



  
**BIG CHIEF CHORUS**  
**SMOKE**  
**SIGNALS**



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

**Vol. 9, No. 10 (#106)**

**February 1, 2010**

**Breaking News: RESISTING-A-REST wins Gold.**

With 890 points (74.2%), RESISTING-A-REST won the Senior Quartet competition this week in Tampa. They had taken 2<sup>nd</sup> place the past two years. Congratulations to Bruce LaMarte (T), Tom Connor (L), Phil Haines(Bs), Steve Warnaar (Br). They performed “The Sunshine of Your Smile” and “Heart of my Heart (medley).”

**From the Director:**

Men of the BCC,

New music and a new year. Let's polish the old favorites as well. After a successful year of music-making in 2009, let's make a run at 2010 for an even better year with music-making, the learning of new songs, the ringing of chords and the sharing our gifts with others. I look forward to working with all of you once again. Is this my 3rd or 4th year?

Hope to see all of you each Tuesday and bring a friend. Could we possibly have 50+ singers at each rehearsal? Is it possible? I remember striving for 20, then 30 and then 40!

Let's really focus on a unified sound and the ringing of chords!

**AROUND THE PATCH**

Six of us attended Leadership Academy this year (the old COTS). It was Saturday, Jan 9, at the Okemos Comfort Inn, right off I-96. The name was changed to include other than Board members and officers. So John Cowlshaw

and Ross Ensign joined officers Jack Teuber, Dick Johnson, Bill Auquier, and Bill Holmes. (See reports, below.)

Wonderful to see so many of our Christmas guests returning to the chorus in January, including; Pat Newkirk, Ed Lilly, Michael Oberstadt, Roy Scott, and Paul Preseau. (Those wonderful new Bari's, Ray Sturdy and Jeff Kafer, are beyond guesthood.)

If you were impressed by “Prayer of the Children,” performed at the MLK observance by the chorale, Jeff Doig sent out this YouTube recording:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8RGf0pzLneA>

Gene Downie is finalizing the 2010 Directory. Be sure that your entry is up-to-date. Those with email addresses should have gotten an email from Gene.

Bob Marshall has a new email address. [eibobmar@att.net](mailto:eibobmar@att.net)

The chorus is meeting at **Heroes Bar-BQ & Brew**, 998 W. Huron St, Waterford, bi-monthly after rehearsal.

Twenty one Chieftains have signed up to sing Valentines.



(from PROBE moter)



Nola and Lance Shew will celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary on February 6, 2010.

**Pioneer District Convention, Kalamazoo, April 24**

Our contest songs have been chosen, “Heart of my Heart” and “Midnight Rose.”

Here is the Westminster Chorus doing “Heart of My Heart.”  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QQaZVhECWqo>

Cowlshaw thinks Midnight Rose is a party girl. Others think her a call girl. Terry Jamison has discovered that Midnight Rose is a Hotel and Casino, and wonders, tongue-in-cheek?, whether the song is a plea to turn aside from gambling. Here is the Midnight Rose Tag, as performed by the best.  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tgv7dY4s5L0>

Ron Eubank writes, “The contest is set up and ready to be entered for the April convention in Kalamazoo. There's the Senior Quartet Championship,

the College Quartet Contest, the International Quartet Prelims, the District Chorus Championship, and the Chorus Plateau Championships.

Remember, we have a one-day retreat a week earlier at the Lafayette Grande in Pontiac, to put the polish on.

### **From Zaven, for the Marketing and PR fellows**

Guys,

I thought the MLK program that Carol and her group put together was well done, and was pleased that the BCC showed up in a large contingent. I'm sure there'll be no hesitation on the part of the membership to participate next year as well.

There was some disappointment in the less than an overflow crowd for an audience, but readily understandable. As I looked through the Oakland Press for at least two days prior to Sunday, they listed countless programs throughout Oakland County, a good many of which were taking place in Pontiac. That certainly gave people a wide range of choices as to which program they felt drawn to.

The only suggestion that I'll have IF I'm invited to Carol's planning session for next year, is to have the BCC sing earlier in the program. Why? By the time we hit the risers, an hour and a half had passed since our warm up, and our focus was totally gone. Poor Tom had to hold up six fingers to indicate that he needed us to pay attention to him.

All in all, a job well done.

Zaven

### **QUARTETS**

VINTAGE, with Jeff Doig subbing for an ailing Jim Claflin at Lead, sang at the opening of an America's IRA Center in Milford. About forty staff, friends, family, Milford officials, and nearby merchants helped Rob Reading open his new office on 525 N. Main St. At 6:30, attendees gathered to hear VINTAGE proclaim, "This is just the kind of day that you dream about. When you open up your (store), a song pops out ... Zip-Ah-Dee-Doo-Dah." Ribbon-cutting followed. Then, as Rob and his wife showed guests their facilities, VINTAGE sang a selection of songs. Good hors d'oeuvres were available, and such a multitude of door prizes that most people took home something. (Zaven won dinner for two at Lei Ting's Restaurant.) Charlie Perry brought his dad, Gale, who enjoyed hearing Charlie sub in a couple of polecats. [If you are at or near retirement and looking for a community-based, one-stop resource specializing in retirement distribution planning and tax mitigation, stop in to talk to Rob and let him know VINTAGE sent you.]

On January 18, VINTAGE sang an eight-song set for the Wixom Historical Society. "Old St Louie" was particularly appropriate, given the historical bent of

the twenty-some people gathered. The quartet signed off with "Irish Parting Prayer," in remembrance of a Society member who had died that week.

SPARE PARTS (Doig, Blackstone, Cowlshaw, and Perry) has been practicing and preparing for public viewing. They have even learned to maintain pitch when Jeff's dog, Spencer, intercalates. (How many singers are in this quartet?) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lec9KnO8mno>

### **MEMBERSHIP (at 62)**

**Renewals:** Ted Prueter (9), Art Carinci (11), Walt DeNio (13), Mike Keith (29), Bill Nevaux (35), Marv Wilson (54), Len Barnes (55)

**Pending:** Claflin, Clarke, Stephenson.

**February Birthdays:** Ross Ensign (7<sup>th</sup>), John Northey (22<sup>nd</sup>), Pete Mazzara (23<sup>rd</sup>)

**Medical:** Bill Holmes' lumbar fusion was delayed. Walt DeNio's wife, Jan, has been moved to Lourdes.

**Barbershopper of the Month:** Bruce Brede, for his work on the Christmas Bus Tour



### **AROUND THE DISTRICT**

The Detroit-Oakland Chapter presents its 71st annual show: OUT FOR FUN! Featuring LUNCH BREAK, 2009 International Semi-Finalists and FOUR MAN FISHIN' TACKLE CHOIR, 2000 Pioneer District Champs, plus The GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS chorus and featured chapter quartets on FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2009, at 7:59 pm SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2009, at 7:29 pm CLARENCEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL, LIVONIA, MI.

SINGERS LOCAL #4 has formed. From top to bottom, the membership includes Jay Edwards, Joe Queen, Steve Pauling, and Pete Burns.

Raleigh Bloch, Past Pioneer President, is now singing tenor in an established quartet, in Tunkhannock, Pennsylvania, "I like to sing in a chorus, but my real love is a quartet."

### **AROUND THE WORLD**

**Harmony University...**

August 1-8, 2010 - St. Joseph, MO

The PREMIER event for

Barbershop music education

Be sure to visit the [Harmony University page!](#)

### **Big Chief Jeopardy, #36.** (Did you get these?)

1. **Answer:** Our last surviving charter member has died. **Question:** Who was Bill Pascher?
2. **Answer:** He started playing tenor sax and clarinet at the age of 13 and was a professional union musician by the time he was 17. He is the father of ten children, four sons and six daughters. **Question:** Who is Bob Legato?

### **Big Chief Jeopardy, #37.** (Try these.)

1. **Answer:** “Freddie, Lyle, Dick, and Roger” and “Where the West was Sung.”
2. **Answer:** He wrote well-crafted, complex, and subtle music that appealed to mass audiences; we caught up with him on Halloween in a graveyard in Mason City, Iowa.

(Clues to the Questions in Issues # 69 and 79.)

### **Are you reading your Harmonizer? Particularly relevant in the Nov-Dec, 2009 Harmonizer:**

Pg 6: Local American Harmony screening at DIA, “outstanding success,” “More than 700 tickets sold,” “RIGHT ON Q promoted it on radio.”

Pg. 9: 2009 BHS Hall of Fame inductees include:

Pioneer Roger Lewis, BHS President in 2002-03, has sung with USO-touring HARMONY HOUNDS comedy quartet from 1962 until today.

Richard Mathey, Bowling Green, OH, coach, director, mentor to at least six gold medalist quartets

Burt Szabo, arranger, composer, judge, and fierce guardian of the BBS style

Pg 16: How the Great Northern Union chorus redefined itself.

Pg 24: Full page article on the District ‘Ology quartets, with picture of Jeff Spires

Pg 25: Chapter Eternal – Robert Butcher

### **MEET CHARLIE PERRY**



Charlie was born in Milford in 1950, where his family had lived for years. His father and mother both graduated from Milford High School, and his grandfather built some of the buildings on Main Street. Charlie was the second of four children. His sister Marlene and his brother Brent live in the area. His sister Janice lives in Rochester N. Y.

In high school, Charlie’s main extracurricular activity featured the local pool hall (But! in the same building as the Milford Opera House). After graduation, he attended Michigan Tech for a

semester and then settled into a career in machining. For 26 years he worked for Numatics as a machinist and drill press operator. He worked for several companies in CNC (computer-numerical-control) machining. This led to employment at AirMan, Inc. in Wixom where he runs the machining department. The firm makes pneumatic components for the trucking industry, such as Fruehauf and Great Dane.

Charlie has two sons by his first wife, Ian and Isaac. Ian is a building construction manager. Isaac is a teacher at Lakeland High School, where he chairs the annual Martin Luther King Day Festival. Isaac has a son, Lincoln, and a daughter, Layla. Ian has two sons, Colten and Oliver and a daughter on the way.

After his divorce, friends introduced Charlie to Diane, and they have a 15-year-old son, Brandon. Diane stays quite busy, frequently on the road, as a senior program manager for HP Enterprise Services (previously EDS).

Charlie’s introduction to singing actually came via the theater. He had flirted with acting at Michigan Tech and in Huron Valley, so he began to take acting classes at OCC and also thru the Actors Alliance. A teacher challenged him to do something different for the class, and his choice was to sing. For six months he took voice lessons with Roberta Carlson. He joined the choir at St Mary’s Catholic Church in Milford. (In 1996, this church choir toured Italy, visiting Rome, Florence, and Milan.)

Meanwhile he got more involved with theater. With Northville Players, he performed in “The Man Who Came to Dinner.” With the Pinckney Players, he was the Lion in “The Wizard of Oz,” Noah in “Children of Eden,” The Father who gives Ralphie the BB gun in “The Christmas Story,” and he also performed in “Music Man” and “Beauty and the Beast.”

Enjoying singing, he joined the Huron Valley Community Choir, where he met Bob Greenwood who invited him to visit the Big Chief Chorus. Since that night in June 2009, Charlie has become a regular member of the bass section, noticeable for his strong voice and quick acquisition of his part.

Charlie enjoys all kinds of music, especially show music. He has recently begun to sing in a quartet, SPARE PARTS, with Jeff Doig, Tom Blackstone, and John Cowlshaw (replacing Bob Butcher at Bari).

Diane and Charlie enjoy entertaining at family gatherings. They come from families of seven and four kids, respectively, so their gatherings are large. For one recent gathering, they hosted a pig roast. Charlie bought a whole frozen pig from Gordon Foods, thawed it in the bathtub, purchased a machete for dismembering it, and served up roast pig to the hundred folks assembled.

### **Leadership Academy, Jan 9, 2010**

The panoramic shot below shows the Joe Barbershop “Fishing for Medals” class in progress. The first one and one half sessions presented background material to get participants ready to “brainstorm” a performance built on a parody of a couple of “Polecat” songs. Everything was written in class, choreographed

and rehearsed for performance during the final General Session. Using “Wait Till the Sun Shines, Nellie,” and “Down Our Way” as a foundation, the parody was written about a Men’s “Plus-Sized” fashion show. Good sports Alan Zaeske and Joe McDonald were the plus-sized models walking the runway. Maybe you had to be there to get the full effect, but the class was highly informative and a lot of FUN.



(Article and photo from Paul Howe’s Lansing bulletin, *Woodshedder*.)

#### **(From John Cowlshaw)**

The two sessions I attended couldn’t have been more different. Dave Gillingham’s BBS Theory and Arranging was about living within the barbershop rules. Paul Ellinger’s (and the rest of the Chordiology quartet) were all about thinking outside the box, being entertaining as the first rule.

#### **Writing a Great Show. Paul Ellinger**

I had assumed that Paul meant “chorus show,” and was surprised that he put so much emphasis on the show aspect of quartetting. In the early days, they used to write a new script for every show. They start with a theme, such as “retirement,” “a vacation,” “cars,” whatever. Paul and Dave will write a preliminary script, but then the four of them get together and play-act their way thru it like 6-year olds, brainstorming, and tossing out. “You have to be vulnerable. Like you’re naked. The birthday suit rule, Paul calls it. Don’t do things half-way. Cautious comedy? Cautious heart-felt? No.” Use the personalities of the group, and remember your audience. Finally, realize that non-BBSers are really no more interested in what BBSers love (ring and 7ths, etc) than you would be with the intricacies of a lumberjack contest. So, what can be added to make it entertaining? That’s the first goal.

#### **Barbershop Theory and Arranging. Dave Gillingham**

Dave learned BBS arranging from Dave Stevens, sending him arrangements and being crestfallen at how red-pencilled they returned. Dave has experience in Music judging and quartetting, FULL CHORD PRESS. Although he teaches composition at CMU he really loves hearing BBS chords and the ringing, and loves BBS arranging; although there are lots of negative rules, BBS also allows

all kinds of things that one would get marked down for in ordinary composition classes. The first rule of barbershop theory is: all consonant chords, no dissonance. (For example, you never see two notes a half-tone apart in BBS) The whole point is to get ringing overtones; that determines everything else, such as the fact that there are really only eleven possible kinds of chords in BBS; that’s the chord vocabulary. (For a clever illustration of all eleven, go to: <http://www.mountaintownsingers.org/leadacad/chords.php>)

The next most important point is the use of lots of 7<sup>th</sup> chords, (for example, G7th in the Key of C). But also, at least once, a song should go further backward in the circle of fifths, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Circle\\_of\\_fifths](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Circle_of_fifths) which, in the Key of C would require a D 7th progressing to a G 7th back to C.

He then applied this BBS theory to two songs. He showed how a simple ditty like London Bridge could be turned into a BBS song by adding consonant chords throughout, and then made more interesting by the insertion of a D 7th and a tag. In a more serious vein, he turned a lovely Barry Manilow number into a possibly contestable arrangement.

We look forward to having Dave as our coach at the Fall Retreat.

#### **(From Roger Holm)**

I attended two of the three sessions for Music & Performance VP’s and other interested people. The sessions were well led, very well attended, and I found the group perspectives and ideas on the many aspects of Music & Performance’s role in the chapter and for the chorus interesting and informative. I’m glad I sat in on those. The other session I attended was Dr. David Gillingham’s music theory and arranging class, which was VERY interesting and just plain fun to experience! It certainly was a fast two hours! Not being a trained musician, I didn’t grasp most of what Dave presented to us, but he certainly did “fill in some of my blanks” about what sets Barbershop apart from other a cappella music, and makes it unique!

**Ross Ensign** got oodles of information on financial management and web site design, more than can be listed here.

#### **COMUTER UPKEEP AND MAINTENANCE**

If your computer seems slower than it used to be, it probably is. Over time, computers get slower because files become disorganized, resources are consumed by unnecessary software, spyware creeps in, or viruses attack.

Our recent chapter discussion of learning aids implies that those who have computers keep them functional. It’s expensive and cumbersome to haul one’s box to a repair shop every month. Here are some simple things that everyone can do at home. (These directions are written for a PC with Windows XP. If these directions don’t make sense to you, get help from someone so that you can houseclean your computer weekly.)

1. One of the most important aspects of keeping your Windows-based computer running properly is to use the Windows & Microsoft updates. This is probably the most neglected area for almost everyone. Navigate to the Windows update site once a week and check for the latest updates. They are constantly responding to various threats to the operating system and issuing security updates for many Microsoft programs. Also, be sure to keep up with the updates for all of the security and maintenance programs mentioned below.
2. Be sure you have antiviral installed. The best of the free antivirals seems to be Avira. Go to <http://www.free-av.com/en/download/index.html> and download the free version. On the other hand be sure you don't have two anti-viral programs installed. They'll compete against each other and slow things considerably. If your internet provider is Comcast, they provide McAfee Anti-Virus software free. Sign in to their site and download and install that program.
3. Install and run an antispyware program. Spyware allows merchants to spy on your interests and bombard you with ads. Go to <http://www.iobit.com/advancedwindowscareper.html> to download the free Advanced System Care program and run it at least weekly.
4. Install a Registry Cleaner. The same Advanced System Care will do this too.
5. Scroll thru "Start > All Programs > Accessories > System Tools" to get to several tools you should make use of.
  - a. Disk cleanup – does a general "cleanup" of your hard drive, freeing up wasted space.
  - b. Disk defragmenter – groups stored files in one area leaving great big open spaces for new data to find, much more quickly
  - c. System Restore – a life-saver when something goes wrong; it restores your computer programs to an earlier time, before you had trouble, and without changing any data.
6. Back up your computer. If you have a CD burner, you can back up your most important files on a CD. Or for \$40 to \$80, you can pick up an external hard drive for weekly backup. Remember, computers and hard drives are mechanical/electrical devices and it's not a question of "If" they will fail, but rather "When" they will fail.
7. Remove unused programs, but only if you're totally familiar with what they are!

8. Minimize the number of programs that run at start-up.

More details for some of these steps are given at:

<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/using/setup/maintain/improveperf.mspx>

(by J.C. with additional input from Ross Ensign)

### **Musical Pharmacology.**

In a New York Times article by Matthew Gurewitsch, he says, "REMEMBER the Mozart Effect? As propounded by the news media, the message was that listening to Mozart made children smarter. The science was full of holes, but the notion appealed, and a growing body of research has since suggested that music, classical music in particular, is somehow good for us. The field is still short on evidence, but it has started a lively conversation between scientists and other experts.

"Listening to finer music and attending concerts on a consistent basis makes your real age about four years younger," Dr. Michael F. Roizen — the chief wellness officer of the Wellness Institute at the Cleveland Clinic, said recently. "Whether that's due to stress relief or other properties, we see decreases in all-cause mortality, reflecting slower aging of arteries as well as cancer-related and environmental factors. Attending sports events like soccer or football offers none of these benefits."

"[This article goes on to describe the work of several people, especially] Vera Brandes, the director of the research program in music and medicine at the Paracelsus Private Medical University in Salzburg, Austria. "I am the first musical pharmacologist," Ms. Brandes said last fall in Vienna. In that capacity she is developing medication in the form of music, dispensed as a prescription. To market the product line, she helped found Sanoson (sanoson.at), a company that also designs custom music systems for medical facilities.

For more, click on

[http://www.nytimes.com/2009/03/29/arts/music/29gure.html?\\_r=1&scp=5&sq=GUREWITSCH&st=cse](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/03/29/arts/music/29gure.html?_r=1&scp=5&sq=GUREWITSCH&st=cse)

Has anyone tried **Myriad's Virtual Singer**? It creates human-sounding electronic voices that can even be shaped like one's own. Listen to samples at: <http://myriad-online.com/resources/demosvs/strangers.mp3>

### **SONG-LEARNING AIDS SURVEY RESULTS**

Roger Holm distributed two surveys for the music committee. Here are his summaries.

Briefly - 33 surveys were completed, and the clear winner was part-dominant song tracks on CDs - especially those made outside the chorus. However, there

is interest in both the USB flash drive and website posting, even though I'm not sure that everyone (including me) fully grasps what those devices/methods entail. When verbally asked during our meeting, six or seven guys raised their hands that they would use the website posting. There also was positive support for "slowed-down" versions of the part dominant recordings. Two of us (Bob Marshall and me) prefer the sheet music/piano as our first-choice song-learning method.

Individual use of the digital recorders was not very popular, but I'm not sure we've done an effective job of promoting them.

Looks like the CD is our No. 1 device and method, but we should continue looking into the flash drive/website options. Ross & Jeff: educate us (probably mainly me) on the pluses and minuses of providing CDs VS flash drives, and the website posting if you would please. I'd say too that we should get more input from the chorus before we buy any more digital recorders. Whaddaya think of all this?

Results of last week's survey indicated that a part-dominant CD works the best for the most of you when learning a new song. But – many of you also said that computer-related methods would also be used.

Therefore, we used a second survey to find out more about how much we may want to use the computer in conjunction with the CD. Almost all of us have a computer, but our skills in taking advantage of what it can do for us vary.

**BOTTOM LINE?** The CD is the learning aid of choice, but a significant number of our chorus member can burn their own, either from our Internet web site, or a flash drive. A few will learn the song directly from the computer download. We should therefore continue with the web site process, and make some kind of trial run with flash drives.

### **The Story of the Rose, as told by the Rose**

Hi, My name is Red Rose. But you can call me "Red." Not Wild Irish, not Midnight, not Lida, but Red.

I come from good stock; mom and dad were Buses. Childhood was thorny but bloomin'.

One day this tony brunette strides up and picks me. She presses me to her nostrils, I press her red lips. Then she lays me aside her breast, and pins me to her blouse. Sigh, Life was good.

We danced, we laughed, we cried.

At the end of the evening, she gently unpinned me and laid me in the earth, beside my Bush. Life was complete. I looked upward and forward to that eternal garden in the sky, peaceful and content.

Well, no such luck, next thing I know, along comes this long-nosed, thin-shanked, dreamy-looking minstrel. Upon seeing me, tears cascade down his

cheeks. "Look," the little nudnik shrieked, "some careless damsel has thrown it aside." And he got out pen and paper and began to mumble and scribble:

"A youth one day in a garden fair  
A rose found withered and dying  
And all for love, Ah! Love in vain,  
This rose was sadly sighing."

"Oy vey! Can it, Curt," I say.

But the bard's a barf-ball of grief, cuz his old girlie has ditched him. (Who can wonder?!) Suddenly, his eyes perk up, his poetic soul senses a metaphor; HE has been tossed just like ME.

"Oh, sweet wild rose of a summer day,  
Thy love has all been in vain.  
Loved by a maid, then cast away,  
I echo thy refrain."

Well, he went on bawling like a heifer that's lost old Bossy's teat. Finally he drifts away, snorting into a kerchief.

What am I, only a stinking metaphor? I've got my own babe, with whom I spent my lovely evening. And so, to expunge his scent, and with my last dying petal, I present this homage to my lovely lady...

"Heart of my heart, I love you,  
Life would be naught without you.  
Light of my life, my darling,  
I love you, I love you.  
I can forget you never,  
From you I ne'er can sever.  
Say you'll be mine forever.  
I love you."

(Editor's note: Red has accurately recorded the verses to "Story of the Rose," and has himself presented the chorus, for which he has never received proper credit, instead being given (1899) to some unknown "Alice," with music by Andrew Mack (1863-1931), an Irish tenor and actor in New York City.)

### **COULD YOU HAVE ACID REFLUX?**

GERD Gastroesophageal reflux disease is a condition in which food or liquid travels backwards from the stomach to the esophagus (the tube from the mouth to the stomach). This action can irritate the esophagus, causing heartburn and other symptoms, including hoarseness and vocal problems. But who would have guessed it was so common?

On PioNet, Paul Ellinger wrote that he's been struggling with his voice for over a year. "Basically, I would sing and "it" just wouldn't be there. I would try concentrating solely on better vocal production. I would still struggle. I tried moving my placement forward. Still no better. I tried moving it back. Nope. Anything I tried seemed to be to no avail. Then my doctor told me, "90% of all vocal problems are result of acid reflux. The vast majority of those suffering

from acid reflux do not know that they have it, as most would not get the 'heart burn' feeling.” So Paul tried Omeprazole, and within three days he was HUGELY better.

In the next two weeks, a dozen barbershoppers responded on PioNet that they had similar experiences.

Michael Matson was healed by an over-the-counter liquid antacid.

Neil Nugent “ went through the same thing about 5 years ago, to the point of losing my voice and spending a lot of money on expensive tests. Same ultimate conclusion as your smart dr. I now take Aciphex or a generic, Omeprazole. I also avoid wine, too much coffee, and acidic fruits. Beer, however, doesn't seem to bother me at all.

Ross Ensign said, “Prevacid and be sure to raise the head of your bed by 4 to 6".... most important.

Michael Baribeau uses the yogic practice of Neti

Roger Lewis was diagnosed 15 years ago, uses Prilosec, and raises his bed.

Robb Smith discusses Prilosec and Zantac and also raises his bed 4”.

Jim Ryan says that the effectiveness of a blood thinner like Plavix is reduced by Prilosec, but not Zantac.

Fran Tipton has used Nexium and Prilosec for a chronic raspy voice.

Jim Johnson says, “Prilosec for me.”

Mark Ream was not helped by the medicines and had surgery, saving his professional vocal career.

Kerry Foley says, “Prevacid ended up being a wonder drug for me.”

Marvin Skupski also has suffered.

If a dozen people in Pioneer have GERD, maybe a Chieftain or two does also!

If you'd like to learn more about the symptoms of GERD, click on:

<https://health.google.com/health/ref/Gastroesophageal+reflux+disease>

If you'd like to read all the correspondence, enroll in PioNet:

<http://launch.groups.yahoo.com/group/PioNet/>

If you have any of these symptoms, see your doctor. Find out what's really going on, and get the treatment that's right for you. And, for sinus-related issues, learn to do Neti!

### Learning new music

In the September, 2009 Smoke Signals was an article, Memorizing Songs, which included tips from section leaders. Here is another approach, by “Duane” of the Indiana Harmony Brigade, as circulated by Tom Blackstone, and summarized by Chuck Murray:

Start by listening to the music, while reading the sheet music, ten times.

Repeat the listening and reading, but now sing along with the song, ten times.

File away the sheet music, and just play the CD, singing along with it, for example, in your car.

### Letters:

Hi Roger;

It was great talking to you at the Leadership Academy. I would love to coach you folks. I have tentatively put Sept. 25 on my calendar. I am not sure if I can make it Friday night and I will have to leave by 5:00 or so on Saturday.

When I travel around the country as a composer I usually charge an appearance fee of \$250 per day. This would certainly be adequate, even if I decide to come as early as Friday night. If this is acceptable, let's plan on it. I would also appreciate copies of the music that you will be working on. My specialty is the music category, so this is how I will be approaching the chorus, but I also have some expertise in the singing category as well. I can't help a whole lot in the presentation category other than just some basic things.

In harmony,

David (Gillingham)

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: Jack Teuber (248-334-3686)

Past President: Doc Mann (248-628-0189)

VP: Chapter Dev: Bill Holmes

VP: Music and Performance: Roger Holm

VP: Marketing & PR: by committee of Melkonian et al

Secretary: Bill Auquier

Treasurer: Dick Johnson

Members at Large – Wayne Cheyne, Ron Clarke, Erik Domke, Fred Pioch

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,

Feb 2, T, 7 pm Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks.  
Feb 9, T, 7 pm Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks.  
Feb 12-14 Singing Valentines  
Feb 16, T, 7 pm Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks.  
Feb 23, T, 7 pm Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks.  
Feb 26,27, F, Sa D.O.C. show  
Mar 2, T, 7 pm Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks.  
Mar 9, T, 7 pm Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks.  
Mar 16, T, 7 pm Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks.  
Mar 17, W St. Patrick's Day @ Canterbury on the Lake  
Mar 23, T, 7 pm Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks.  
Mar 30, T, 7 pm Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks.  
Apr 17, Sa 1-day Chorus retreat, Lafayette Grande, Pontiac  
Apr 24, Sa Spring District Convention, Kalamazoo  
Jun 4,5 1<sup>st</sup> Great Lakes Harmony Brigade, Okemos Conference Cntr  
Jun 26, Sa Waterford Log Cabin Days @ Fish Hatchery Park  
Aug 1-8 Harmony University, St. Joseph, MO  
Sep 24-26 Singing Retreat, MacMullan Center, Higgins Lake  
Nov 6, Sa BCC 66<sup>th</sup> annual show, *Get Your Kicks on Rte 66*  
Nov 10, Tu 2010 Christmas chorus forms

☺ **Lots of business news: Watch for these consolidations in 2010** ☺

Hale Business Systems, Mary Kay Cosmetics, Fuller Brush, and W R. Grace Co.  
will merge and become Hale, Mary, Fuller, Grace  
Polygram Records, Warner Bros., and Zesta Crackers join forces and become  
Poly, Warner Cracker  
3M will merge with Goodyear and become MMMGood  
Zippo Manufacturing, Audi Motors, Dofasco, and Dakota Mining will merge and  
become ZipAuDiDoDa  
FedEx is expected to join its competitor, UPS, and become FedUP  
Fairchild Electronics and Honeywell Computers will become Fairwell  
Honeychild  
Grey Poupon and Docker Pants are expected to become PouponPants  
Knotts Berry Farm and the National Organization of Women will become Knott  
NOW!

(Seen in Smoke Signals – a different one – Ken Mettler, editor  
Polk-Burnett County chapter, St. Croix, Wisconsin)