NY chapter, have been on David Letterman’s show about six times. They started several years ago with a very controversial top ten "Things that sound better when sung by a barbershop quartet".

Pioneer District’s entry, Antique Roadshow finished 10th with a score of 80 at the Seniors Quartet contest at the Midwinter International Convention in Sacramento.

Antique Gold won. This may be the first time a father and sons won their respective competitions within months of each other. Members of Antique Gold are tenor Tom Bates, 70; lead George Wakeham, 63; baritone Charlie Metzger, 59; and his brother bass George Metzger, 58. Charlie and George are father and uncle, respectively, of Tom and Mark Metzger, two members of Realtime, the quartet that swept the regular quartet internationals last July.

Big Chief Jeopardy. #3

1. Answer: His is an artistic family – his mom and aunt sang regularly on WWJ in the 30’s, he was a cartoonist in the army, and his daughter graduated from the Society of Arts and Crafts in Detroit. Question: Who is Mike Keith?
2. Answer: After retirement, he took up tap dancing, shuffleboard, volleyball, softball, table tennis and eventually competed successfully in the senior Olympics. Question: Who is Bob Marshall?
3. Answer: He played Frank Sinatra is our Fall “Ed Sullivan Show” (I know, your memory isn’t very good!) Question: Who is Art Carinci?

Big Chief Jeopardy. #4 (Try These.)

1. Answer: They were the guest quartet on our “Dorothy Returns to Oz” show. (Issue #18)
2. Answer: “If the stars go out tomorrow, I will still have you, my love.” (Issue #25)
3. Answer: A gift of a chain saw in the 1960’s led to a sideline as a tree surgeon, which capitalized on his youthful experience cutting wood by hand on the farm and scaling heights as a lineman. (Issue #33)

MEET ANDREW LESNEW
Andy was raised and educated in Milford, where his father was a carpenter and his mother a bill-collector. Neither was into music, but his 4th grade teacher, Mrs. Wykowski, sure was, and she invited him to the Honor Chorus tryouts. He has loved singing ever since.

After high school, he attended Ferris State University as a field-goal kicker and Elementary Education major. There he joined the Ferris State Wheels men’s glee club. Life events led to his transfer to the University of Arizona at Tucson and his selection by their traveling opera company with whom he traveled for six months thru the Southwest in the chorus of Romeo and Juliet (in French).

In 1999 he came home to Milford and became a professional electrician, and is now affiliated with Local 58. He married Tara, whom he had met in sixth grade choir class. They live in Highland with their two-year old daughter, Taran.

Our Don Sheridan is his relative and introduced him to barbershop. Andy sang for a while with the Milford chapter but members kept dying, so, with Bob Legato’s encouragement, Andy moved to a more youthful chorus.

Andy’s natural range is baritone, but he has also sung tenor with us, in hopes of getting into quartetting. His challenge now is holding his own part.

Andy’s hobbies include hockey, which he has played for fifteen years. He also is a chef, having worked his way thru school as a chef at Bogie Lake Country Club.

Voice Lessons?
George Gorsuch of Boise (Idaho) Valley Chordsmen writes: “We don't do specific voice lessons at my chapter, but we do work with all members to improve all elements of vocal production: support, air, vowel shape, placement, resonance, etc. These are all elements of the typical voice lesson, though in barbershop circles the focus is usually more "functional." Instead of learning to sing better for its own sake, members are coached how to fit into the fabric of the sound because of the need to produce a unified sound. Still, my barbershop chapter "voice lessons" have made me a better singer in all other aspects of my vocal pursuits.

I have seen my chapter use its better singers to work with those who are struggling to improve. I have seen dramatic improvements in people who initially struggled with pitch, placement, vowel shape, vibrato, etc. without the need to go pay for voice lessons.”

Barbershop Boot Camp
A recent thread on Harmonet imagined the design of a weekend barbershop boot camp. Since that sounds like our Spring retreat, I thought these answers were interesting:

Keith Eckhardt wrote: I suggest you show the 45 minute video by Dave Stevens on "What Are We Trying to Preserve?" He makes the points well and it is exceptionally fun. Go to http://store.yahoo.com/harmonymarketplace/whatvid.html to order it for only $15. I think every chorus would enjoy reviewing it every 2-3 years. Add 15 minutes for lively discussion and you have an hour block for your weekend program.
Bill Biffle wrote: Come to think of it, Greg Lyne's "Building a Better Chorus" is a great tool about what we do to create our sound. It's available from the Society for a very modest charge. ($10)
http://store.yahoo.com/harmonymarketplace/builbetchorv.html

Letter to the Editor
Thank You. Your Smoke Signals keeps me well informed. Mel (Parrish)

The Pontiac/Waterford Chapter
Big Chief Chorus 2006 – Our 63rd Year

Our Vision…
The Pontiac/Waterford Chapter, of The Barbershop Harmony Society, is an ever-growing organization of men of good will who love to sing. Our Vision is to promote the quality of our chorus and quartet singing, and preserve the barbershop style.

Our Mission…
It is the mission of the Pontiac/Waterford Chapter:
• To provide members the resources and support, through fellowship and fun, to improve their musical experience in the barbershop style.
• To provide quality musical entertainment in our community including an annual show, community performances, charitable activities, competitions, and barbershop music education.
• To actively recruit new members in order to perpetuate the craft, our chapter, and the Society.

Chorus Goals for 2006…
1. Improve Chorus Singing by:
   • Maintain an Effective Music Team Plan – Roger Holm
   • Increase Quartet Development – Bruce Brede
   • Increase Outside Coaching – Dick Johnson
   • Increase Music Learning Strategies – Greg Moss
   • Score at least 750 points in Spring Competition – Dick Johnson
   • Hold a Singing Retreat with a minimum 75% attendance – Pete Mazzara
2. Increase Community Relations & Awareness – Jack Teuber
3. Increase Membership to at least 65 men – Wayne Cheyne & BCC Members
4. Have a 2006 Fall Show – Executive Board
5. Increase Youth Singing Development in our Schools (YIH) – Ron Clarke & Bruce Brede

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING January 11, 2006, Excerpts from Bill Holmes minutes.

Attending: President Zaven Melkonian, Dick Johnson, Roger Holm, Wayne Cheyne, Jack Teuber, Ron Clarke and Bill Holmes. Pete and Bruce were away.

The secretary read highlights from the previous minutes which were written by Jack. The minutes were approved as distributed. It was noted that Dick remitted $69.75 to the Society for ASCAP, covering the performance of our music at the Fall Show. Also, the first Saturday in November has been reserved with the District for the P-W Fall Show for the years 2006 through 2008.

Dick Johnson reported our current insurance provides protection during our show from the front of the stage to the back of the audience. Steps will be taken to explore coverage for those on the risers. Dick also noted that the officers of the board are bonded and the board must formally identify, in the minutes, members who will be handling funds for the chapter; for example, the Cast Party Chairman and the Ticket Chairman.

Dick submitted a written report detailing the income and expenses. The current balance is $20,249.58.

MEMBERSHIP: Wayne Cheyne noted the attendance at rehearsals has been routinely good. Wayne presented the names of David Myre and Darwin (Dar) Johnson. Approved for membership.

MUSIC: Roger Holm reported the music committee is taking steps to review 14 songs with the various arrangements and select 8 or 9 for the show. Zaven will explore the cost and availability of “The Perfect Gentlemen” as a guest quartet. Dick will explore the Harmonica group.

PR & MARKETING: Jack Teuber reported on efforts regarding our 50th Woodshed Contest. Dick will seek to confirm the availability of the “Silverdomes” to be the judges. He is also considering refreshments at the activity. Jack is working on the Valentine Sing-outs and expects Four Wheel Drive, Celebration, and B Natural to be available for the sing-outs pending availability of a bass & tenor on the 13th and a tenor on the 14th.

Jack reported the Oxford Summer Concert Series has requested the Big Chief Chorus to sing from 7 pm to 9 pm in July. Dick believes we can honor this request.
Jack submitted a written report on all the sing-out occasions of the chorus and quartets for the year 2005. He lists the venue, the occasion, the number of the singers and the number in the audience.

President Zaven had the board review our organization chart, the 2006 calendar and our vision, mission and goals. He will make the few suggested minor revisions and have them distributed. The board approved Wayne’s suggestion that our goal for the retreat would be to have at least 36 men attend.

Zaven opened the discussion regarding the director search noting that we have our director in the room. This prompted Roger to move and Jack to second the motion which was approved by the board, namely, that Richard Johnson be hired as our formal Director with all the rights and the responsibilities of the job. Richard humbly and gratefully accepted the assignment. The board was enthused to approve such a motion which gives Richard Johnson the formal title to match what he as been doing for the chorus for the many months and years.

**Ford closures and reductions are hitting the area hard. Are they hitting any of our members or friends or their families?**

Dave Bartilson: Well so far, the only effect is the anxiety. Chances are, if anything is going to happen to me and our group, it’ll be this week.

Dave Myre: The Ford workers that I do know I have not seen in many years. But I do know many G. M. hourly and salary workers (me included) have dealt with similar problems over the years. They change your lives and lifestyles a great deal, especially the younger employees with very little seniority. The biggest thing about these closings is how it affects the entire area, even if you are not in the auto business, because most businesses count on the auto industry to support their families. It changes shopping, schools, travel etc. But most of all it can cause a lot of family distress, that sometimes shows itself in the school systems as children worry about their parents making ends meet.

Donna Bevington sent the following link to a BBC Science article, “How singing unlocks the brain.” It relates success with Alzheimer’s obtained by a method called *Singing for the Brain*. Go to: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/4448634.stm

**Subject: Irish Humor**

Paddy was driving down the street in a sweat because he had an important meeting and couldn't find a parking place.

Looking up to heaven he said, “Lord, take pity on me. If you find me a parking place I will go to Mass every Sunday for the rest of my life and give up me Irish Whiskey”.

Miraculously, a parking place appeared.
Paddy looked up again and said, “Never mind, I found one.”

Note: All un-attributed articles and photos are by John Cowlishaw

**CHAPTER LEADERSHIP**

Director: Dick Johnson  
Assistant Directors: Fred McFadyen, Lyle Howard, & Bill Holmes  
President: Zaven Melkonian (248-698-1144)  
Past President: Pete Mazzara  
VP: Chapter Dev: Wayne Cheyne  
VP: Music and Performance: Roger Holm  
VP: Marketing & PR: Jack Teuber  
Secretary: Bill Holmes  
Treasurer: Dick Johnson  
Members at Large: Ron Clarke, Bruce Brede  
Chorus Manager: Art Carinci  
Music Team: Holm, Johnson, Doig, Ensign, McFadyen, Melkonian, Murray, Prueter

**Calendar**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 31, T</td>
<td>Rehearsal, Crary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 7, T</td>
<td>Rehearsal, Crary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 8, W</td>
<td>Deadline for Spring Singing Retreat deposit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 10, F</td>
<td>Exec. Bd. Meeting, 7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 13,4 M,T</td>
<td>Valentine Singouts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 16, Th,8pm</td>
<td>Clarkston Community Women’s Club, Independence Twp Library, 6495 Clarkston Rd, Class B Uniform</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 21, T</td>
<td>Crary closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 24,5</td>
<td>D.O.C. Show</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 28, T</td>
<td>Rehearsal, Crary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 7,T</td>
<td>Rehearsal, Crary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 8</td>
<td>Exec Bd. Meeting, 7pm, Roger’s</td>
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<td>Mar 14,T</td>
<td>Rehearsal, Crary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 21,T</td>
<td>Rehearsal, Crary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 24, 26</td>
<td>Spring Singing Retreat, McMullen Cntr, Higgins Lake</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 28,T</td>
<td>Rehearsal, Crary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 7, F, 7:30</td>
<td>50th Annual Woodshed Contest, PTK country club</td>
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<td>Apr 12</td>
<td>Exec Bd. Meeting, Wayne Chene’s</td>
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<td>Apr 28-30</td>
<td>Pioneer District Convention</td>
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<td>May 12, F 3pm</td>
<td>Mothers’ Day Tribute, American House, 3617 Adams, Rochester</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 19-21</td>
<td>Harmony Roundup, E. Lansing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jun 20, 7:30</td>
<td>Orion Township hall Summer Concert Series, 2525 Joslyn Rd, Class B’s</td>
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