From the Prez

Chieftans,

Thanks to Bill Auquier for making the Valentine’s Project a success, staying near his phone, providing printers, and keeping up with the Valentine requests. It is a big commitment over several days. Valentine deliveries give the BCC an opportunity to get our quartets heard in the community. There are always spin-off performances as a result. Give some thought to Valentine’s Day, 2011. It falls on a Monday. Does that give us a four day period to deliver? Friday til Monday?

Thanks to Zaven Melkonian and Dave Myre. Zaven has been taking dates for us to entertain. Dave has been the Communications Captain, keeping our photo images and news articles out in the local newspapers.

Thanks to those who served as 5th Wheels and those who volunteered but didn’t get the call to serve. Thanks to the six quartets and their patience over the three day period. Jeff Doig and Chuck Murray were the Valentine work horses, singing in multiple quartets on each of the three days. Jeffrey Kafer, Michael Oberstadt, Wayne Oberstadt, Charley Perry and Ray Sturdy suited up in new tuxedoes to deliver the Valentine Message for the first time with the BCC.

Contest---It’s not too early to plan for April 24th in Kalamazoo. The Pioneer Convention will be held at the Radisson in Kalamazoo. Rooms are available and there is also lodging at numerous hotels in the surrounding area.

The BCC Board is looking into a dinner in Kalamazoo. We will also spend Saturday, April 17th preparing for the contest at the Lafayette Grande Banquet Hall in Pontiac.

Heroes---Join us for an after-glow on March 2nd. We plan to meet every other week. The food is great and the welcome has been outstanding by the owner and the management. We may miss the 16th as we are entertaining for St. Patrick’s Day the following night.

St. Patrick’s Day---Plan on a 6:00 p.m. warm-up on the 17th and save room for green beverages and snacks following the performance at Canterbury on the Lake.

In harmony,
Jack

From our Director, Tom Blue

We are back at it on Tuesdays. The competition songs have been going well and I would encourage everyone to be “off the paper” ASAP. But please do not be off the paper at the expense of getting the notes “close.” We need to have the pitches and the words correct. It takes too much time to undo errors in learning. Thanks so far for all of your hard work and effort on behalf of these competition songs. I hope that with all of this energy that many of you will sing with us at the district convention. It is always easier with more voices and many of us are doing so well thus far. Let’s use our energy to our advantage and really improve our showing score at the convention. Is there an award for “most improved?”

- words/ notes/ pitches
- communicate the stories
- eye contact with director and audience
- your body has permission to not be “stiff”
- apply quartet strategies to singing with the chorus (listen to the people on either side of you and in front and in back)
- listen louder than you sing
- engage head tone or lighter voice on higher notes
- engage full breath to energize all of the way to the ends of each phrase (musical sentence)
- each time you sing - sing it better, not the same

From our Music VP, Roger Holm

Well! Another great weekend of delivering Singing Valentines is complete! I know that Natural-E quartet had some very interesting and fulfilling experiences - and a lot of fun! I imagine you other quartets had some great experiences also! It would seem that we could spend a little time (Tuesday) talking about ‘em! The next public event we have (we think) will be the St. Pats’ Day sing-out at Canterbury on the Lake on Wednesday, March 17th. So - we better start thinking about what Irish songs we know, and start dusting them off!
SINGING VALENTINES

“According to Bill Auquier, we should realize about $1600 net from our singing valentines activity over Valentines weekend! That - plus all the good feelings we generated in the community - makes it all worthwhile! Thank you Bill for being the coordinator for the event - a nerve-racking job to be sure! Great job!” (Roger Holm) (Numbers, next issue.)

Spare Parts (Blackstone, Doig, Cowlishaw, Perry) and Modified Parts (Blackstone, Doig, Cowlishaw, Melkonian) did five gigs on Saturday, plus a couple of freebies. The routine was “I Love You Truly – Heart of my Heart” medley, and “Can You Feel the Love Tonight.” Between gigs at Sero’s Restaurant and Bruegger’s Bagels in Rochester, the quartet went over to Crittenden Hospital, sang for some rehab patients and nurses, and then were invited to add some entertainment to a Cardiology seminar of about 150 staff members. Late afternoon gigs at two Waterford restaurants were followed by refreshing at the Lodge, where we discovered the young manager, Chuck, who is an experienced tenor looking for a barbershop home. Then we sang for Bob Moran, who was a Big Chief officer 50 years ago. (by John Cowlishaw)

Celebration sang on Friday in homes and businesses in White Lake, Waterford, and Clarkston.

EKTO (Ross Ensign, Jeff Kafer, Wayne and Michael Oberstadt, and Tom Tailford) “covered Sunday and sang three official gigs and several ad-hoc songs. Fun for all and a real confidence builder for Wayne Ober’s son Mike. Jeffery Kafer & young Mike sang lead, Wayne covered tenor, and old timer, Tom Tailford sang baritone. & you know what I sang. The new photo printer worked just great and everyone was quite impressed .. as we were. (from Ross Ensign)

(From Chuck Murray)

Three different quartets...

The “Mike Frye Quartet” (Mike Frye, Jeff Spires, Ray Sturdy, and Chuckles) met Friday at Fino's Restaurant on Dixie Hwy, where we had lunch, and sang for several tables of ladies. We even embarrassed the owner by singing to her! This is the same barbershop-friendly restaurant where the Big Chief Chicks used to meet on Saturday mornings for breakfast.

We did not have many “official paid SV’s,” but we made effective use of the spare time setting up, and delivering many freebies, including one for the Lead of the barbershop comedy quartet, Novelty Shop, at her workplace in Southfield, a “politically correct move” supported unanimously by the quartet!

We were “getting thirsty,” as singers are known to do, so we stopped at the Uptown Grill on West Maple, in Commerce Twp. to “pour libations to the gods of harmony”! The manager, Joe, approached us, and the next thing we knew, we had free refreshments on our table and were singing to all the folks in the restaurant!

The “Jeffrey Kafer Quartet” (or quintet - Jeffrey Kafer and Mike Oberstadt sharing Lead, Ray Sturdy at Baritone, Wayne Oberstadt at Tenor, and Chuckles at Bass) sang Saturday afternoon at Great Lakes Crossing Mall, strolling around the corridors. We went into some merchants, and delivered freebie SV’s from some un-named boyfriends, etc. You should have seen the smiles from the shoppers! We probably sang for well over a hundred people. (At one point we were met by Mall Security, who promptly asked us what we were doing. Already we felt discriminated against, because he did not bother the yellow, Spandex-clad “Bumble Bee Boy” walking around with the weird video camera hat! Fortunately, our good reputation preceded us, and at least one merchant had already called Security, asking why they were not made aware that a real barbershop quartet would be singing!)

This quartet also sang at Jared Jewelers, and delivered a freebie to a brand new mentee in the Mentors-Plus Program of the Brandon-Groveland Youth Assistance Program. The sixteen-year-old motherless girl was matched two weeks ago with an Oxford mentor. When we left, she had a great big smile on her face!

Our last SV of the day was at the historic Holly Hotel. Although it was from a lady to her husband, she was the one that began crying! I tell you, fellows, one engineer to another, “The most powerful fluid drive in the world is a woman’s tear!”

Northbound Sound sang on Sunday. We presented a SV to the wife of one of my former customers, an engineer from Chrysler; she turned out to be a Red Hat Society member, and she had a house full of Red Hats partying together! The Red Hats make good prospects for buying Show tickets.

At the Bullfrogs Restaurant south of Ortonville, one of my neighbors was celebrating their “second anniversary” of becoming engaged. We asked if we could sing a couple songs for them, to help speed things up. (No, I did not say that!) As we finished our second, honey-drippin’ love song, she reached over and kissed him! "Ah, yes 'tis something!" As we went back to our seats, a gal sitting at the bar grabbed Bob by the lapel, and asked "Where is the wedding?” We ended up singing an Old Blue Eyes song for her at her request. She loved it!

Northbound Sound finished up by singing for three hours at MacPhee’s Restaurant in Ortonville, to a variable, estimated crowd of 100 people. NBS had a following of about 20 customers in the audience, including some quartet wives and children. Yes, we had requests for, and sang the Scottish song, "Loch Lomand", as per Realtime’s arrangement. They loved it! (Phew!)

Hope this gives you a sample of what we did this weekend!
AROUND THE PATCH
The February 9th Oakland Press had a 5 x 9 photo and blurb on page A-8 about our upcoming Singing Valentines. The picture was last year’s VINTAGE, in tuxes, Frye, Claflin, Cowlishaw, and Melkonian.

Freddie McFadyen has retired this past month. (Now he should be able to make those daytime sing-outs! 😊)

Ross Ensign reports that Bill Nevaux’s new email address is wc272727@gmail.com “He’s still pretty much home-bound with Candy and really appreciates the emails we send his way. Said he’d try to get out to sing with us one of these days.”

Al Monroe spent the last two weeks of February in Clermont, FL. John Cowlishaw in Bonita Springs, FL. Jack and Mary Teuber left Feb 24 for Columbia, SC, Savannah, Ga., Cocoa Beach and Spring Training in Lakeland, Fl. Also friends in Cocoa Beach. Returning for the March 16 meeting.

District Convention.
You can register for the district convention (necessary in order to perform) and reserve a hotel room (not required) at: http://www.pioneerdistrict.org/ Just click on “Next Convention.”

MEMBERSHIP (at 63)
Renewals: Bob Stephenson (2), Eric Domke (3), Doug Metzger (3), Ron Clarke (9), Bill Auquier (11), Jim Claflin (17)
March Birthdays: Ted Prueter (9th), Eric Domke (14th), Walt Bachmann (16th), Bruce LaMarte (18th), Dan Valko (19th), Tom Blackstone (22nd), and Bill Holmes (25th)
Medical: Walt DeNio’s wife, Jan, had back surgery Feb 3 and has now been moved to Lourdes. Tom Blue’s mother had successful back surgery Feb 8. Bill Holmes’ lumbar fusion Feb 23 went well.

AROUND THE DISTRICT
As a follow-up to Singing Valentines, the Pioneer District will hold its second annual Singing Valentines Quartet Contest as a part of our Spring Convention at the Kalamazoo Radisson, on Saturday afternoon, April 24, 2010. No more than two quartet-registered singers allowed in these competitions.

From Tom Conner, Lead, RESISTING — A — REST
“Well it’s been a week now and we have come down (mostly) from our trip to Tampa, Fl. We owe the Pioneer District a BIG thank you for all the support and encouragement given to us as we reached for the Gold. We are proud and humbled to be the 2010 International Senior Champs from the Pioneer District.

A big Pioneer connection to the Senior Competition is the Big Pitchpipe traveling trophy presented to the new champs. The Mark Roberts trophy was created by a Grosse Pointe member and with the Grosse Pointe sponsorship was donated at the first Int’l Senior Competition in 1986 by then Society Board Member Jim Gougeon, also a Grosse Pointe member. RESISTING — A — REST is thrilled to have been able to bring the trophy home to Pioneer. Also a Big thank you for the largest Pioneer representation at a Mid-Winter, we heard you when we took the stage that Friday, you are the best. Again THANK YOU from RESISTING — A — REST and see you in Kalamazoo this spring.”

From John H. Baker - PIO Historian
“Anyone trying to do some spring cleaning early? I am putting together a Library of Harmonizers and Troubadours. I’ve got a pretty good collection from the late 40’s to Mid 90’s in Harmonizers. Troubadours, I’ve got the first two years and that’s it. If you’re interested in keeping your collection “No Problem” don’t feel obligated to hand them over. I would ask if you do have a collection - let me know. Maybe I could copy what I don’t have.”

From Brian Dunckel, President, Pioneer District
“It is with GREAT PRIDE I announce the appointment of Paul Ellinger to the position of Director of Marketing and Public Relations for the Pioneer District! As you know Paul not only sings with CHORDIOLOGY, but also ELMO THUMM, owns his own business, has a family.... yet is willing to “make a difference” and continue to give back to the Pioneer District. Welcome aboard Paul- we’re THRILLED to have you on the team!”

LANSING SHOW, MARCH 13
“Come see the HOT AIR BUFFOONS on the Lansing Chapter’s show on Saturday, March 13. The show is at the beautiful Wharton Center and tickets are $25 each, with afterglow tickets only $10.

“But who are these HOT AIR BUFFOONS and what is their buffoonery? They are a wonderful comedy quartet from Ohio and Pennsylvania who won the Buckeye Invitational Funny Bone contest in 2001, were the Johnny Appleseed District Champs in 2005, and are International Semi-Finalists. They have achieved these awards over the past 14 years by taking a “no holds barred” comedy approach with outrageous costumes, silly antics, and the ability to laugh at themselves along with the audience.

“As you might expect from a barbershop comedy quartet, most of the songs are parodies of barbershop standards and for the HOT AIR BUFFOONS, they play off of their large girth and many of the songs are about food. In one of their sets they dress up as fast food restaurant employees (see cd cover) and sing about all the “Mistakes” they make with customer orders. Then they highlight their favorite foods on “Food Jive” (a “Jiva Jive” parody) and their love of fast
food restaurants and all you can eat buffets on “Let’s Get A Plate From Them All” and “South Rampart Street Buffet.”

“Of course, in addition to the BUFFOONS, our “New York, New York” show will also feature the Capital City Chordsmen Chorus, more entertainment from our quartets SINGULAR, SUFFICIENT GROUNDS, and PARTS UNLIMITED, and let’s not forget the music and mirth of the PATCH CHORDS.

“So, if you would like an evening filled with music to warm your soul and entertainment that tickles your funny bone, please call Larry Parker at 517-372-SING (7464).”

From **Ron Eubank, Pioneer District Director Contest & Judging**

Greetings Olympics Watchers and Celebrators --

**CONVENTION:** Stay tuned for details about special classes in the works for Friday afternoon! Tom Gentry (and I'm working on others) will be leading classes of Harmony University quality so get your registration in and plan to arrive early Friday afternoon to take advantage of this great opportunity. Also, Al Fisk will conduct a Saturday morning session about judging in our society -- remember, the opportunity to join the program only happens every three years, and that time is from August through December this year!

**CONTESTS:** 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.

Beat the rush -- get your ensemble entered now! Go to the ebiz part of the Society website (select member log in on the home page), sign in and select " CJ-20" then "Contest Entry" at the top of the page. If you need help, there is a CJ-20 User’s Manual on the Pioneer website on the C&J page. If you have questions or don’t understand something please contact me and I'll help.

Congratulations to the first quartet and chorus enterers: A MIGHTY WIND and Pontiac-Waterford. Yeah? You never heard of A MIGHTY WIND? Well, consider that's a new quartet led by Tim Brooks, formerly of STATE LINE GROCERY. They can't make the Dixie date and have been given permission to sing for score here in Pioneer to try to qualify for the International contest in Philly.

**JOE BARBERSHOP CHORUS:** The JBC will be organized by our Pioneer QCA and they've discussed coming up with something special. Please plan to support this activity -- it'll be great -- more info to come. If your chorus doesn't want to do the JBC let me know.

**AROUND THE WORLD**

As of Feb 11, registrations for Philly (6,254) are slightly ahead of what they were for Anaheim last year at this time (6,124). An East coast West coast difference? Or statistically insignificant? During International, the “Harmony Foundation Presents…” will be Saturday, July 3 at 1:30 and feature THE WESTMINSTER CHORUS, CROSSROADS, and the legendary FOUR FRESHMEN.

Five eXtreme Quartetting Harmony Brigades are now scheduled – in Michigan (June 4), Missouri (July 30), Delaware (August 20), Indiana (November), and North Carolina (January, 2011).

**Recognizing our repertoire.** Here are the first ten songs in our repertoire. Match them with the descriptors below. (Answers at end of this bulletin)

1. Abide with Me
2. Ain’t Misbehavin’
3. Amazing Grace
4. America The Beautiful
5. An America Trilogy
6. Aura Lee/Love Me Tender Medley
7. Be Our Guest
8. Breaking Up Is Hard To Do
9. Can You Feel The Love Tonight
10. Country Roads

Descriptors:

___ The original title of the lyrics by Katharine Lee Bates in 1895 was Pikes Peak.
___ The Elton John–Time Rice song from Disney's 1994 animated film The Lion King.
___ The original 1929 recording by Fats Waller was one of fifty recordings selected for inclusion in the National Recording Registry by the Library of Congress in 2004.
___ It is considered to be Neil Sedaka's signature song. He made the Billboard Top Ten with two different versions of the same song, one, upbeat, and the other, ballad.
___ John Denver’s signature song became the theme song of West Virginia U. It was used by NASA to wake up astronauts aboard a few space shuttle missions
___ An American Civil War song about a maiden, derivatively adapted by Elvis Presley.
___ A Christian hymn written by Henry Francis Lyte in 1847 as he lay dying from tuberculosis.
___ Hymn by John Newton (1779), who was a Royal Navy sailor participating in the slave trade until a terrible storm and a conversion experience.
___ A combo of blackface minstrel song, Bahamian lullaby, and American abolitionist song.
___ A 1991 Academy Award-nominated song from Beauty and the Beast, spoofed in The Simpsons as “See My Vest”, and Animaniacs as "Be a Pest".
Big Chief Jeopardy, #37. (Did you get these?)

1. **Answer:** “Freddie, Lyle, Dick, and Roger” and “Where the West was Sung.” **Question:** Name the first two clues to the BCC Holiday Crossword Puzzle. (The answers were: BNatural, and Mott.)
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. **Question:** Who was Meredith Willson?

Big Chief Jeopardy, #38. (Try these.)

1. **Answer:** He served as editor and photographer of the GM union paper
2. **Answer:** All aboard for West Virginia!

(Clues to the Questions in Issues #70 and 80.)

If last month’s article on computer upkeep was useful, you might enjoy listening to the TR Dojo explain common computer terms with good analogies:

- RAM memory vs disk space
- Bandwidth
- Network IP address


Take a look at this audiovisual advertisement for Valentines quartetting from the Evergreen district: [http://www.evg.org/~megacity/Edmonton/valentines.html](http://www.evg.org/~megacity/Edmonton/valentines.html)

Letters:

Hey John:

Thanks again for the years of the marvelous Smoke Signals. The time has come to remove me from the mailing list. I have recently opted out of barbershop singing. Health is fine; I've had a very good ten years and met some great people and now I'm out.

Best wishes, Bill (Kocher, from Alma)

(Answers to repertoire matching: 4-9-2-8-10-6-1-3-5-7)
SOME IRISH JOKES FOR ST. PATRICKS DAY

A Englishman, a Scotsman, and an Irishman walk into a pub. They each buy a pint of Guinness beer. Just as they are about to enjoy their creamy beverage, three flies land in their pints, and get stuck in the thick head.

The Englishman pushes his beer away from him in disgust.
The Scotsman fishes out the offending fly and continue drinking it as if nothing has happened.
The Irishman too, picks the fly out of his drink, holds it out over the beer and then starts yelling, "SPIT IT OUT, SPIT IT OUT, YOU RASCAL!!"

What's the difference between an Irish wedding and an Irish wake?
One less drunk.

Gallagher opened the morning newspaper and was dumbfounded to read in the obituary column that he had died. He quickly phoned his best friend Finney. "Did you see the paper?" asked Gallagher. "They say I died!!"
"Yes, I saw it!" replied Finney. "...Where ya callin' from?"

A pregnant Irish woman from Dublin gets in a car accident and falls into a deep coma. Asleep for nearly 6 months, when she wakes up she sees that she is no longer pregnant and frantically asks the doctor about her baby.
The doctor replies, 'Ma'am you had twins! a boy and a girl. Your brother from Cork came in and named them.'
The woman thinks to herself, 'Oh No, not my brother... he's an idiot!' She asks the doctor, 'Well, what's the girl's name?' Denise.'
'Wow, that's not a bad name, I like it! What's the boy's name?'
'Denephew.'

Quartet photos by quartets. All unattributed articles by John Cowlishaw

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, Cowlishaw, and Brede

CALENDAR  (Times are Performance Times, Warmups 45’ earlier,
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, 6 pm 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 1st Great Lakes Harmony Brigade, Okemos Conference Cntr
Jun 15, T, 5:30 Frankenmuth Bratfest
Jun 26, Sa, 2:15 pm 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 66th annual show, Get Your Kicks on Rte 66
Nov 10, Tu 2010 Christmas chorus forms