77th Annual Barbershop Convention, Pittsburgh

Our new Gold medalists are:

**Instant Classic** – Quartet (CAR) 92.7%
**Westminster Chorus** – (FWD) 97.5%
**Trocadero** – Collegiate Quartet (SNOBS) 82.8%

The convention was splendid. Pittsburgh is an exciting town. Attending from the Big Chief Chorus were: Jack and Mary Teuber, Jim and Carol Owens, Tom Blackstone, Jeff Doig, Charlie Perry, and John Cowlishaw. Jeff and Charlie were Convention virgins. Many others were there from Pioneer District and from the Harmony Brigades.

Nearly 6000 people attended the convention.

Our new quartet champion is **Instant Classic**. In somewhat of an upset they beat out Forefront, Lemon Squeezy, and Main Street, none of whom would have been a surprising winner. In fact, the top five finishers this year ALL scored higher than the Gold-medalists of the last two years – Musical Island Boys, and Masterpiece. That’s how good a competition this was!

How smart of us to book **Instant Classic** for this Fall’s show two years ago. I’m sure that their price has just gone up ... and their availability down. And it should be worth a few more ticket sales to have the world’s best on our show.

The quartet includes Theo Hicks, the Kitzmiller brothers Kohl and Kyle, and David Zimmerman.

In the Collegiate contest, Aaron Pollard and his quartet, Frontier, captured 9th place out of 24, with their score of 77.2. (A trivia point from Jeff Doig: Theo Hicks and Aaron Pollard’s brother Wayne, and Kyle Kitzmiller sang together in the high school quartet **Insignia** which was on our show in 2004.)

**Majestyx** sang a 76.0 for 48th place out of 53 in the open contest, just behind **RedZone**, the guys with the red shoes at our District Convention.

The Great Lakes Chorus opened up the day-long chorus contest Saturday morning with their very entertaining package, their two songs like book ends – departing to, and returning from, war. With 50 men on stage, they scored 77.6 and came in 26th of 28. But the winners were the young men from Westminster Chorus (none over age 40?). They beat out Ambassadors of Harmony (153 men on stage), and a new dandy – Central Standard chorus, just 45 men from Kansas City MO, followed by the Alexandria Harmonizers.

From the standpoint of **Limited Edition**, who arrived at midday Thursday, that afternoon was a good time to visit an
open chorus rehearsal. We chose the Alexandria Harmonizers under the direction of Joe Cerutti (and Cindy Hansen was there to add her choreographic wisdom). For an hour they practiced one short section of their second song, “Me Ol’ Bamboo,” over and over. The unquestioned striving for every possible ounce of improvement was obvious.

Thursday evening, the AIC show was wonderful, with its easy-going collection of Gold-medalists.

Friday was the chorus contest all day. And we avoided a few showers, as we moved from hotels to Consol Energy Center. Saturday was an opportunity to partake of a rich assortment of classes from Harmony University. Several of us went to:

- Repurposing the Warmup, by Robert Mance (Central Standard Chorus director)
- Our Barbershop Roots, by David Wright
- Teach the Song’s Emotions, by Stephen Rafe
- Training the Brain for Harmony, by Jeff Taylor (our famous coach at Higgins Lake in 2003)

And then the grand finale, Saturday night. Omigoodness, when FOREFRONT was announced as silver medalist, the crowd broke into astonished cheering as they realized INSTANT CLASSIC was going to be crowned Gold.

John’s photos are available at: [http://tinyurl.com/qcwn28q](http://tinyurl.com/qcwn28q)

There are lots of good BHS on-line videos that will give you a sense of the excitement and wonderful singing available at an international convention.

[http://tinyurl.com/qhdqa32](http://tinyurl.com/qhdqa32)

Saturday Night Quartet Finals RECAP:

[http://tinyurl.com/qd2zej5](http://tinyurl.com/qd2zej5) (The Mixed Quartet - three girls and a boy – singing at 0:12 with SATURDAY EVENING POST - were quadruplets from Milwaukee.” Jack)

“In a thrilling victory, dark horse INSTANT CLASSIC jumped from eighth place in 2014 to the gold medals in the international quartet contest. It was the largest leap since 1998, when REVIVAL moved up from tenth to first. The quartet faced stiff competition from returning veterans; quartets finishing second through fourth all had achieved medals previously.

“The Kitzmiller brothers anchor the bottom half of the new quartet champs: Kyle sings bass and Kohl baritone, with Theo Hicks on lead and David Zimmerman up top.”

Listen to them sing “Love Me or Leave Me” at: [http://tinyurl.com/oncbxm5](http://tinyurl.com/oncbxm5)
Was anybody expecting **Instant Classic** to win?

Well, here is what Ron Brooks wrote in Saturday morning’s Daily Convention Bulletin:

“Just like the Chorus contest, the Quartet Finals are going to be wild! At this point I would say it’s anyone’s contest to win. The Swedish quartet, **Lemon Squeezy** offers a tight, modern jazzy style compared to the old fashioned Barbershop style of **Main Street** that includes straw hats and spats (and comedy) with audience participation. A **Mighty Wind** offered up some new comedy material with some of the best singing they’ve ever done. So watch out. Dark horse, second place quartet from last year, **Forefront** seems to get better and more comfortable on stage and wants the Gold. Not to be outdone the mix of a gold medalist—and a beast of a bass in Michael Skutt!—makes **Throwback** a threat. The **highlight for me in the semis was an incredible set by Instant Classic who just may surprise everyone.** So who’s going to be the new champs? You’ll just have to show up on Saturday night to see.”

**Westminster seizes day, wins gold!**

“History repeated itself as the **Westminster Chorus** topped the **Ambassadors of Harmony** to capture the gold medals in the Barbershop Harmony Society’s annual chorus competition.”

“Singing "A Dream Is a Wish Your Heart Makes" from Disney's "Cinderella" and "Seize The Day" from "Newsies," the 74-man chorus emerged at the top of 28 choruses from around the world to win its third gold medal. The last time Westminster faced the Ambassadors in 2007, the contest ended in a tie, winning on a tie-breaker. This time, Westminster earned a 97.5% score, compared with 95.6% for the Ambassadors -- itself a score that would have won in many other contests. Listen to “Seize The Day” at: [http://tinyurl.com/pdqby8d](http://tinyurl.com/pdqby8d)

New to the medalist ranks were Kansas City's **Central Standard** in third, and Nashville's **Music City Chorus** in fifth, with perennial powerhouse **Alexandria Harmonizers** in fourth.

**Trocadero wins college championship**

Lest anyone wonder if barbershop has become a global phenomenon, consider this: four of the top five quartets hailed from outside the United States. Leading the pack was Sweden's **Trocadero**, who posted A-level scores in the college contest, and later in the week, earned a 17th-place finish in the open contest. **Trocadero** continues a tradition of Swedish domination in the college contest, as the fourth Swedish quartet to capture the crown in the past eight years.
Jack and Mary arrived in time to see the Collegiate Quartet contest Tuesday evening in Heinz Hall (the only event not at the Consol Center).

“Another very entertaining Collegiate Contest. There was also quite a bit of humor. Judges included Jeff Taylor (Ontario) and Matt Gifford (MUSICAL ISLAND BOYS). FRONTIER (Aaron Pollard) made a good showing at 77.2 for ninth place. It was an international finish.”

Jack

Fantasy Quartet

A new event was a quartet composed of barbershoppers voted on for each voice part (a barbershopping version of baseball’s All Star game, but without the competition). Saturday Night they performed the Stephen Foster (who was from Pittsburgh) classic “Jeanie with the Light Brown Hair. But not before the guys had a little fun. http://tinyurl.com/oucqpzq

TENOR: Tim Waurick, VOCAL SPECTRUM
LEAD: Mike Slamka, POWER PLAY/CROSSROADS
BARITONE: Tony DeRosa, KEEPSAKE/PLATINUM/MaxQ
BASS: Jim Henry, GAS HOUSE GANG/CROSSROADS

Barbershop Hall of Fame

This year’s entry was THE DEALER’S CHOICE. Their introduction at the convention and past and present singing is shown at: http://tinyurl.com/o24lml3

Harmony Foundation: Barbershop changing lives at Democracy Prep Middle School

This video was shown at the convention, wonderfully watchable as Douglas Carnes introduces barbershop into a Harlem middle school. The resulting quartet appeared on the stage Saturday night.

“Take a look inside one of Harlem’s inner city schools that is setting a new standard in how much we expect from our children, and how we challenge them to “Dream Big.” See how lives are being changed, futures are being forged, and how with the help of the Barbershop Harmony Society and Harmony Foundation, singing, music, and arts are being used to reach into the hearts of a whole new generation, while preparing each student for college and life beyond the classroom.”

Watch this 9’ video, then send it to school music teachers! http://tinyurl.com/nokk8bn

Upcoming Conventions

INTERNATIONAL – NASHVILLE, TN, July 3 – 10, 2016. Early-bird pricing is still available for a limited time. (It’s a nine-hour road trip from Waterford.)

MIDWINTER – RENO, NV. January 26 – 31, 2016 (4-star/diamond resort, all events under one roof, inexpensive hotel rooms, 18 nearby ski resorts)

http://barbershop.tix.com for either/both.

AROUND THE PATCH

The Fall Show (15 Tuesday rehearsals away)

• There’s No Business Like Show Business
• What a Wonderful World
• It Been a Hard Day’s Night
• Can You Feel the Love Tonight
• Ain’t Misbehavin’
• Cabaret
• Under the Boardwalk
• The Hands of Time
• With a Song in My Heart

GUEST QUARTET—INSTANT CLASSIC, INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONS
GUEST CHORUS—THE VOICE-PIONEER YOUTH CHORUS

2nd Golf Outing

Art Carinci organized the chapter’s 2nd golf outing at Tanglewood Golf Course in S. Lyon.

“It was a beautiful day for golfing. The temperature was in the mid 70’s with a mild wind blowing to keep it pleasant for golfing. We had seven chorus members show up for golfing -- Mike Frye, Duane Roy, Gene Downie, Greg Moss, Pete Mazzara, Bill Maxfield, and me. My brother-in-law, Chris was the eighth golfer. Mike’s team did the best with a 3 under par score.

“After golfing, Roger Holm and Walt DeNio joined us for dinner. The food was filling and I hope delicious. (There were no cases of food poisoning reported.) We also did some singing to my sister-in-law, Brenda, who really enjoyed our singing. She revealed to us that her father used to sing barbershop and it brought back some very pleasant memories.

“All in all I thought we had a wonderful time playing, eating and singing. Thanks to those who showed up. I was so happy to share such a good time with such good people.”

Art Carinci

Fred DeVries’ new email address is fajmdevries@gmail.com and phone: 248-783-7123. Jeannette has had spinal fusion surgery.

Quartets

The 4GVN QUARTET entertained at Clintonwood Park on the Fourth of July with a combination on-stage and roaming. The event is part of the Independence Township celebration, following the parade in Clarkston. An honor guard led the flag raising with taps, a rifle salute, and a moment of silence, and we followed that with the “Star Spangled Banner” from the stage. After a short set, we sang to couples and families around the grounds – the first couple just celebrated their 65th anniversary, and the second couple was on their third; so we did songs from different eras! We ended our time with a patriotic and all-American set back on the stage, ending with “God Bless America,” since the next event was a Veterans’ Ceremony in honor of several World War II vets who were invited to the park.

The audience included 250 people.
What a great way to spend a couple of hours on the 4th!

Greg

LIMITED EDITION performed its 2nd annual concert at Clarkston Library on Tuesday, June 30.

To a small audience (12 plus a companion dog) the quartet did a Coast to Coast tour, singing its favorite songs along the journey.

In the audience was Don Place, a past barbershopper.
American House

There are 38 American House Senior Living Communities in Michigan, but we have never sung at the one in Troy (Maple and John R). Thanks to a referral from the Guardians of Harmony, LIMITED EDITION sang to an enthusiastic audience of about 60, Friday afternoon, July 10. Manager Mary Faszholz was so impressed that she rehired the quartet on the spot.

The show was scripted as a Coast to Coast musical tour.

A parent danced with his child; a woman mouthed almost all the words; the ice cream flowed.

Shelby Township Senior Center

LIMITED FRYDITION (with Mike Frye on Tenor) sang a 15-song set at Shelby Township Senior Center, on Thursday, July 23 to about 85 listeners. Bernadette Caullay had asked for an Americana program, so the quartet modulated its rep to fit into that theme.

- Music from the Victrola days
- Religious theme
- Mid-20th
- Stage and Screen
- Foreign assimilation

John’s grandson Andrew was hired to take the photos, (and the local cable company recorded video) and the program was very successful.

Afterward, the five went to East Side Mario’s for lunch.

Chapter 2015 Performances thru July: 70 gigs to 803,939 people

**MEMBERSHIP:** (at 50)

- **New Member:** Zachary Schroeder Welcome, Zach!
- **Renewals:** Bob Greenwood (8)
- **Due in August:** None
- **Overdue:** Doc Mann, Charlie Perry, Bob Stephenson
- **Bye-Bye:** Ted Prueter

**August Birthdays:** Jim McMain (4th), Mike Keith (91 on the 5th), Bill Auquier (24th), Jeff Doig (29th)

**Medical:**

Sandy Northey had a new stent put in on July 20.
Howard Lynn continues to care for his wife, limiting his attendance.
Eileen Marshall is doing well after her recent surgery.
No surgery is minor.
Bill Dabbs looked and sounded good on Tuesday.

**In Memoriam:** Aug 1, 2010 Wayne Cheyne #113

**District**

**Harmony Explosion**

Tom Blue’s student from Rochester Adams merely said, “The best time of my life.”

**D.O.C. Picnic, Monday, July 13**

VERY WELL ORGANIZED!!

By Zaven Melkonian

The Annual Detroit-Oakland Chapter Picnic was once again held at the Sylvan Lake Community Center on Monday July 13th. A quick, unscientific, glance put the crowd at around 60
attendees. The chapters which I noticed were represented, in addition to Pontiac-Waterford, were Rochester, Livingston, Wayne and Huron Valley. Among the BCC attendees were Jack & Mary Teuber, John & Sandy Northey, Charlie Perry, Mike Frye, Gil Schreiner, Wayne & Valerie Oberstadt, Fred Pioch and Zaven Melkonian.

With three grills going, cooking up brats, hamburgers & hot dogs, and all kinds of drinks to wash it all down, and the many side dishes which were included, needless to say, we all ate very well!!

What's a barbershop function without a lot of singing!! The D.O.C. Gentlemen Songsters chorus sang a number of songs, including their well-received crowd pleaser, "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" (Wim-O-Weh).

Although quartetting was encouraged, most were pick up quartets, including the BCC contribution, Schreiner, Northey, Teuber, & Melkonian. Among the registered quartets, D.O.C.'s EVENIN' GENTLEMEN sang very well.

The group loved the tag time with William Stutts, Jr, “Smile, Darn yah, Smile.”

Please mark your calendars and show up when next year's date is announced. You'll be glad you did.

International

Happy Birthday, Sweet Adelines!

Gene Cokeroft, Tenor of The Suntones (Gold Medal, 1961) died last week.

Vocal Technique – Where to breathe

Terry Gross of NPR’s program Fresh Air interviewed the actor Samuel L. Jackson (Pulp Fiction, Die Hard, et al) in 2000. It includes this relevant Q&A, that any singer can connect with:

Gross: Do you decide in advance where you’re going to breathe and which words you’re going to emphasize? Or do you do it in a more improvisational way?

Jackson: Well, I do a lot of things. I break down scripts into dramatic beats, in the context of a scene. I try to understand what one particular thing is attempting to accomplish, then what the next thing is trying to do, and what explains what, and why. This leads me to understand which things have to be spoken together without a breath, and which things I can breathe between.

It’s not science. It’s good, old-fashioned theater training. You learn to understand the purpose of each particular scene, and what a sentence does in terms of moving that scene along, or defining what came before it or what’s going to come after it.
**Up and Down Bubbling**

Start as low as you can sing comfortably, bubble smoothly upward to the highest pitch you can sing comfortably, and then back down again, all in one breath.

This has many advantages.
- Using belly breath instead of throat
- Practicing a relaxed upper body
- Learning one’s range
- Smoothing the passaggio (the voice break between chest voice and head voice)
- Relaxing the lips and front facial muscles
- Managing one’s breath.
- Focusing the sound in the mask
- Maintaining a level head

**History**

For all of us who sing "Old St. Louis," here is a copy of the original St. Louis fair poster, hanging in the Ameristar Casino in St. Louis.

**What’s Up, Bill Dabbs?**

Bill is 85 and doesn’t like to drive at night, so we haven’t seen much of him lately. But his heart is still beating barbershop.

His sister died a year ago at the age of 91. His two daughters live in New Jersey (Karen) and Pittsburgh (Diane and grandkids). Karen wishes for him to move out of his house and nearer to her. So he is beginning the overwhelming process of organizing and eliminating the household belongings of nearly 60 years, and music accumulated from 44 years of barbershop. His goal is to sell the house and move by this fall.

His energy and memory are not what they used to be, but he believes in keeping moving and active.

**Executive Board Meeting, July 9, Excerpts**

Members present were Pioch, Mann, Doig, DeNio, Owens, Holm and Teuber

New Member recruitment committee needs to be established.

Teuber needs to investigate joining North Oakland Chamber of Commerce.

Treasurer’s Report: Available funds $10,250. We have a payment of about $3,000 due to Waterford Schools for the use of their Performing Arts Center on November 3, 5 and 7.

Decision to set ticket prices at: $18 adult, $5 for kids under 12, $12 for groups of ten or more.

Authorization to give up to 10 (free) comp tickets to choral students at each of six surrounding high schools: Milford, West Bloomfield, Rochester Adams, Rochester, Waterford
Kettering, and Waterford Mott. (Clarkston high School is having a school concert that night.)

The After–Glow will be at the Pontiac-Waterford Elks Club, one mile north on Scott Lake Rd. Cost will be $17 for the buffet dinner.

Barbershopper of the Month was decided.

The BCC chapter picnic is set for Tuesday, Aug. 11, at Bob and Eileen Marshall’s.

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

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 28 T, 7:00</td>
<td>BCC Practice, WOAC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 4, T, 7:00</td>
<td>BCC Practice, WOAC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 11, T, 5:30</td>
<td>Chapter picnic, Bob &amp; Eileen Marshall’s</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 18, T, 7:00</td>
<td>BCC Practice, WOAC</td>
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<td>Aug 20</td>
<td>Exec Bd Meeting, Jim Owens</td>
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<td>Aug 25, T, 7:00</td>
<td>BCC Practice, WOAC</td>
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<td>Sep 1, T, 7:00</td>
<td>BCC Practice, WOAC</td>
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<td>Oct 3, Sa</td>
<td>Rochester GoH Show</td>
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<td>Oct 17 or 24</td>
<td>One-day show prep retreat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 7, Sa, 7:00</td>
<td>71st BCC Show “BCC Does the Grammys”</td>
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**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: Gene Downie
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)

*From Barbershop Memes*