Welcome! Rusty Pipes and Allure and all our other singers, guests, friends, and attendees at Pontiac-Waterford’s 70th Annual Show!

AROUND THE PATCH

Bob Wallace sang in an ‘Ology quartet at Fall Convention.

Duane Roy returned to rehearsals Oct 7, looking good though 40 lbs lighter. It wasn’t the chemo and radiation, it was the intestinal infection he had developed.

Eileen Marshall was hospitalized for several days with a bleeding ulcer. It was a close call until the gastroenterologist was able to cauterize the site of bleeding. She is now recovering at home.

Ted Prueter has moved to Lockwood of Waterford. Thanks to Bill Maxfield for transporting him to rehearsals.

Thanks to Bob Greenwood for bringing the risers to rehearsal.

Jim McMain brought his son, Jim, to several rehearsals this month.

Ray Guerin died in September in Arizona. Ray was an active member of the Pontiac chapter in the 1970s. He was a member of the HARMONY KNIGHTS (Cliff Douglas, (Bs); Ray Guerin, (Br); Lyle Howard, (L), and Ed Lilly, (T)) which won the 22nd Boyne City Bush League contest in April, 1968. His brother Dick was a member of, and President of, the Pontiac Chapter in the 1970s, and whose ex-wife Betty Guerin was Bill Dabbs’ fiancée before her death in 2011.

About 30 Chiefs attended our all-day rehearsal October 11.
Quartets

Limited Edition sang on the Rochester Guardians of Harmony show, Saturday, October 4. The Stony Creek High School auditorium was nearly full with about 270 attendees to hear LE, Classic Fit, Right on Q, guest quartet Instant Classic and the Guardians chorus sing a show entitled “Show Biz.”

Limited Edition opened the show with a Lida Rose skit, then sang “It’s a Good Day” and “Kiss the Girl.” At the afterglow the quartet sang “Desperado” and “When I’m 64.”

Chapter 2014 Performances thru October: 86 gigs to 47,979 people

Membership: (at 50)

Renewals: Charlie Perry (6), Lance Shewe (8), Gil Schreiner (10), Doc Mann (15), Bruce LaMarte (43)

Due in November: none

Overdue: Hoff, Oberstadt

Bye-Bye: Dan Valko

November Birthdays: Lance Shew (12th), Doc Mann (13th), Gil Schreiner (18th), Bob Greenwood (20th), Fred McFadyen (24th)

BSOMs: Duane Roy, Neil Braun

Medical:

Ted Prueter – being treated for leukemia
Duane Roy – being treated for esophageal cancer

In Memoriam:

Nov 11, 2013 Gerry Twomey
Nov 19, 2006, Bill Pascher, #68

District

Pioneer Fall Convention

The Fall 2014 Pioneer District Convention returned to Muskegon October 17-19, the first time since 1961. Muskegon and Holland were co-hosts. Fifteen choruses and fourteen quartets competed in the lovely old Frauenthal Center for Performing Arts, and we were additionally entertained by THE VOICE, our exciting new Pioneer youth chorus, which has 24 members, a repertoire, a rich sound, and a slot in the Midwinter Youth Chorus competition in New Orleans next January.

Our new District Quartet Champion is Tonal Eclipse (Matthew Root (T), Mark Spear (L), Philip Spencer (Br), and Kerry Foley (Bs). They scored 73.1%.

Rolls Voyce [Bruce LaMarte (T), T C Connor (L), David Gillingham (Br), and Timothy Gerard (Bs)] won the Senior Quartet championship (and an invitation to New Orleans in January).

Novice award was won by Evenin’ Gentlemen (Terry Webner, (T), Keith Opal, (L), Roger Boyer, (Br), John Paul, (Bs))

The chorus contest was a duel between Grand Rapids and Mt. Pleasant, with the Great Lakes Chorus, directed by Jamie Carey, coming out on top with a score of 74.1 %. (They also were the Pioneer District Most Improved Chorus and had the most men on stage, 39.) They will represent the district at International next July in Pittsburgh.

The remaining thirteen choruses were closely clustered - above and below 60%. Altogether, there were 352 contestants on stage. There were 786 full and single-event registrations.

Friday afternoon attendees could partake of the wisdom of three speakers – Jamie Carey on vowels, Warren Hettinga on singing with resonance, and John Brockmann on a beginner’s guide to reading a score.

The Joe Barbershop Chorus was directed by Justin Miller, Director of the Gold-medal Westminster Chorus. Despite Justin’s choice of two non-polecats (“In the Good Old Summertime” and “Kentucky Babe”), his reputation led 33 men to participate.

A new event occurred – a mass sing with 350 barbershoppers invited onto the spacious stage to sing “Sweet and Lovely” and “Heart of my Heart.” The directors for these songs were chosen by a random drawing, and included Jonathan Woolf and Matt Tipton, each manfully climbing high to be seen by those in the back row.

All scores are available online at: http://www.pioneerdistrict.org/contestsummary/contmenu.htm

News from the House of Delegates included:

An increase in district registration from $35 to $45.
The Leadership Academy January 17 at Mt Pleasant.
Bush League has altered its annual date from the last Saturday in August to the last Saturday in September.

Canada Night
The Detroit-Oakland Chapter will once again be hosting a party for our Canadian brothers and any other barbershoppers in the area.

It is Friday, Nov 7, 7pm, dinner at 7:45, stag, $14

New venue:
The Stitt American Legion Post #232, 23850 Military Rd, Dearborn Heights, MI 48127.

Regards, Tom Uicker
Will Pontiac-Waterford successfully defend its title?

International
Contest Songs Database
http://www.bsmdb.com/index.php is a complete data base to songs sung by contest, song or quartet.

“What’s Up, Chief?”

(What’s up Dar Johnson?)
Dar is proud of his 54-year marriage to Kay (whom he met at Alma College) and his three daughters and nine grandkids.

Now Dar is “tired and retired.”
The docs at St Joe’s and UofM could find no reason for his mysterious attack last March during a rehearsal and, at age 79, his health is generally good, (though he worries about his memory lapses). He loves bike-riding, and he does the Paint Creek Trail and Kensington and routes around home.

Each morning he has coffee with three retirees at a local restaurant, a truck driver, a school teacher, and a male nurse.

He and Kay spend lots of time at their Torch Lake home.

After eight years in the chorus, he’s decided he isn’t quartet material (unless it is in “The Mediocre”). But he enjoys chorus, half for the singing, and half for the fellowship, with guys of all personalities and from all walks of life.

(What’s Up, Bill Holmes?)

Bill sure looks and behaves youthfully, for his almost-86 years, despite a slew of surgeries – triple bypass, abdominal aorta, six hernias – (and he is recovering from a bang on his foot, that will not prohibit him from standing for the show).

He does a lot of non-fiction reading. He is currently reading Killing Patton, by Bill O’Reilly, The End of Faith by Sam Harris, and Who Wrote the Gospels by Randel Helms.

They visit their daughter Cheryl’s cottage in the thumb. Now that Cheryl has gone back to work, (since her son, Christian, is off to UofM pre-med), Bill and Barbara go let her dog out each day.

They do a cruise each year. In August they cruised to St. Thomas with son Gary’s family. They’ve also cruised the Greek Isles, Alaska, and Scandinavia, and bussed with Globus thru the capitals of Europe.

MEDIA

The marvelous Danny Fong has released another song, “My Sugar is So Refined,” as arranged by the Hi-Lo’s.

http://www.patreon.com/creation?hid=1038004
Hear the Hi-Lo’s at
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wh8ORki-0o8

Last month’s article on BarbershOpera featured Something Special, the name of the beer they are making at Frothingslosh Brewery ... in Ohio.

Turns out that Lance shew was so taken with the design that he kept a can of Frothingslosh, removed the top, and has used it as a pencil holder.

THE SINGING CRAFT
THEORETICALLY SPEAKING

FOUR MAIN REASONS WHY BARBERSHOP SINGING SOUNDS UNIQUE, by Jon Nicholas
(Reprinted from ChoralNet)
Reason #1: The Melody Is In The Middle. With many vocal music genres, the melody is sung in the highest part. Barbershop is not the only style that utilizes this structure (gospel quartets, for example, also use it), but it’s the first element that starts to separate it from other styles.

Reason #2: The Dominant Seventh Chord. The dominant seventh chord is so prevalent in traditional barbershop music that it has come to be known as the Barbershop Seventh Chord to many. In a traditional song, 35 to 60% of the chords are dominant sevenths.

Reason #3: Just Intonation. Though many early barbershop quartets used musical instruments to accompany their singing, most modern quartets sing in the a cappella style so they can use Just Intonation. The human brain can detect when a chord "locks" into place, and most singers, with experience, can automatically adjust their notes to make a chord sound better.

Reason #4: Overtones. An overtone is a natural phenomenon that occurs when sound waves rub against each other and produce a higher note. In a well-tuned barbershop quartet, overtones are enhanced, even sometimes to the point where the loudest note is not being sung by any of the four singers. Barbershoppers call this expanded sound. A side benefit of this phenomenon is that the singer can relax his volume a bit because the over-all volume has now increased with the addition of the overtones. Unlike most singers in other musical styles, barbershoppers actively work towards producing overtones.

Addendum: the barbershop 9th chord

Besides Jon Nicholas’ Reasons #2, the barbershop 7th mentioned above, other chords are used. The barbershop 9th chord (V9) adds a fifth note to the barbershop 7th chord (V7). (Ignore the “V”; it just means that the root of the chord is the fifth note of the Key of F.)

Since this V9 requires five notes, it can’t be sung by a quartet without omitting a note, usually the root (the C in the picture) or sometimes the 5th (the G), but it still sounds like a 9th. 9th chords are not common in barbershop, but in the song below, the chord on “old” is a 9th chord. (The root in this case is the D, which is the 6th note in the key of F.)

With D as the root, this 9th would include D, F#, A, C, E. Since a quartet can only sing four notes, the A is omitted.

At the Rochester Guardians of Harmony show afterglow, the Instant Classic quartet was able to sing a song with several ninths without omitting any of the five notes. How did they do that? By inviting Theo Hicks’ sister, Kim Salyer, to join them as a fifth wheel on Scott Kitzmiller’s beautiful arrangement of “The Very Thought of You.”

You can read a longer version of this article with demonstration clips at http://tinyurl.com/barbershop-in-a-nutshell
HISTORY

Joint meeting with Rochester, June 1, 2010. A union of the two choruses was being considered. Rochester eventually linked up with Macomb County Guardians of Harmony.

Executive Board Minutes, September 18. (Excerpts)

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

Treasurer’s Report: Available funds $4,734.41. Jim Owens was appointed Treasurer due to Duane Roy’s health. Owens will work with an audit team consisting of Lance Shew & Gene Downie. Quicken software will be used to streamline bookkeeping.

VP Growth and Development: Membership 47. Average attendance 30.

VP Music and Performance: Show preparation is progressing. G4 will not be able to perform due to scheduling conflicts. Show Retreat will be Oct. 11, at Church of Christ in Royal Oak.

Motion to purchase 200 mailers for $145.68 was passed.

Ticket prices have been established as:
$16.00 regular
$12.00 group of 10 or more
$5.00 children under 12

Possibility of making a Christmas Chorus Film was discussed. Doig will follow up.

Show budget was discussed. Motion to provide $500.00 for show budget was passed.

Letter to the Editor

(From Al Monroe)

All is well here. Moved to Chelsea in August of 2013. I have been out of barbershop singing for last two years and miss it a lot. Thinking about paying a visit to Huron Valley and Livingston choruses.

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

Oct 28, T, 7:00 Show rehearsal, Waterford Mott H.S.
Oct 30, Th. 7:00 Show rehearsal, Waterford Mott H.S.
Nov 1, Sa, 7:00 Big Chief Chorus Show, “Big Chiefs on Broadway” ~9:30 Afterglow, Heroes Restaurant, 998 W Huron St
Nov 4, T, 7:00 Christmas Chorus begins
Nov 7, F, 7:00 Canada Night
Nov 11, T, 7:00 Christmas Chorus rehearsal
Nov 15, T, 7:00 Christmas Chorus rehearsal
Nov 25, T, 7:00 Christmas Chorus rehearsal
Nov 11, T, 7:00 Christmas Chorus rehearsal

Tentative Christmas singout schedule:
Dec 2, T, 6:00 Waterford Tree Lighting
7:00 Lockwood of Waterford
Dec 4, Th, 1:00 Oakland Co. Retirees, White Lake Oaks
3:00 Independence Village (White Lake)
Dec 9, T, 7:00 Lakeland Place
Dec 11, Th, 6:30 Canterbury on the Lake
Dec 13, Sa Elmhaven Apartments
Ryan’s Fresh Market
Krogers of Union Lake
Pine Tree Place
Hiller’s Mkt, Union Lake
Dec 16, T, TBA American House, Rochester Hills

2015

May 8, F, 1:00 Elmhaven Mother’s Day
Jun 27, Sa, 3:00 Log Cabin Days, Waterford
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: Jim Owens
Members at Large - Fred Pioch, Ray Sturdy, Jeff Doig, Walt DeNio
Chorus Manager: Open
Captain Sunshine: Bill Maxfield
Section Leaders: McFadyen, Stephenson, Cowlishaw, Moss
Music Team: Holm, Blue, Cowlishaw, Doig, Frye, McFadyen, Moss,
Murray, Prueter, and Stephenson
Bulletin Editor: John Cowlishaw, (248-891-4498)

Top ten lies all Barbershoppers tell:

1. One more tag, honey, then I swear I’m coming home.
2. Nah, the barbershop version is good, but the original was better.
3. Dynamics are great; I’d much rather sing this high tag softly.
4. Don’t worry, this is an easy tag.
5. I usually nail that post.
6. Director: I promise, we’re gonna run this song without stopping.
7. I totally called the top five right.
8. With the right lead/bass I could win international.
9. I really like the way your baritone sticks out.
10. It’s just one night a week.

From Brian Doig