



BIG CHIEF CHORUS
SMOKE
SIGNALS



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

Vol. 9, No. 8

December 1, 2009

The Big Chief Chorus Goes Hollywood, Featuring Songs of Disney

(The BCC wants to make their 1st Feature Film. However, their applications to Hollywood Studios are denied. Despite a Movie Studio recently moving to Pontiac, they also rejected the BCC. So we decided to make our own movie. However, the communication between the Director and Camera Man is seriously flawed.)

Well, we made it. No one got the flu. We handled the tag to "Be Our Guest" and the D minor chord in "Chim Chim Cher-ee" well enough that no one could tell we were sweating them out. The house was nearly full - and full of patrons ready to be entertained and to engage with us enthusiastically. Tom Blue's outfits made us grin. Greg captured the spirit of a child with a kite. Ron and Jim played their roles so robustly that the audience quickly succumbed to that dramatically essential suspension of disbelief that accompanies all good drama.

Our T shirts were colorful, no two shades alike (except for one mystery pair).

The chorus showed its usual creativity with pirate and other costumes.

Our chorus line blondes (Charlie Perry, Jim MacDonald, Bill Auquier, and Neil Braun) were beautiful, in their wigs and boas, cheap jewelry, garters, and bright red lipstick, (while remaining virginal, Ron pointed out).

Our dwarves looked diminutive, especially Lance Shew. He and Dave Myre, Walt Bachmann, Bob Marshall, Doc Mann, Dave Shantz, and Ted Prueter had their reciprocating shovels all askew.

Final headcount...52 Big Chieftains singing to 678 patrons.

The show was dedicated to the memory of Bob Butcher. Ron Clarke, Jim Owens, and Jeff Doig were everywhere. Pete Mazzara wrote the script with help from Jeff Doig. Donna Bevington was at a family affair in Florida on the night of the show, but had set up the stage management of students and Terry Jamison to run smoothly in her absence. (Though the spotlights and video camera were sometimes late in placement.)

Jim Claflin did the announcements and wrap-up.

Ross Ensign's created the programs and tickets with Doug Metzger's help.

Dick Johnson and Jim Owens collected and dispersed money for tickets and program ads.

Howard Lynn did his usual fine work on sets.

In Al Monroe's absence Pete Mazzara picked up the backdrop, a movie view.

Whenever Tom wasn't available, Freddie stepped in to help us memorize those songs.

Ted Prueter made sure we were singing legal music.

The BCC chorus sang "Be Our Guest," "Can You Feel the Love Tonight," "Heigh-Ho," "Yo-Ho, A Pirate's Life for me," "Kiss the Girl," and "Disney Song Medley." NORTHBOUND SOUND sang "Come Fly With Me," VINTAGE sang "When You Wish Upon a Star," and NATURAL-E sang "Spoonful of Sugar."

The chorus sprouted Mickey Mouse ears for the final Medley.

THE PARTY and INVOICE added their quartettish harmonies to the evening program.

Al and Dave Monroe attended the show, as did Nancy Miller, and Bill and Candy Nevaux. Also present were Fred DeVries, Ron Arnold, Don DeNoyer's wife, and Mary Butcher.

Thanks to Bruce Brede for organizing the afterglow.

Bruce LaMarte and TC Connor showed up and sang a beautiful rendition of a polecat.

Doc Mann gave an emotional speech, his final as President.

Show DVDs are \$20.

The show photos are on Snapfish, and, yes, you need to register -- it's free. Then, if you want prints, you can order them from Snapfish (at a really low price) and get them in the mail.

Cowlshaw's photos are posted at:

http://www2.snapfish.com/thumbnaillshare/AlbumID=1570405020/a=150021325_150021325/otsc=SHR/otsi=SALBlink/COBRAND_NAME=comcast2/

Stan and Paula Lawrence's photos are posted at:

http://www1.snapfish.com/thumbnaillshare/AlbumID=1599853016/a=146970139_146970139/otsc=SHR/otsi=SALBlink/COBRAND_NAME=snapfish/

Greg Moss's friend, Utz Schmidt's photos are posted at:

http://www5.snapfish.com/thumbnaillshare/AlbumID=2489937007/a=3271403332714033/otsc=SHR/otsi=SALBlink/COBRAND_NAME=comcast2/

From de Prez:

Men of the Big Chief Chorus:

As my second and final term as President draws to an end, I wish to take a few moments to reflect and express my appreciation.

When I was asked to run for the office of President, I had not been a member of the Board for the preceding five years. Back in 2002, I was VP of chapter development, having only been a chorus member for about a year and a half. Well, during that year our President took a sabbatical from office for several months. That led me to serve as interim President as well as continue in my VP position. An interesting but enjoyable challenge, so much so that I decided not to continue on the Board but to use my winter time to travel for the next several years.

Upon becoming President in 2008 some of the Board members' faces were still the same (and they still looked board, little humor there) but the challenges and concerns were all new.

We had a new Director who had just come aboard, a new Treasurer who for personal reasons had to resign and some Giant Shoes to try to fill (no pun intended in reference to your feet Zaven). For it was Zaven's help to get oriented that gave me the confidence to move forward. My first of many thank you's to you Zaven.

Bringing Dick Johnson back as Treasurer under the stress of his family concerns allowed us to continue to function, pay our bills and keep things in "Balance" if you will. He continues to do a job well done. My second thank you to you, Dick.

As the year progressed I began to appreciate the talents of others. Jack Teuber with incredible energy, talent and skills which eventually brought his work as VP of Marketing and PR recognition as best in the "WORLD" of the BHS. My thanks to you Jack for an outstanding job. Also my congratulations to you and my wishes for continued success in your position as President for 2010.

Roger Holm, steadfast and reliable, what would we do without your dedication and numerous contributions to our chapter? Another enormous thank you.

And thank you Bill and Bill, Auquier and Holmes. As Secretary and VP of Growth and Development respectively, one could not ask for better team members giving of their time and talents.

Representatives At Large, Eric Domke and Wayne Cheyne your time and input much appreciated. Ron Clarke, what a great job with our show this year as well as keeping the chorus clad. Thank you. And a very special thank you Bob Butcher, you are sorely missed.

Other members' huge contributions, John Cowlshaw, Bruce Brede, Ross Ensign, Doug Metzger, Tom Jackson, Walt DeNio, Jeff Doig, Jim Owens, Fred McFadyen, Pete Mazzara, Dave Myre, Fred Pioch, Ted Prueter, Bob Greenwood, you all know what you have contributed to allow the chorus to

function with the tasks you have performed. And the rest of the membership who contribute in your own way, Thank You, Thank You, Thank You.

Last but not least to you Tom Blue my gratitude and THANK YOU for your time, energy, interest and dedication to making all of us in this chorus better singers.

To all of you have made my job as your President a joy and pleasure, my deep and sincerest appreciation. I am proud and honored to have served this outstanding group of men.

Irwin "Doc" Mann,
President, Big Chief Chorus
thanx, IM

From our Director:

Gentlemen of the BCC,

Congratulations on another successful show. It was again another fun-filled evening of BCC humor and harmony and a house full of people who came to hear you and our guest quartets.

The guest quartets were great with their selections and contributions to our show. I was especially impressed with the fact that each quartet sang with what I would call a "free tone." A sound that was full and unforced and yet tight with harmonies and rhythm.

Speaking of quartets, I felt that our "in house" quartets sang some of their best stuff Saturday evening. Many thanks to VINTAGE, NATURAL -E and NORTHBOUND SOUND for your contributions and willingness to add to the show. Congratulations, men!

Speaking of men, what can I say. You all continue to amaze, you continue to improve and you continue to come through for yet another wonderful show. Many compliments have come your way because of your hard work, effort and willingness to step up musically. Thank you for following "rule 6" even if it was accompanied by various hats and other props. No hula skirt jokes, please. Many thanks to all of you men who continue to set our bar higher.

Many thanks to the board, music committee, show committee, people who provided props, signs (I didn't know Howard was an artist), costumes, stage managing, organizing the cast party, arranging for guest quartets and etc. There are so many of you that take the initiative to put together a wonderful show that if I were to mention everyone, I know that I would forget someone. So... to all who helped in some small way, thank you! It is a nice thing to have too many people involved. It demonstrates the quality, caring and commitment of our organization, the BCC.

Thanks for all of your support and continued words of encouragement. As my daughters would say, "You Rock!"

Now, I hear Christmas songs in my head or is that sugar plums?

Please take a look at the Christmas music and really go over the words. We seem to pick up notes really well but often stumble on the text, and we have to know the text if we are to communicate the story.

Also, please do not assume that you already know these songs but take time to review them. Wouldn't it be nice to have the satisfaction that being able to say, yes we sang the same songs but "Wow, they didn't sound like this last year! My, have we made a noticeable improvement and we really sound great!" How about singing them with a renewed energy, vitality and a real sense of sounding or "ringing the chords!"

It is a pleasure to be with you and to be the "front line director." After our success with the show, let's not fall upon our complacency and our laurels, but rather let's use the success as a springboard for even more success and musical growth. There has to be a reason that 50+ guys show up and then have 5-10 new guys. There has to be something to what you are doing, the direction you are going and how we are as an organization.

Keep up the good work! and Feliz Navidad! Buon Natale. Eat, Drink and Be Merry!

AROUND THE PATCH

President-Elect Teuber has appointed a **four-man Public Relations Committee** to replace the current VP of PR & Marketing. The Committee responsibilities include: Gig Reservations, Site Evaluation & Needs, Communications, Youth-in-Harmony. The President will be ex-officio on this committee. At the present time there will not be a Voting VP of PR & Mkt on the Board

Bruce Brede (bus tour), Roger Holm and Walt DeNio have done their usual superb job of planning and scheduling our **Christmas performances**.

We have been happy to have so many guests in our Christmas chorus – including: Jeffrey Kafer, Wayne Oberstadt and his twin sons – Aaron and Michael, Wayne Nafsu, Larry Gatzmyer, Tom Burder, Paul Preseau, George Luenberger, Andy Lesnew, Dick Chapman, Roy Scott, Duane Roy, Jerry Twomey, Ray Sturdy, and Greg Stieber.

Ross Ensign prepared **Christmas CDs** for our guests. He could use some more paper CD sleeves and a couple packs of blank CDs

A **new Christmas Octet, the SnowFlakes**, will perform for chorus approval on Tues. Dec. 1.

BCC performances. Heading into the Christmas season, we have completed 80 performances to 5,496 people.

The **Music Committee** reports that it has chosen a **theme for our 66th show**: "Get Your Kicks on Route 66."

Molly and Elizabeth Flatoff are progressing and moving up the ranks of AAU Swimming. Their father Cory Flatoff wishes the BCC well and says Hello to all. Cory was pleased to hear of the recent show and regretted that he was flying in the Caribbean on November 7th. (Submitted by Jack Teuber, a regular spectator at AAU Swim Meets)

Web-master Jeff Doig is working to add a members-only sub-site, where we could post training tracks.

Night Shift will sing at our Annual Installation and Awards Dinner.

The Big Chief Chorus supported Michelle Harness and her **Kettering musical program**, with many Chieftains attending "The Sound of Music" Nov 19-21. Gil Schreiner's nephew played the part of Uncle Max. Zaven Melkonian, Dar Johnson, Bill Maxfield, Fred Pioch, Ted Prueter and Jack Teuber were also present.

Chuck Murray's mother-in-law, Lelia McDaniel, passed away this past month.

Bill Auquier's new email address is billorbonnie@comcast.net

Pioneer President Brian Dunckel has appointed John H Baker IV as **district historian**. "I've sung in numerous contests and internationals with the Great Lakes Chorus since 1979. Now my plans are: gathering information of current / former chapters like Cadillac and others which I hope in the near future to put into an interactive media. I want to make our district's history to be as fun, memorable, obtainable for all current members and others just beginning in our hobby. I will be asking for your help and patients as I settle into this position. I encourage chapters that don't have a historian to do so. I look forward to working with them and you in the future."

To which **your editor replied**: Pontiac Waterford doesn't have an official historian, now that Bill Pascher has passed on, but for the ten years that I have been doing our monthly *Smoke Signals*, it has served as the historical record, if you want to mark me down as Historian."

I have talked with Dick Johnson who says, "That's good John. I'm going to push for a permanent resting place for our history stuff. I don't want to exit not knowing what will happen to same. I've been on the chapter board, non-stop, since becoming president back in the 70's. So, it's time to accumulate what I may have in a safe place. Thanks, Dick."

Dick brought our original Pontiac chapter charter with him to show at our November 17 meeting.

QUARTETS

Vintage sang a nine song set Saturday evening, November 14, at the Harvest Festival at St George's Episcopal Church of Milford. The 80-some congregation members included ex-BBCer Andrew Lesnew. Turns out that Russ Seeley used to attend here and the SILVERDOMES have sung there in the past.

MEMBERSHIP (at 63)

New Member: Wayne Oberstadt. Welcome, Wayne!

Renewals: Bruce Brede (12), Ross Ensign (27)

December Birthdays: Jim Macdonald (6th), Austin Quinn (7th), Jack Teuber (15th), Howard Lynn (18th), Mike Frye (23rd), Stan Lawrence (26th), Zaven Melkonian (26th), Bob Kleeman (26th), Jim Owens (28th)

Medical: Eric Domke is scheduled for long-awaited surgery on his foot on Dec 2. He'll have bones shaved and pinned and will be out of commission for a while.

In Memoriam: Dec 7, 2001, Bob Woodward, Smoke Signals #8
Dec 18, 2005, Bob Wisdom, Smoke signals #57

BSOM, Ross Ensign



(from last year's show pictures)

AROUND THE DISTRICT

Frank Adams, P/R Chairman of the **Wayne Chapter** announces that the name of its chorus is changing from the Renaissance Chorus, to the **HarmonyTown Chorus**. They will be presenting their Christmas show Sunday, Dec 6 at 3 pm in the Livonia Public Library Auditorium.

The new **Pioneer Leadership Academy** (aka the old COTS) has several ad hoc programs. One is the option to tell your story with a "table top" display. Two of four spots have been spoken for. Mike O'Donnell is going to display his efforts to begin a Harmony Brigade event for Michigan and Ron Eubank is going to have materials about becoming a certified judge candidate when the next three year cycle opens in 2010. The other is activity will be group-writing of a parody of a polecat under the direction of "Mike Lietke from the Greendale WI chapter and the Midwest Vocal Express. You know, the green army guys and the fish people...did I mention penguins or waiters or James Bond sets?"

Michael Baribeau writes: "A number of us from Pioneer headed to Indianapolis Nov 13th 2009 for some Extreme Quartetting with the Indiana Harmony Brigade. A link to photos and report below.

Mike O'Donnell has elected to take up the torch for starting a Harmony Brigade in Michigan! Read about it in the report and watch for more about this soon!

<http://pioneerdistrict.org/troubadour/online/2009/11/picsihb/>

AROUND THE WORLD

New Seniors Dues Discount Rate Becomes Effective January 1, 2010

A small change takes effect on January 1 that will change the dues discount rate offered senior members in the future. Current senior members will not be affected by the change.

Eligibility criteria for the seniors dues discount remain the same: a reduced rate is offered after a member has reached his seventieth birthday and has accumulated a total of ten years of membership in the Barbershop Harmony Society.

All members qualifying under these criteria before January 1, 2010 will be classified as "Seniors Legacy" (code SL on your membership invoice) and will continue to receive a 50% discount on BHS Dues. (There are 23 Chieftains that qualify.)

Members qualifying on or after January 1, 2010 will be classified as "Seniors" (code SN) and enjoy a 25% discount on BHS Dues.

(Chapters and Districts may elect to set their dues according to these criteria as they choose. Either way, they should affirmatively set rates for each of these dues classes in the Chapter Dues Pricing section of the ebiz.barbershop.org website. Even if the rates will be same for both classes, you will need to make an entry so that your chapter's preferences are made clear. Take the opportunity to review that all the dues rates set by your chapter are properly listed.)

A new task force has been appointed by Society President Bill Biffle to partition the present Dixie District into **two new districts**, a Carolinas District comprised of all chapters in North Carolina and South Carolina, and a re-formed Dixie District to be comprised of all chapters in Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Georgia, and the portion of Arkansas presently located in the Dixie District.

The anticipated **convention issue of The Harmonizer** almost complete! (as of Nov 19) "Heading to the printer soon will be a special 60-page issue that includes hundreds of photos and all the best memories from the 2009 international convention. This oversized issue takes a bit longer to produce, but the wait will be worth it! Watch the front page of www.barbershop.org where the full issue will be available for download next week!"

Warm Weather & Red Hot Barbershop

“You need to be in Tampa this January! You won't want to miss spectacular performances by

Crossroads
Old School
Storm Front
State Line Grocery
Ringmasters
The Vagrants
Audacity
Toast of Tampa Show Chorus

& more!....all at the 2010 Midwinter Convention in Tampa. Lock in your great seats today!”

Register for Philly (summer site) by January 15!

“Philly hotel reservations will be available starting January 15. (For those that registered prior to November 1st, you will be able to reserve your room starting on December 15.) We have great hotel rates available in Philadelphia...bring the whole family.” Seven hotels are within walking distance at \$115 and up per night.

MEET STAN LAWRENCE

Stan was born in 1939 (he hits the big seven-OH December 26) in Huntington, W. Va., where his father was a mechanic and his mom a school teacher. Upon graduation from high school, he set his sights on engineering, first taking classes at Marshall College (now Marshall University) and then transferring to General Motors Institute in Flint, where he graduated with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. (Bill Maxfield and Paul Smith were there at the same time.)

His whole 45-year career was spent at General Motors in Engineering. He worked in product design, on engines at the Tech Center, and on truck body development at the Proving Ground. At the time of his retirement in 2005, he was Architectural Manager for full-size utility hybrids, such as the Yukon.

He met his wife Paula while working at the Tech Center, and they have been married 29 years, while raising three children from their former marriages – Jeff Lawrence, who lives in Waterford, and Robert and Nicole Gibson. Stan and Paula now have six grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Around 1968, Stan's neighbor, Terry Ermoian brought him to the Pontiac chapter. Terry was President of our chapter for a while, as was Bill Pascher at



that time. The chorus met in the basement of a bar in Gingellville (Bill's old stomping ground around Baldwin Rd and Maybee Rd). In the early 1970's, Stan's life got too busy, and he dropped out of barbershop. Upon retirement, he decided to pick it up again, and joined the Livingston Lamplighter chorus, with whom he now duals. That chapter meets on Monday night and has about sixteen members. There he met Jim Claflin, and they each visited Pontiac-Waterford and liked what they heard. They also sang together for a while on Tuesday mornings at the Hartland Senior Center.

Stan has always sung Lead, including, briefly in a quartet, THE JESTERS.

Stan and Paula live on Woodland Lake in Brighton, a mile from the junction of US 23 and I-96. Their summers are heavily into boating. They have a Four Winns speedboat, and a pontoon boat. Paula is also busy as an open faith Minister, who was ordained in the Fellowship for Today church in Lansing.

American Harmony was shown at the Detroit Institute of Arts Film Theater on November 20 - 22. Many Chieftains attended Friday night, including Blackstone, Cowlshaw, Perry, McFadyen, and seven more on Sunday.

The Doig quartet minus Doig but with a Sarasota Lead sang polecats in the lobby Friday night. NITRO, the current champion of the Ontario District, sang on stage before the 4 pm Sunday show. www.nitroquartet.com

You can still see the trailer for American Harmony at:
<http://www.facebook.com/video/video.php?v=50636686309>

On Thursday preceding, WDET gave 35 minutes to barbershop, including an interview with its two producers, and performance and interview with local quartet, RIGHT ON Q (Ed Bax, Mark Slamka, Matt Tipton, and Nelson)

AMERICAN HARMONY – Review

American Harmony is a serious look at barbershop competition. It focuses on four quartets during the two-year period from July, 2005 to July 2007 in which three of them, OC TIMES, VOCAL SPECTRUM, and MAX Q vie for the gold, and REVEILLE, long past its prime (during which it first introduced humor and shtick to the International stage, forcing furious discussions among judges about its appropriateness), simply tries to show up for the quarter-finals, seven weeks before its baritone, Roger Payne, dies of a brain tumor. The documentary-style movie is shorn of extraneous details as it focuses on that competition. Outside of a few shots, such as Tony DeRosa mowing his lawn in shorts, not a pretty sight, personal lives are omitted.

REALTIME has just won gold and MAX Q, a constellation of four of the best singers in the barbershop world has been disappointed to have come up short, if silver can be considered short, two years running. Were everyone's expectations too high? Or are they getting too long in the tooth to compete against the youthful vigor of OC TIMES and VOCAL SPECTRUM? As good as Tony DeRosa is, twice gold at Bari, both he and a frustrated Jeff Oxley admit he hasn't yet taken

the lead as a Lead should. Oxley, in several almost embarrassingly honest shots, admits, "Nothing against the other quartets, but I can't stand finishing second."

Three time gold medalist "Awesome Joe" Connelly is there to guide us thru the intricacies, and to wince in horror at one bad note in the final package by OC TIMES that dooms them to third place in 2006. You can cut the tension with a knife as MAX Q awaits the scores, and the disappointment on Oxley's face as their third consecutive second place finish is announced.

In a flash-forward to 2007, a mellowed Oxley says, "It's about the journey, not the destination," as MAX Q sings "Here's to the Losers" and finally takes home the Gold.

Much of the action is familiar to any barbershopper who has competed at district conventions. Some could only be known by a backstage International finalist. One surprise to me was the shots of quartets watching others' performances right before their own. I expected them to be in isolation, as they emotionally prepared for their glad-faced entry onto the stage in front of 8000 fans, as shown numerous times from behind by the cameras of producers Aengus James (who is also the writer/director) and Colin Miller.

Of course, along the way there are swatches of the best barbershop singing in the world, and the responses of groupies and other barbershop fans filling the stadia of Salt Lake City, Indianapolis, and Denver. There are also glimpses of the Slamka men and Michigan's BHS President Roger Lewis, and I think I saw TC Conner.

"Boring barbershop"

A lot of people find barbershop boring, especially after a whole evening of nothing but barbershop. As I thought about it, I realized that, at one level, good barbershop has to be boring. And that is at the level of vocal quality. The more uniformly a member sings, the less one's vocal personality stands out, the more monotonous the pitch, the better the four voices can join to form something that is greater than the sum of the parts, the "expanded sound of barbershop."
[Contrary opinions are welcome, and will be printed in the next issue. ☺)

Big Chief Jeopardy, #34. (Did you get these?)

1. **Answer:** His activities have included: the Confederate Air Force, soccer referee, Nicaraguan waters, Granada expedition, and the U.S. Naval Institute. **Question:** Who is Terry Jamison?
2. **Answer:** Belt-breathing, Giallombarado, four-square breathing, zhoom-bubble, yah-tongue, and ornery ogre. **Question:** Name six of Cowlshaw's warm-up exercises.

Big Chief Jeopardy, #35. (Try these.)

1. **Answer:** He attended Michigan State in the Business Administration program. Though his summer jobs were in restaurantering, his heart returned to clothing.
2. **Answer:** J-3 Cub, V-tailed Bonanza, Piper Tomahawk, Cessna 172, Beech 400A, Eipper Quicksilver MX, H-21 Shawnee, Piper Vagabond, B-17, and Ercoupe
(Clues to the Questions in Issues # 67 and 77.)

An October 30 news story in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram by Patsy Miller, alerted me to the existence of **The flying Musicians Association**.
<http://www.flyingmusicians.org/> She writes:

"Nov. 7 Fly-in Musicfest looks to combine two passions. In these challenging economic times, the Fly-In Musicfest on Saturday, November 7, is the ultimate two-for-one bargain. And the sponsor? The Flying Musicians Association"

Letters:

Art Carinci responded to Greg Moss's posted photos:

Hi Greg,

Thanks for the photos. It looks like another successful show for the BCC. It's at times like these that I really miss our group. I bet it was work and worry right down to the final day, but a lot of satisfaction after the presentation. Give my best to all the boys. I miss you all a lot.

This Vegas deal is a lot more work than I ever could have imagined. Well on the bright side, this should be my last test and in a couple of more years I can retire permanently and get a life.

Again my best to all, and always keep a song in your heart!

Art

(At Tom Blue's request, the Music Committee contacted the **Society's Music Contestability committee** about the **possible contestability of three Disney songs**. Our request was re-routed to **Music Judge Jeff Taylor**, whom long-time Chieftains will remember as the inventor of our famous 7th chord additions to "Don't Blame Me." His warm response included a very educational analysis of the songs, plus this personal note.)

Dear John,

My name is Jeff Taylor. I am a certified Music Judge and a member of the Society's new Contestability committee. Our chair, Don Gray, asked me to examine the three Disney Songs that your chorus is considering for contest and get back to you. When Don passed this on to me I didn't realize at first that you're with the Big Chiefs out of Pontiac. Some of your men may recall that I coached your chorus at a retreat sometime around 2001 or 2002? This is when Chris was their director before his untimely departure

from us. It was a wonderful weekend that I still recall very fondly. As I recall, the men made a big improvement in their subsequent district contest. Anyway, please give my greetings to any of the guys who might remember me from that time.

In Harmony,
Jeff Taylor, Contestability Team

Some of this year's **word jokes from the Washington Post:**

1. Sarchasm: The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn't get it.
2. Osteopornosis: A degenerate disease.
3. Karmageddon: It's like, when everybody is sending off all these really bad vibes, right? And then, like, the Earth explodes and it's like, a serious bummer.
4. Bozone layer: The substance surrounding stupid people that stops bright ideas from penetrating.
5. Giraffiti: Vandalism spray-painted very, very high
6. Decafalon: The grueling event of getting through the day consuming only things that is good for you.
7. Glibido: All talk and no action.
8. Caterpallor: The color you turn after finding half a worm in the fruit you're eating.
9. Coffee: The person upon whom one coughs.
10. Willy-nilly: Impotent.
11. Lymph: To walk with a lisp.
12. Rectitude: The formal, dignified bearing adopted by proctologists.
13. Pokemon: A Rastafarian proctologist.
14. Circumvent: An opening in the front of boxer shorts worn by Jewish men

All unattributed articles and photos by John Cowlshaw

CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

Director: Thomas Blue (248-814-9627)
 Assistant Directors: Fred McFadyen, Dick Johnson, & Bill Holmes
 President: Doc Mann (248-628-0189)
 President-in-waiting: Jack Teuber (248-334-3686)
 Past President: Zaven Melkonian
 VP: Chapter Dev: Bill Holmes
 VP: Music and Performance: Roger Holm
 VP: Marketing & PR: Jack Teuber
 Secretary: Bill Auquier
 Treasurer: Dick Johnson
 Members at Large – Bob Butcher, Wayne Cheyne, Ron Clarke, Erik Domke

Chorus Manager: Bob Greenwood
 Music Team: Holm, Blue, Johnson, Doig, Ensign, McFadyen, Murray, Prueter, Moss, Cowlshaw, and Brede

CALENDAR (Times are Performance Times, Warmups 45' earlier,
NOTE: THE UNIFORM FOR MOST CHRISTMAS CHORUS EVENTS IS WHITE LONG SLEEVE DRESS SHIRT WITH CHRISTMAS TIE, BLACK PANTS, BLACK SHOES, AND CHRISTMAS HEAD PIECE (OPTIONAL). RED, BLACK OR GREEN JACKET AND HAT IF POSSIBLE FOR BUS TOUR AND OTHER OUTSIDE

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| Dec 1, T, 7 pm | 4 th Christmas chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks |
| Dec 3, Th, 1 pm | Oakland County Retirees@ White Lake Oaks |
| 2 pm | Lockwood Apartments of Waterford |
| 8 pm | St. Paul's Methodist Church, 620 Romeo Rd, Rochester |
| Dec 6, Su, 4 pm | Big Chief Chorus with the North Oakland Concert Band
Christ the Redeemer Church, 2700 Waldon Rd. Lake Orion |
| Dec 7, M, 6:30 pm | Waterford Twp. Tree Lighting, 5200 Civic Center Dr @ Crescent Lk |
| Dec 8, T, | Lourdes campus, 2300 Watkins Lake @ Dixie |
| 5:45 pm | Nursing Center |
| 6:30 pm | Clausen Unit |
| 7:15 pm | Fox Manor |
| Dec 10, Th, 1 pm | Pontiac Osteopathic Hospital, 50 N Perry, Pontiac |
| 2 pm | Inn at Cass Lake, 900 N. Cass Lake Rd @ Pontiac Lk Rd |
| Dec 11, F, 7pm | Installation & Awards Dinner, Waterford Oaks |
| Dec 12, Sa, 12 pm | Christmas Bus Tour Waterford Oaks, returning ~ 6:30 |
| Dec 15, T, 7 pm | Lakeland Place, 2700 Eliz. Lk nr Voorheis |
| Dec 16, W, 6:30 pm | Canterbury on the Lake, 5601 Hatchery nr Airport Rd |
| Dec 18, F, 1 pm | Oakland Co. Parks & Rec @ Waterford Oaks |
| Dec 19, Sa, 3 pm | Jack's Birthday @ Lookout Lodge, RSVP by Dec 5 |
| Dec 22, T, 6:15 pm | Independence Village of Union Lk, 935 Union Lk Rd |
| Jan 9, 2010, Sa | Leadership Academy (formerly COTS), Okemos. |
| Jan 17, Su, 6 pm | MLK observance, Waterford Kettering High School |
| Jan 26-31 | 2010 Midwinter Convention (Tampa) |
| Feb 12-14 | Singing Valentines |
| Mar 17 | St. Patrick's Day @ Canterbury on the Lake |
| Apr 17 | 1-day Chorus retreat, LaSalle Banquet Center, Pontiac |
| Apr 24, Sa | Spring District Convention, Kalamazoo |
| Jun 26, Sa | Waterford Log Cabin Days @ Fish Hatchery Park |
| Sep 24-26 | Singing Retreat, MacMullan Center, Higgins Lake |
| Nov 6 | BCC 66 th annual show, <i>Get Your Kicks on Rte 66</i> |