

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



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

ONLINE AT [www.bigchiefchorus.org](http://www.bigchiefchorus.org)

**Vol. 14, No.2 (#158)**

**June 1, 2014**

**From VP Music, Performance Roger Holm:**

Seventeen of us said a final singing goodbye to our old friend "Big Lew" Mahacek last Friday in a moving and informational service - (we learned many new and good things about Lew from two of his three sons who spoke, eulogizing their Dad)! We sang the Irish Blessing, and - as requested by Lew's wife Diana for an up-tune - Ain't Misbehavin'! Wish all of us could have been there!

We have three events coming up this month, the Windsor send-off dinner, Friday, June 13 in Windsor (Jack has tickets), the Flint Chapter's "Dead Creek Saloon" cook-out and sing-off in Frankenmuth on Tuesday, June 24, and the annual Waterford Log Cabin Days on Saturday, June 28! There'll be sign-up sheets for each Tuesday!

**From Prez Jack:**

**MEN,**

Seattle Mariners vs. Detroit Tigers, August 15. The bus will leave at 4:30. It is a work in progress. We tried to get a larger bus than the 34 passenger one, but the Waterford Seniors had already reserved it. We will need to be flexible with our reservations.

We have put down a deposit on 105 tickets. It looks like we have 36 singers including two from Milford High School. We will start collecting from our membership on July 1 and give them a firm number on July 11.

Our seats will be together, in Section 102 (in right field).

Frankenmuth, Tuesday, June 24. Sign up if you wish to ride the bus, leaving at 5:30; we need a minimum number of at least 20.

The Pontiac 56<sup>th</sup> Woodshed contest is in doubt. The last several years we have had conflicts with Michigan State and Michigan Basketball. Currently we are at a standstill as to how to proceed. Events like the D.O.C. Picnic and Canada Night have kept alive the true spirit of inter-chapter harmony.

Jack

**AROUND THE PATCH**

**Milford High School Night**

Maryanne Lambrecht brought six of her young men from Milford High School to our chorus rehearsal on Tuesday night, May 6. The boys knew "Saints Go Marching," "Can You Feel," and "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" to sing with us.



**Fall Show**

The theme will be something like: *The BCC tries to get to Broadway.*

We've received our new show songs, both the scores and the training tracks online at <http://bigchiefchorus.org/MemberPages/LearningAids.html> At this point our show songs include these four new songs:

"Consider Yourself"

"Count Your Blessings"

"Impossible Dream"

"There's No Business Like Show Business"

Our current repertoire includes these other Broadway-oriented songs:

"Ain't Misbehavin'"

"Cabaret"

"Can You Feel the Love Tonight?"

"Oklahoma"

"Over the Rainbow"

"With a Song in my Heart"

Our guest quartets will be RUSTY PIPES and ALLURE. You can hear a recent performance by Rusty Pipes at:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YgSriy5INH4>

### Lew Mahacek

Lew Mahacek died Sunday, May 18. The memorial service was held at Elton Black Funeral Home on Friday, May 30.

Lew joined the chorus in early 2003. But he brought a long musical history with him. His dad, Lou, joined the Grand Rapids chapter of SPEBSQSA in 1943! And was then President of the chapter and its director from the 60's nearly until his death in 1993 at the age of 87. His quartet was the FUN ADDICTS. The Grand Rapids chapter also included the HARMONY HALLS, who were International Gold-Medalists in 1944. Lew still had all the playbills from that time.



Lew's mom founded the Sweet Adeline's chapter in Grand Rapids, and served in offices in that group.

Lew formed his own band when a sophomore at Grand Rapids Creston High School. Lew played the trombone, and occasionally the string bass. The band grew to 18 pieces, including Lew's father and continued till Lew left Grand Rapids in the 1970's. It was called the Lew Allen band, named after Lew and co-founder David Allen Payne.

Lew went on to play trombone in Les Brown's Band of Renown. He went on the road with him, and did the Bob Hope Christmas tour in Korea, in 1956.

In more recent times, he co-founded our local jazz group.

In recent years, Lew suffered from Alzheimer's disease. Mike Frye brought him to chorus rehearsals as long as he could.

Lew is survived by his wife, Diana.

### Big Chief Chorus Facebook site

Doug Metzger and his son set up our chorus Facebook site several years ago. But it has been inactive lately.

As Wayne wrote, "In order to post pictures and content on the page, you have to be listed as an Administrator. You can have several Administrators on there. You can still post comments and pictures without being an Administrator, but they go into the column on the right of the page titled "Recent posts by others", and then you click on "See All", and it will expand and show you who has posted anything in there."

Eric Domke has offered to be Administrator and will forward info to us when it is available for posting by members of the chorus.

**Hermine Mazzara** has finished her six months of chemo. The bad side effects from that should start improving soon. Now she moves on to the lumpectomy and radiation treatments. We have been told she is past the worst part of the treatment. It's like her light has been dim, and now it is getting brighter. We are hoping for complete remission. Thank you for your thoughts and prayers.  
Hermine & Pete

**Ted Prueter** is about to begin chemotherapy for leukemia.

**Zaven Melkonian's** diagnosis was spinal stenosis. The three-hour operation gained Zaven two metal rods and a sturdy back brace. He is in very little discomfort, is ambulatory, and is trying to regain his appetite.

### QUARTETS

BIDIN' OUR TIME sang at a 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party, May 31. Ron Gillies stepped in at Baritone.

LIMITED EDITION sang at the Milford Spring concert May 1. About 250 students listened to Maryanne Lambrecht's student choirs, including the Men's Ensemble, which LE also mentored and joined in song ("Saints Go Marching"). On its own, LE sang "Come Fly with Me," and "Swing Low/Down Medley."

LIMITED EDITION retreated on the weekend of May 2-4 to Tom's timeshare at Mountain Run Resort in Boyne Falls. It was a serious rehearsal of our eleven Brigade songs, with about 8 hours spent – Friday afternoon, Saturday morning, Saturday afternoon, and Sunday morning. We also ate at four fine restaurants - The Weathervane in Charlevoix, Café Santé in Boyne City, Barrel Back Restaurant on Walloon Lake, and Mountainside Restaurant in Boyne Falls for breakfast. We sang to our engaged public at every chance we had. Two fellows at Pearson's Bar in the Boyne Mountain Resort (Avalanche Bay complex) said with awe that they had never heard a cappella music live before, and one was a talented 17-year-old saxophonist! At Barrel Back, an extended family of ten men (up for the weekend to open their cottages) listened with appreciation. Relaxing? We watched TV (*Django* and the Kentucky Derby). And all of this on the quartet's nickel.

Charlie and Tom holding the tip jar that our waitress (a professional musician who knows what counts!) gave us with its first dollar bill



## 4GVN

The quartet will be going north for a weekend quartet retreat this summer.

Wayne Oberstadt reports that 4GVN shared the stage with Jena Irene, the Farmington Hills native and “American Idol” runner-up, when they competed in the 2012 Huron Valley’s Got Talent show.

**Chapter 2014 Performances thru May:** 69 gigs to 4,354 listeners

**MEMBERSHIP:** (at 50)

**Renewals:** Duane Roy (5), Pete Mazzara (14), Jack Teuber (14), Ross Ensign (29)

**Due in June:** Braun, Dabbs, Greenwood, Jackson, Mann, McFadyen, Perry

**Overdue:** Metzger, Nevaux, Prueter, Valko

**June Birthdays:** Bob Legato (13<sup>th</sup>), Fred Pioch (18<sup>th</sup>), Bruce Brede (22<sup>nd</sup>),

### Medical:

Howard Lynn – kidney stone issues

Eileen Marshall – shingles

Hermine Mazzara – in treatment for breast cancer

Zaven Melkonian –recovering from lumbar surgery

Ted Prueter – beginning treatment for leukemia

Jack Teuber – lumbar problems, putting off surgery for the present

**BSOM:** Jim Owens, for his work on our Detroit Tigers appearance

## GREAT LAKES HARMONY BRIGADE

The fifth Great Lakes Harmony Brigade was held Friday and Saturday, May 31-Jun1 in Okemos, MI. Assembling to sing together and to compete for several prizes were 19 Tenors, 19 Leads, 19 Baritones, and 22 basses.

Activities began early Friday when about 30 early arrivals spent the morning singing to three music classes at Okemos High School. William Stutts led the singers thru a program of five songs, plus an explanation of the Extreme Quartetting Harmony Brigade concept, and barbershop in general, a promotional pitch for this summer’s Harmony Explosion at Central Michigan University, and tag time with the students (“Let it Go” from Frozen).

In the afternoon, the rest of the 80 Brigadiers arrived from around Michigan, and California, Missouri, Texas, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania. In the lovely spring weather, spontaneous quartets began to form around the parking lot, in the hallways, and in the Okemos Conference Center. (At the end of the weekend, nine of the singers were awarded the “tramp” award for having sung with all the other singers.)

The randomly formed quartets competed on Friday night, singing one of the 11 fresh arrangements that had been chosen for this year’s brigade. And 12 quartets moved on to the finals Saturday night.

Prior to Saturday’s competition, a Brigade show was held in which all the men joined together as a chorus to sing the song-pack. Extra features included

two guest quartets –CHAIN GANG from the Cardinal District and CHICAGO TIMES, a multi-medaled quartet from Illinois. Three “step-out” quartets were also chosen from the Brigadiers, including LIMITED EDITION, who was selected to sing “Kiss the Girl” to the audience, who seemed to appreciate a respite from the same 11 Brigade songs.

About 23 of the 80 singers present were newbies, offering hope for the future of the local Brigade movement.

With near unanimity, Paul Teska was awarded the trophy for “Who did you come to sing with? His cancer diagnosis and his fund-raising response had a deep impact on the singers present.



Seven present and past Pontiac-Waterford singers participated: Chuck Murray, Ron Arnold, Jeff Doig, Ray Sturdy John Cowlshaw, Tom Blackstone, and Charlie Perry.

## AROUND THE DISTRICT

### Pioneer District’s Muskegon chapter gains BHS prominence

In the May/June 2014 issue of The Harmonizer, Barbershop Harmony Society CEO Marty Monson speaks to the staff at headquarters about a recent visit he had in the Pioneer District. The Muskegon Shoreline Chorus hosted Monson and, after just one rehearsal, they left quite an impression. Their glory years of being district champions (1956, 1960) and representing Pioneer at International (1959-1961, 1964, 1966) are behind them but, under the direction of Annette Jurcevic, they appear poised to return to prominence.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ntt7H68Q7Ks>

Our **Pioneer District reps at the International Convention** in Las Vegas sing:

G-FOURS	Collegiate Quartet	Tue evening, July 1
MAJESTYX	Quartet	~4pm EDT, July 2
Grand Rapids	Chorus	~9:30 pm EDT, July 4

**Len Barnes** has died. No, not OUR Len Barnes. But many of you who joined the chorus in the 1990s may be forgiven for having asked, as I did, “our” Len if he was the longtime editor of AAA Michigan Living. That Barnes died May 12 at the age of 94 in Traverse City.

The **May 15 Troubadour**, the Spring quarterly issue of our Pioneer District bulletin, is now available at:

[http://pioneedistrict.org/troubadour/Troubadour\\_Menu.htm](http://pioneedistrict.org/troubadour/Troubadour_Menu.htm)

As a Big Chief, it is important to not only access our chapter’s *Smoke Signals* bulletin and chapter web site ([www.bigchiefchorus.org](http://www.bigchiefchorus.org)), but also the publications at the district level (Troubadour, on the Pioneer web site – <http://pioneedistrict.org/>) and at national level, The Harmonizer, and web site (<http://barbershop.org/home.html>)

## AROUND THE WORLD

### Sean Devine departs Foundation for new venture

“Sean Devine is stepping away from his role as Director of Development with Harmony Foundation effective May 16, 2014. He will remain in the Harrisburg/Hershey, Pa. area and utilize the considerable professional experiences he has had to embark on a career providing training and development expertise to local businesses and executives.

“Sean joined the Harmony Foundation staff in July 2008. He was the first of a development team ramp-up that has redefined the organization as one energized by bold, championship efforts. He has represented us in several regions during that time. Sean has worked with characteristic passion to engage hundreds of people in the life-changing experience of singing and to enlist fellow Barbershoppers to support this vision financially. He is a product of our shared story.”

Clarke Caldwell  
President and CEO  
Harmony Foundation International



## MEDIA

### GQ and Toby Shaver’s Gold Medal Moments

Here is an octet, composed of INSTANT CLASSIC, our 2013/2015 guest quartet, and GQ (Girls’ Quartet), the hot new sensation in the Sweet Ads world, singing an arrangement by Theo Hicks of “Come What May.”

I learned of it from Toby Shaver’s podcast, *Gold Medal Moments*.

Coincidentally, both Toby and his *Gold Medal Moments* ... and GQ are featured in the current Troubadour!

<http://youtu.be/mmaLHPHlgHQ>

### “A Voice From the Past”

Many old audio documents are so fragile that playing them would destroy them.

A physicist named Carl Haber heard the drummer for the Grateful Dead say that the archives of the world’s aboriginal musics were deteriorating. Haber realized that his instrumentation work at CERN could be applied to photographing the tracks on cylinders and disks to recover the original sound.

In 2003 Haber published “Reconstruction of Mechanically Recorded Sound by Image Processing.” This led to his building a device to do it, called IRENE, (The name is based on his first experiment which recovered “Goodnight, Irene” from a ’78 platter.)

In 2010, from a wax disk, for example, Haber recovered Bell saying, in 1885, “Hear my voice, Alexander Graham Bell.” It was the first time anyone alive had heard what he sounded like. The librarian in charge of preserving that wax disk had never expected in her lifetime to actually hear it.

The oldest sound that “archeophonists” have recovered is of a folk song in Paris in April of 1860. As far as anyone knows, that was the first recorded sound. The singer embedded his voice in soot on a piece of paper. He never heard it. The means for playing back sound weren’t invented until 1877, when Thomas Edison recorded himself on tinfoil. Haber managed to play the recording. For his work in audio preservation, Haber received a MacArthur Fellowship in 2013.

For more, go to

[http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2014/05/19/140519fa\\_fact\\_wilkinson](http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2014/05/19/140519fa_fact_wilkinson)

### Under the Streetlamp

They’re described as “America’s hottest new vocal group, delivering an “electrifying evening of classic hits from the American Radio Songbook, bringing our unique blend of tight harmonies and slick dance moves to your favorite Doo-Wop, Motown, and old time Rock ‘n’ Roll hits. We are composed of recent leading cast members of the Tony Award-winning sensation Jersey Boys, proving that retro never sounded so now.” But they are a disappointment to this Barbershopper, being “four Leads, rotating their



solos, with the other three offering up their pipness.” If you disagree, you can hear them June 8 at the Royal oak Music Theatre.

## **CRAFT**

Correspondence with Alan Gordon, our Singing Judge at District.  
(From John)

Hi Alan,

Could you restate how you describe the muscular effort during exhalation in singing.

I thought I had caught it in your “How to be a great Bari” course at Harmony University course in 2010, but as I listened to you talk about it to our Leads in the evaluation session, I had a growing suspicion that I’d missed something.

I’ve been thinking of it like Pavarotti described it, “The distinguishing characteristic of singing posture is that you want to actively cultivate a disconnect between the relaxation of your upper body and the tension in your core muscle groups.” As Luciano Pavarotti said, “Well, I don’t mean to be crude but you have to use the muscles you use when you go to the bathroom!”

But you talk about a “holding back.” Is that like tensing the muscles of the abdomen as if one were expecting a blow to the belly? Versus Pooping?  
Thanks for any help you can give me.

Cheers,

John Cowlshaw

(From Alan)

The simple statement I like (stolen from Roland Wyatt) is "support is the active resistance of exhalation."

That is basically to reiterate that support is more retaining the expansion of carriage (abdomen and lower rib cage) than it is pushing in. You don't want it to be locked up, though. Resisting a punch is too tight. "Athletic" but not "tight", because the abdomen will come in and you don't want to have to constantly adjust muscle to accommodate that. If you can micromanage the pooping muscles (perineal/pelvic floor), that gives you even more power (think of expanding straight towards the testicles), but the amount of tension on release would be similar... athletic but not like you're pooping out a bowling ball.

Pavarotti is also correct. The higher you get in the body, the less the tension.

(From Linda Meehan)

Maybe a beach ball more than a punching bag...

## **Minutes, BCC Executive Board, April 17.**

Members present were Pioch, Holm, Roy, Domke, Doig, DeNio, Perry, and Teuber.

Treasurer’s Report: Available funds \$11,023.14.

VP Growth and Development: There was discussion but not decisions about selling tickets online for next year’s show.

VP Music and Performance: Fall show. New show songs include;  
Count Your Blessings

There’s No Business like Show Business

Impossible Dream

Consider Yourself One of Us

Featured Show Quartets are Allure & Rusty Pipes.

Decision to purchase the digital file of our contest photo and print copies for members.

## **LETTERS**

John,

I loved every bit of this [Smoke Signals] edition! Awesome work man!!!

Mike O'Donnell

[bbsmike@comcast.net](mailto:bbsmike@comcast.net)

## **CHAPTER LEADERSHIP**

Director: Thomas Blue (248-814-9627)

Assistant Directors: Fred McFadyen, Mike Frye, & Bill Holmes

President: Jack Teuber (248-334-3686)

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

VP: Chapter Dev: Eric Domke

VP: Music and Performance: Roger Holm

VP: Marketing & PR: Open

Secretary: Charlie Perry

Treasurer: Duane Roy

Members at Large - Fred Pioch, Ray Sturdy, Jeff Doig, Walt DeNio

Chorus Manager: Open

Captain Sunshine: Bill Maxfield

Section Leaders: McFadyen, Stephenson, Cowlshaw, Moss

Music Team: Holm, Blue, Cowlshaw, Doig, Frye, Johnson, McFadyen, Moss,

Murray, Prueter, and Stephenson

Bulletin Editor: John Cowlshaw, (248-891-4498)

## **CALENDAR, (With Performance Times; Warm-ups 30’ - 45’ earlier)**

Jun 3, T, 7:00 BCC Practice, WOAC

Jun 10, T, 7:00 BCC Practice, WOAC

June 13, F Windsor Chapter’s District Send-Off Show

Jun 17, T, 7:00 BCC Practice, WOAC

Jun 24, T, 6:00 Frankenmuth Dead Creek picnic (Bus leaves at 5:30)

Jun 28, Sa, 3pm Log Cabin Days (Meet at Pierce Middle School, 2:00)

Jun 29 - July6 BHS’ International Convention in Las Vegas, NV

Jul 1, T, 7:00 BCC Practice, WOAC

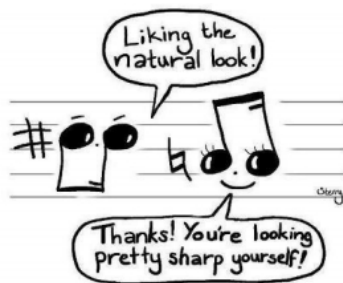
Jul 3, 2:30 Lockwood of Waterford  
 Jul 5, 10 pm EDT. International Quartet Finals, Las Vegas  
 Jul 8, T, 7:00 BCC Practice, WOAC  
 Jul 10 – 12 Harmony Explosion, Mt. Pleasant  
 Jul 19 Quartet Boot Camp, Okemos?  
 Jul 27 – Aug 3 Harmony University, Nashville, TN  
 Aug 15, 7:08 BCC Sings at Tigers-Mariners game  
 Aug 22, 23 Bush League Quartet Competition, Gaylord  
 Oct. 4 Rochester GoH Show “SHOW BIZ!” 7:30 PM  
 Oct 17 – 19 Fall District Convention, Muskegon  
 Nov 1 Big Chief Chorus Show

**Wisdom**

“Without music, life would be a mistake.” (Friedrich Nietzsche)

“He has Van Gogh’s ear for music” (Billy Wilder)

- You only need two tools in life – WD-40 and Duct Tape. If it doesn’t move and should, use the WD-40. If it shouldn’t move and does, use the Duct Tape.  
 (“The Morning After” Tom Woodson, Editor)



**Two Octets**



Octet, May 20, 2014



Octet, May 27, 2014