Late-Breaking News!

Instead of our usual rehearsal at Waterford Oaks Activity Center, we will be joining the Grosse Pointe Chapter, Tuesday, February 3 for an Ice Cream Social / Jug Night. Location is the Grosse Point Congregational Church, 240 Chalfonte Ave, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236. Starting time is 7:30 pm. Five dollars ($5) for the trip and a two dollar ($2) tip for the driver will get you a ride on the BCC bus, boarding at 6:15 and departing at 6:30 from WOAC.

“Thanks to Roger Holm, Lance Shew and all those who sold the 73 ads for our Show Program. These funds make it possible for us to rent busses and pay for the expenses to maintain a healthy chapter.” (Prez Jack)

2015 Executive Board

The 2015 Executive Board was elected during the chapter meeting of January 13 and installed by Mike Frye on January 20.

- President: Jack Teuber
- VP: Chapter Dev: Eric Domke
- VP: Music and Performance: Roger Holm
- Secretary: Charlie Perry
- Treasurer: Jim Owens

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

Two awards were announced:

Fred McFadyen receiving the Wm Pascher award

Duane Roy named Barbershopper of the Year
Welcome to Dr. David Stone

David is a retired Wayne State Medical School graduate who worked as an industrial physician in Ford plants in Wixom, Rouge River, and the Wayne Assembly plant as well as a brief stint in Chicago. He was born in Petoskey, practiced in Michigan and Illinois, and retired with his second wife to Florida, where he sang in the Anona Gospel Chordsmen chorus in Largo, FL. After his wife died, he moved back to Michigan in April (where he lives in Independence Village) to be closer to his daughter, Peggy McVea, an RN in Milford. He has two other daughters, and a son who died in Iraq.

He brings musical skills and interests. His business card is adorned with treble and bass clef icons. He also sings in the Commerce United Methodist Church choir.

AROUND THE PATCH

Ted Prueter is spending a few weeks in the Care Unit at Canterbury on the Lake to deal with some medical issues.

Duane Roy gathered three others (Cowlishaw, Murray, McFadyen) January 6 to sing the song he first learned in high school – “After Dark.”

Zaven’s brother, Dodge Melkonian, a frequent chorus visitor from Florida, took a tumble and broke several vertebrae in his neck. He is now out of his cervical collar and in a rehab facility where they are working on his balance.

Warm greetings to our snowbirds, Doc Mann, Len Barnes, Bruce Brede. And Mike Doyle will be busy elsewhere for a few months.

Walt and Margaret Bachmann are now the day-time child-care providers for Sarah’s three-year old daughter Sophia.

Tom Blue celebrated the big 5-0 January 7.

Greg Moss hosted another New Year’s Day party, at which the Bredes, Walt Bachmann, and John Cowlishaw showed up.

Wayne Oberstadt has posted an invitation to Valentines gifts on our Facebook site. [https://www.facebook.com/pages/Big-Chief-Chorus/19533883812959](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Big-Chief-Chorus/19533883812959)

Freddie McFadyen has been using his slot in rehearsals for repertoire reviews. In January, we have reviewed:

“Heart of a Clown”
“Let the Rest of the World Go By”
“It’s a Good Day”
“Can You Feel the Love Tonight?”
“I’m Always Chasing Rainbows”

Our contest package was recorded January 27, and emailed out to members.

Quartets

Bidin’ Our Time

Bidin’ Our Time sang for the Habitat for Humanity workers finishing up a house at 5400 Elizabeth Lake Rd, singing to about a dozen workers on their final work day, January 7.

The quartet dressed in their finest work clothes (jeans, hardhats, paint, dirt and all).

Crew chief Chris Van Gordon arranged the party.

Jim Owens, who was one of the volunteers, joined the quartet in one of their popular numbers.
Jim Owens says, “This house was a unique project. It is the first “Habitat for Humanity” project done in conjunction with “Homes for Autism” in the State of Michigan. The house was totally gutted and rebuilt to accommodate the special needs of an autism group home. Soon the house will become a home to benefit three adults with autism. It also has facilities for a care taker.” Bill Schramm, president of “Homes for Autism”, was the driving force for this coalition. Christ the Redeemer Catholic Church provided a lot of financial and volunteer support for the project. Bill worked with another parishioner, Mike Evola, to keep the volunteer effort rolling. Mike had over 30 parishioners involved and they worked over 2,000 hours.

“Most of the volunteer workers (but not all) were from Christ the Redeemer. One of the non-parishioners who did some work was ex-Big Chief Chorus member Ross Ensign! Our crusty old crew chief from “Habitat” is Chris Van Gordon – a fun guy to get to know.

“The volunteers truly enjoyed the performance by Bidin’ Our TIME. The quartet established rapport through their great singing and the interest they expressed in the project. The guys asked a lot of questions and got a good feeling for the effort that was expended.

“Many of the workers expressed their appreciation to me afterward. They really appreciated the quartet’s volunteer effort to acknowledge the Habitat for Humanity volunteer efforts.”

Mike Frye added, “Chris Van Gordon is from Commerce Twp. Turns out that I knew his father and his Grandfather and Uncles and Aunts. There is even a street named after his Grandfather off of Cooley Lake Road.

**Limited Edition at SHAC**

The Village Fine Arts Association operates the Suzanne Haskew Arts Center (SHAC) on South Main St in Milford. Charlie’s daughter-in-law, Andrea Perry, is its director. They sponsor an “Open Mic” on the third Saturday of each month.

In the converted industrial building, with photos and paintings and posters on the walls, Limited Edition performed a four-set to an enthusiastic audience of about 30 – “Saints,” “Lullabye,” “When I’m Sixty-Four,” and “Sold.”

Charlie was introduced and started off “Saints” alone, as if it were a solo number. An apparently amused John rose from his seat to join him, then Tom, then Jeff, catching the audience off-guard who hadn’t realized a quartet was there to entertain them.

The rest of the performers ranged the talent spectrum, with guitarist/song writer Scott Mowbrey topping the bunch.

The evening ended with dinner at Coratti’s on Main for the foursome and wives.

**Limited Edition parties**

The quartet gathered with wives at John and Corinne’s home, Saturday, January 3. Delicious food, great stories, warm camaraderie.

**Chapter 2015 Performances:** 2 gigs to 39 people
MEMBERSHIP: (at 49)

Renewals: None
Due in February: Bill Auquirre, Eric Domke
Overdue: Mike Doyle, Ted Prueter, Bob Stephenson
Bye-Bye: Anthony Hoff
February Birthdays: John Northey (22nd), Pete Mazzara (23rd)
Medical:
  Ted Prueter – being treated for leukemia
  Duane Roy – being treated for esophageal cancer
In Memoriam:
  Feb 1, 2014, Dick Johnson, #155
  Feb 2, 2011, Marv Wilson #119
  Feb 25, 2011, Jim Claflin, #120

District

Paul Teska was honored with A Celebration of Life

Paul Teska was honored with A Celebration of Life, Saturday, January 10, 2015 at the Nie Funeral Home – Carpenter Chapel in Ann Arbor. Paul died January 3, age 63, after being diagnosed with stage four esophageal cancer in September, 2013. The chapel was filled to overflowing with about 150 people, who celebrated their memories of Paul, this Johnnie-come-lately to barbershop, and his zest for life.

The group included thirty Huron Valley Harmonizers and twenty other barbershoppers, who had known Paul in Harmony Brigade or were in other chapters around the region. They arrived from Ohio, Indiana, Ontario, and Michigan as far away as Holland.

The celebrants also included about thirty members of The Bible Church in Ypsilanti, which Paul and wife Chris had recently joined. Its Elders, Dr. Levon Yuile and Davis Cochran, led the service.

The barbershoppers sang three songs - “This Little Light/Do Lord Medley,” “Irish Blessing,” and “Goodbye, World, Goodbye.” Shawn York’s video for Harmony Foundation, “Paul Teska’s Story,” was shown about Paul’s fund-raising concert, which raised over $11,000 last March for Youth in Harmony. Several friends and family also shared memories of Paul’s significant, creative, and amusing impact on their lives.

LIMITED EDITION (Blackstone, Cowlishaw, Doig, and Perry), and Ray Sturdy and Chuck Murray attended.

The Paul Teska obituary site is at http://www.niefuneralhomes.com/obituaries/Paul-Teska/ It includes a video of ON THAT NOTE singing “I’m Gonna Live Til I Die,” which became kind of a signature song for Paul. ON THAT NOTE sang it on BCC’s 2013 show and included Big Chiefs Tom Blackstone and John Cowlishaw, as well as Huron Valley members Jim Windak, and Paul.

Gold-Medal quartets coming to Michigan

D.O.C.’s 76th annual show, America Sings!, features OC TIMES (2008 International Quartet Champions), Saturday, February 21 at 1:59 pm and at 7:29 pm at Clarenceville High School, Livonia. http://detroitoakland.org/show/flyer15.pdf

Zaven and John will attend the Lansing show March 14, drawn by the guest-quartet presence of CROSSROADS, gold-medalist in 2009. http://tinyurl.com/puchxek

Leadership Academy, Jan 17, Central Michigan University
From Fred Pioch:

Overall, it was an enjoyable experience. I felt that the Vocal Training class was very interesting; however, I thought it was hard to follow because he (Steve Scott) used medical terms for body parts in the throat area constantly, while he was explaining how to get better vocal sound. I would enjoy, and get more out of, a private session with the teacher (which he does) to improve myself. I believe that I would understand him better, in that type of environment. The most important
point, I believe, that I learned in the class, is that you need to be constantly aware of the alignment of your body when you're singing because it affects your sound.

I also attended the Marketing class (taught by John O’Dell) and I was disappointed with that one. The presentation was geared more to a business, not a Barbershop chorus. I wished he would have talked about recruiting new members, especially younger people.

The singing of Tags, camaraderie with the other singers, and dinner were also very enjoyable, and I'm very glad that I was able to go to this event.

From Jim Owens:

I have sorted through the large volume of information that was presented and I am sharing my list of "keepers."

There were three sessions offered throughout the day.

Guest speaker, Steve Scott, presented at the morning "main-tent" session. Steve is a very sought-after vocal coach as an advanced student of vocal pedagogy. Steve’s presentation alternated between technical descriptions of the vocal anatomy and suggestions for good singing practices.

The two afternoon elective sessions were oriented toward officer training (or more of Steve Scott). I attended the Treasurer’s sessions (led by Larry Parker, Lansing chapter treasurer and our district treasurer). Three old-timer treasurers and three rookie treasurers were there. The rookies got some good pointers on how to keep up with the annual reports that are required. I have since filed our chapter’s 990 online and uploaded the result to the BHS e-biz website. (IRS and BHS should be satisfied!!)

We also heard from Dan Bezaire, District President.

Bottom line – I think our chapter is right on track in most of the important areas.

- We heard about the importance of having a lot of community presence – *our chorus and quartets excel in this area!*

- We heard that the society is planning to offer a lot of online courses – *this is something to look forward to.*

- Some chapters have formalized an activity of asking members to present their “favorite barbershop moments” and publishing them – *I think John is leading us in this direction.*

- Steve Scott really emphasized the importance of having effective warm-ups

- He recommended 15 minutes be used for warmup at the beginning of each rehearsal

- Physical warm ups to relieve tension throughout the body and to align the body (stretches, shaking, then alignment)

- Mental warm ups to get the mind working on doing two things at once such as building rhythm skills (alphabet and numbers with hands)

- Vocal Sequencing warm ups
  - Falsetto – glides, character speech
  - Dusters – descending hum 54321
  - Breath/Source Coordinators – lip trill
  - Efficient Source – many 54321
  - Low Larynx – I love to sing 8531
  - Tuning – 4ths and 5ths
  - Putting it all Together – Heart of My Heart with lip buzz

From Chuck Murray, (who represented the Rochester Chapter)

I was totally impressed with the vocal coach that the LA brought in from Kansas, Steve Scott.

Steve has his own style of coaching, and is very unassuming, realistic. He rolls some humor into his "dry throat stories". He demonstrated his points, such as the effect of posture of singing. He demonstrated how “Head up on high notes, head down on low notes”
affects sound quality. He reinforces singing with a relaxed posture, introducing no stress into his vocal production. He defines "Locking" and "Ringing" as two different things.

Steve does not believe in taking super-giant breaths to support long posts. He believes in training the vocal mechanism to function at its optimum, lining up the vocal folds to optimize the sound and minimize required air flow. This is an interesting concept, and Steve used examples of how he can control his own breath, singing a long, single note post for us all to witness!

Several attendees want to get him to visit their chapters! Dave Montera, (D.O.C.) and Bob McCaffrey (RGoH) both expressed interest and talked with me about how we might get several chapters, quartets, and Sweet Adeline choruses/quartets, to share the cost of bringing him to Michigan for a week or two. Steve could "make the rounds" much like Cindy Hanson does, when she comes to Michigan.

Do you think Pontiac would like to have him come as a coach, also?

**International**

Our District reps, ROLLS VOYCE and THE VOICE, drew praise for their performances at BHS Midwinter in New Orleans, January 6-11.

**ROLLS VOYCE** (Bruce LaMarte, TC Connor, “Doc” Gillingham, TR Gerard) were 12th of 26 with a score of 70.3, singing “Honey/Little Lize Medley” and “Being With You.” Doc’s son Garrett was their significant coach.

**THE VOICE**, our popular Youth Chorus, placed in the “Outstanding” category. The 24 young men were supported financially by the district. We are in conversation with them to sing on our Fall show. Listen to their charming self-description on YouTube at [http://tinyurl.com/lcrn58m](http://tinyurl.com/lcrn58m)

Following the Midwinter Convention, Bob Wallace took the Caribbean Cruise with Musical Island Boys. “The Lead didn't come on the cruise and Tim Warwick filled in and was terrific. A group from Canada called Men of Harmony was there and a small group from The Guardians of Harmony from Rochester sang also.” (Bob)

**“Saturday Evening Post**, a quartet from Colorado Springs, bested 26 other groups to capture the gold medals in Saturday’s International Seniors Quartet Contest.

“Singing "Tin Roof Blues" and "That's A-Plenty," the quartet earned the highest score ever posted for the Seniors contest, an 81% score that would be comparable to semifinalist quartets in the open class International championships.” (From Live Wire)

(For comparison, Pioneer District’s RESISTING-A-REST was the Gold-medalist in 2010 with a score of 74.2.)

You can hear SEP’s Tin Roof Blues on YouTube at [http://tinyurl.com/pdzohky](http://tinyurl.com/pdzohky)

**BHS International in Pittsburgh, July**

**LIMITED EDITION** quartet has bought their tickets. Anyone else? I really urge newer barbershoppers to consider it. It will be an experience you’ll always remember. Figure $500 a person for car travel, registration, hotel, and AIC show for three days, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, returning Sunday. I’ve never heard of a person who regretted going.

**“What’s Up, Eric Domke?**

Refresh our memories about your workday world.

I am blessed to still be working at Consumers Energy for almost 34 yrs now. I am a gas lineman- cathodic specialist. What I do is keep the gas mains from corroding due to dissimilar metals. When you have two different metals touching, one corrodes and one gets protected from corroding. Like the sacrificial anode in a hot water heater. When
you purchase a water heater you can get a 6yr, 9yr or 12yr warranty. The only difference is a larger magnesium anode - but it works. We do the same thing with our gas mains but instead of the current flowing through water, the current flows through the dirt. Pretty amazing, eh? (Oh, the cathodic part is that current flows from an anode to a cathode - positive to negative - and this process is called cathodic protection).

My job is like being a detective and figuring out what is going on underground with our gas piping (mains and services) in reference to corrosion and what is required to bring it up to a level considered protected from corroding, i.e. more magnesium, or is there an electrical short in the system. An electrical short can be created by a customer simply attaching a ground wire from a Comcast cable or water line to our tracer wire below the gas meter.

Still living where?
I'm still living in Waterford in the same house for 24 yrs.

Kids and grandkids?
I have four grandchildren, all boys. My son Dan has four year old Carter and three year old Brody and they live in Sterling Hts. I get to see them regularly. My other son Jon and his wife HaeJung just came home from Ft. Riley in Kansas for the holiday and spent a week with me. They have a nine month old whose name is JiHoo which means "supreme ruler." Jon is a sergeant in the Army and just arrived in Korea for a two year assignment. HaeJung is happy as she is near her family.

How's your love life?
I've been divorced for 2½ years and no special flames in my life for now. I volunteer for Hospice; rather I should say I'm finally approved to volunteer as the process takes six months before all the background/fingerprinting/reference and other clearances are in place.

Quartetting?
I'm looking forward to singing Valentines with 4GVN. We took a few months break but are going to start rehearsing again as we enjoy the camaraderie.

What do you do when you're not working or singing?
I enjoy snowmobiling up at my cabin in Meredith, MI. (No walking necessary when on a snowmobile!) Snow conditions aren't too good yet this year.

Anything else?
As many of you know, my walking has diminished due to Charcot Marie Tooth, a type of Muscular Dystrophy that was diagnosed twenty-seven years ago. But I am blessed and have no pain and am fortunate to have good friends in the Big Chief Chorus and good family. My attitude determines my altitude. Enjoy this day, as tomorrow is promised to no one. Call a friend today and, when in doubt, always choose the positive.

MEDIA
Of particular interest in the November-December Harmonizer
1. Vocal Majority “uses updated recordings to improve performance.” (Page 8). Although they have the best learning tracks available, those become out of date. “So, each week as we improved, we made recordings of the contest set and published them on-line the next day.”
2. Three pages on quartet skill development, pg 17-19 Quartet makeover: Why consistently great four-part harmony means practicing on fewer parts, how to prepare for a gig, and what not to learn from your idols.

History
David Wright’s keynote address in New Orleans, “The Future History of Barbershop” is available at: http://tinyurl.com/kcfk748
Breathing is the foundation of singing. 
Breathing is the foundation of Yoga.
Breathing is the foundation of life.

Several members commented favorably on the breathing exercise introduced during the Jan 20 warmups.

To summarize, it is an in-breath thru the nose for 4 counts, holding the breath for 8-12 counts, or whatever is comfortable, exhaling thru the mouth for 8 counts (with some resistance, either the tip of the tongue on the roof of the mouth, or lips pursed, etc.) Repeat the cycle four times. The important numbers are that the exhalation take twice as long as the in-breath.

For reference, see Dr. Andrew Weil on 4-7-8 breathing: http://www.drweil.com/drw/u/VDR00112/The-4-7-8-Breath-Benefits-and-Demonstration.html

And “birdie” at http://www.byrdie.com/how-to-fall-asleep-fast

Per Bristow and Stig Severinsen’s link is expected to disappear: The Breathing Mastery Video Series

“Remember, you can post any Chapter related info you want, just keep it positive, keep it clean, and no personal business sales or promotions.

“Why not share a memory? (Wallace and Cowlishaw have.) What is one of your fondest memories of the Big Chief Chorus? Who was the biggest influence in bringing you into this great hobby of ours? Wouldn’t it be great to see a long string of good memories to share with each other and with those who may just decide to give this great hobby a try?!!”

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

Feb 3, T, 7:30  Jug Night at Grosse Point Chapter
Feb 8, Su, 8:00  57th Annual Grammy’s, CBS
Feb 10, T, 7:00  BCC Practice, WOAC
Feb 13,14;F,Sa Valentines deliveries
Feb 17, T, 7:00  BCC Practice, WOAC
Feb 21, Sa, 2&7:30  OC TIMES at the D.O.C. Show
Feb 24, T, 7:00  BCC Practice, WOAC
Mar 3, T, 7:00  BCC Practice, WOAC
Mar 14, Sa, 7:00  CROSSROADS at the Lansing Show
Apr 24-26  Pioneer District Convention, Battle Creek
May 8, F, 1:00  Elmhaven Manor, Mother’s Day
2:30  Lockwood of Waterford
May 30, Sa  Great Lakes Harmony Brigade show, Okemos
Jun 23, T,  Flint’s Dead Creek Picnic (Bus at 5:30)
Jun 27, Sa, 3:00  Log Cabin Days, Waterford
Jul 1-5  BHS International, Pittsburgh
Jul 23 – Aug 3  Harmony University, Belmont Univ. Nashville, TN
Nov 7, Sa, 7:00  71st BCC Show “BCC Does the Grammys”
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, Stephenson, Mazzara
Bulletin Editor: John Cowlishaw, (248-891-4498)

Quote:
“I have seen many kinds of music, vocal and instrumental, and I have never seen anything in music like the barbershop baritone part. There’s nothing that abandons normal voice leading like barbershop baritone. I see that in no other kind of music. That alone identifies barbershop music uniquely.” (From Part 3 of David Wright’s Keynote address)

It’s Valentines time (From the Lansing Woodshedder)