From Director Tom:

Men and Friends of the BCC,

Our show is once again upon us and what can we say other than...let’s get to work, keep ourselves healthy and focus on the task at hand!

It will once again be a lot of fun to share our love of barbershop style singing and to share the stage with many other barbershop aficionados!

Around the Patch

Election Results for 2017 Big Chief Chorus board:

- Eric Domke, President
- Walt Denio, VP Membership
- Zach Schroeder, VP Music and Performance
- Jack Teuber, VP Public Relations
- Charlie Perry, Secretary
- Jim Owens, Treasurer
- Pat Hefner, Member at large
- Fred Pioch, Member at large
- Ray Sturdy, Member at large
- Austin Suthers, Member at large
- Jack Teuber, Past President
- Congratulations to all!

Regards,
Greg Moss

The Big Chief Chorus scheduled its pre-show all-day rehearsal, Saturday, Oct 15, once again at the Church of Christ Royal Oak at 115 S. Campbell Rd. Royal Oak. “Thanks to all who organized, ordered Jimmy Johns sandwiches, cleaned-up, made coffee, purchased donuts and whatever else was needed. A good day was had by all.”

“Cruise Song Medley” was licensed thru the BHS, with the able help of Janice Bane. The cost of licensing was $120, which goes to the song copyright holders, but any profit from sale of the arrangement from the BHS Marketplace will go to the chorus.

Bob and Eileen Marshall celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on October 6. “We went out with friends from Church Street Singers and had a good time. Then we celebrated with our family. ... Do you know the secret of a good marriage? There isn't any....just working’ it out.” Eileen

The Baritones held a well-attended sectional rehearsal October 11 at Dave Stone’s Independence Village. Our presence there - singing in the Library - may aid ticket sales to the show, which Rita predicts at 20.
Bill Sclesky dealt with some severe respiratory issues this past summer, but has been back full-throttle this fall, as he works toward the show.

Milford High School Connection
Pontiac-Waterford’s support of Maryann Lambrecht’s Milford High School musical program has led to participation in several Harmony Explosions, and to the growth of youth barbershopping in Milford.

Jack and Mary’s Northern Adventure
In October Jack and Mary were lucky enough to travel to Churchill, Manitoba, population 800, on the western shore of Hudson Bay, to visit the Polar Bears. Mary not only supports all Barbershop Events (including three of the last four International conventions), but she is a docent at the Detroit Zoo with a desire to see polar bears in their natural environment.

The travel to Churchill requires a flight to Winnipeg, home of the NHL Jets and CFL Blue Bombers. From Winnipeg to Churchill is 1,000 kilometers, but the pavement ends at Thompson, 250 km short of Churchill. The alternative is to take the 45 hour train ride from Winnipeg. The train included a dome viewing car, full menu dining car (salmon, beef roast or chicken) and a cabin for two. Jack was lucky enough to get the top bunk, which included a gentle swaying throughout the night.

Our first stop after 25 hours was a three hour layover in Thompson, population 13,000 humans and 1,000 wolves. Thompson is the Wolf Capitol of the World. We were greeted with four inches of snow and a few wolves welcoming us along the tracks. We looked forward to the one mile walk into town to see the wolf statues and the ten story mural honoring the wolf.

With a wolf population estimated up to 6,000, Manitoba is likely home to more wolves than all the contiguous United States, which has roughly 5,600, according to the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Locals speculate that their acceptance of wolves may be because northern Manitoba is not farm country, with a threat to livestock.

Returning to the train we continued the remaining 17 hours to Churchill. We were greeted by our first driver. We noticed above the driver was mounted a 30-30 rifle. The rifle is only to be used for self-defense; hunting of polar bears is illegal. Homes and cars in Churchill have no locks, so that, if you are approached by a polar bear, you can just step into anyone’s home or vehicle until the Polar Bear Police arrive to escort the animal to the Polar Bear Jail (which currently contained twelve polar bears waiting to be moved to Nunavut away from the Churchill residents.)

Our next stop was to Board the Tundra Buggy (half school bus—half caterpillar) with 30 inch 10 ply tires. There are no roads only very rocky paths and no vegetation. We travelled for seven hours and nearly came up empty handed, sighting only one polar bear during the day. (We had seen moose, white tail deer, silver fox and artic hares on the train trip north.)
Despite that disappointment, we enjoyed spending time with BCC Christmas Chorus Singer, Jim Lawson, and his wife Marian, and with Warren and Kathy Galbraith, good friends of Russ and Shirley Seeley.

We look forward to our next trip to Churchill. Maybe we can stay a full week at a tundra lodge, basically a tundra buggy with bunks.

The quartet was invited by a Ferndale Electric co-worker of Jeff Doig’s to be part of the worship service, Sunday morning, October 23, at Ferndale Free Methodist Church. They sang “It Is Well With My Soul” and “You Raise Me Up.”

**Chapter 2016 Performances thru October:** 68 gigs to 4,773 people (Plus TV audiences)

**MEMBERSHIP:** (at 50)

- **Renewals:** Jerry Ramey (2), Jim McMain (6), Charlie Perry (8), Lance Shew (10), Gil Schreiner (12), Doc Mann (17), Mike Keith (35)
- **Due in November:** None
- **Overdue:** Walt Bachmann

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

- **Medical:** Bob Wallace has surgery on Oct 25. Reports on Sandy Northey’s medical progress are positive.

- **In Memoriam:**
  - Nov 11, 2013, Gerry Twomey
  - Nov 19, 2006, Bill Pascher, #68

**District**

**Retirements in Pioneer District**
- The current Troubadour Editorial Team
- Gaylord as host of Bush League

**PIO Convention, Kalamazoo, Oct 14-16, 2016**

In the quartet contest, THE HEMIDEMISEMIQUAVER 4 beat out UPPER DECK and ROLLS VOYCE to become our new Pioneer District Champions. (Hemidemisemiquaver’s musical meaning? - check it out on Google.) Here’s the sweet tag to a song they sang in one of the chapter hospitality rooms … “Try a little tenderness.”

https://youtu.be/Hl5OmyEs8bo

**Quartets**

- **LIMITED EDITION** sang on the Rochester Guardians of Harmony show, “California Dreaming” at Stoney Creek High School, October 1. They performed “Daydream” and “In My Room” during the show, and “Love Me” and “Kiss the Girl” at the Afterglow.

- **Wolf Capital Thompson**
- **Tundra Buggy**

- **Bid’n Our Time**
  - Fred McFadyen, T
  - Mike Frey, L
  - Ray Sturz, B
  - Roger Holm, B

- **4 UR Pleasure**
  - Jerry Ramey, T
  - Lance Shew, B
  - Mike Keith, L
  - Bob Wallace, B

- **Limited Edition**
  - Tom Blackstone, T
  - Jeff Doig, L
  - John Cowlishaw, B
  - Charlie Perry, B

- **4GVN**
  - Pat Neher, T
  - Bob Greenwood, L
  - Eric Rumble, B
  - Greg More, B

https://youtu.be/Hl5OmyEs8bo
Coda Honor scored 62.5.

In the chorus contest, it was the Grand Rapids Great Lakes Chorus repeating. They breached the 80 point ceiling once again with a score of 80.8. Mt Pleasant was second.

The House of Delegates meeting included Fall ritual of a “Parade of Checks” to help support The Voice, as they prepare for the Mid-Winter Convention in San Antonio in January. Pontiac-Waterford announced that it would be giving The Voice a check in the amount of $1,000 following its November 5th Show.

Roger Boyer, newest Pioneer Board Member at Large was asked to initiate a district service project for the October Convention. The decision was to provide backpacks to the Kalamazoo’s YWCA Domestic Assault program. These backpacks were to contain a few new basic school supplies for youngsters as their families left their temporary (five-day) stay at the shelter and the kids transitioned to a new school. This call was to be more meaningful than simply giving money. “We targeted two age groups, 6 – 9 and 10 – 14.” The goal was 50 backpacks!

Donations were collected at the District Convention and delivered to the YWCA Domestic Assault program on behalf of the Pioneer District on Sunday by our District President Mike Hansen.

Personal notes of encouragement and hope were included in many such as “Hey, thinking of you and hope this stuff will help you out in school,” “good luck in school and hope this stuff helps,” “have fun being creative and good luck.”

“This was an opportunity to tangibly show the Kalamazoo community that our Society does care about its neighbors. With your help this will be the first of many successful community outreach projects in those communities who host our conventions and do their best to welcome us.”

The Pontiac-Waterford chapter’s contribution:

International

BHS Conventions


Sweet Adelines International was in Las Vegas, Oct 16-22. A recap of the quartet winners https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3FhzrKXiEes

Locally, The Spirit of Detroit and Great Lakes choruses have announced plans to merge at the end of 2016. The unified chorus will be co-directed by LeAnn K. Hazlett and Sylvia Karpinsky.

Meet Jerry Ramey

Jerry Ramey was born in Detroit, 75 years ago, and attended Dearborn Lowrey High School. He changed course from chemistry to accounting in order to join the family business with his father and uncle. There he developed skills in surface grinding, which led him to start his own company, which produced everything from car parts to titanium hip joints, to pieces of the Hubble.
telescope, to objects in Greenfield Village. He retired in order to care for his dying wife, Sharon. Five years later he met his present wife, Dee Ann; they both enjoyed dancing at the Moondusters Dance Club.

Although he doesn’t read music, Jerry’s musical appetite is voracious. He loved to sing along to his family’s records, and he currently has a library of 1100 LPs.

A year ago, he and Dee Ann attended the chorus’s performance for the Greater Pontiac Tuesday Musicale, at Central United Methodist Church. He immediately began attending chorus and joined at the end of September. He is just starting his second year. It is kind of a re-start for him because he was out of commission for much of the first year with painful back problems - spinal stenosis, and a return of sciatica. He also needed to spend time helping out his son, Chris, a musician in California (who attended one of our rehearsals). His other two children are David, in Colorado, and Dawn in Michigan. He is elated that a feeling of good health is finally returning, aided by a cane.

His love of singing along to melodies led him toward the Lead part, but his voice placement put him in the Bass section, which he is growing to love. “Music is in my heart.”

**SINGING, MUSIC, AND PERFORMANCE**

What Really Happens When a Singing Voice Gets Old
By Justin Davidson
October 3, 2016, issue of New York Magazine

...the singer’s most delicate and irreplaceable apparatus is the larynx, the object of immense care and constant torture. Like everything else in the body, that agile apparatus tends to lose its powers over time. Within the throat’s protective enclosure, two supple bands of tissue flutter over an opening the size of a penny like a pair of doll’s-house curtains. But that description doesn’t get across the repeated violence to which humans subject their vocal cords. Over the course of a singer’s career, millions of collisions can leave the vocal cords scarred and stiff. If you want to get a feeling for what it’s like to sing through that level of damage, try plucking a few notes on an ancient rubber band.

The voice is the most primal of instruments; it’s also among the most technologically advanced. .. a voice can swoop in milliseconds through a dizzying range of timbres and techniques. ...The mechanism responsible for that cartoonish variety rests in a dense bundle of musculature and nerves. “All the vocal muscles would fit into one corner of one facial muscle. Nothing else in the body moves with that precision or speed…”

When people sing or speak, the lungs expel a column of air that travels up through the windpipe, where it is obstructed by the vocal cords. “As pressure builds up, it pushes the cords aside and makes them vibrate.”

It’s not the vocal cords that give a voice its richness, personality, or depth, however. Adele’s brassy beam of sound, Renée Fleming’s iridescent pianissimos, and Tom Waits’s smoke-and-whiskey croak all acquire most of their character after the vibrating air has pushed past the vocal folds and goes swirling around inside the resonating chambers of the head. The size of the tongue, the palate’s curve, the shape of the nose — that whole internal topography changes little over time, which is why you may still recognize an old flame’s voice on the phone even if you haven’t heard it for 40 years.

[As we age] the cords have a harder time vibrating at high frequencies, so the voice’s default pitch drops. Thinner, more sluggish vocal cords pull even the ordinary speaking voice down a notch or two and reliably cut off the high part of [one’s] range.

In every genre and style, some singers defy the years, thanks to wise artistic choices, good training, or plain luck. ... Tony Bennett celebrated his 90th birthday ...
Time has it in for singers more than for other musicians. Singers’ careers start later and end earlier, which means that their voices begin to go just as their wisdom peaks.

MEDIA

Stayin’ Alive!
The Bee Gees 1977 disco hit has helped save a life in New York. A subway worker survived being electrocuted after falling onto a rail during maintenance work. A co-worker sprang into action after seeing smoke rise from her and performed CPR, following advice he'd read in an article to use the 103-beats-per-minute rhythm from “Stayin’ Alive” as a CPR guide.

Web Sites

The chorus website is www.bigchiefchorus.org
The district website is http://pioneerdistrict.org
The BHS website is http://www.barbershop.org

Trivia Quiz

What do Tony DeRosa, Joel Wilson, Brandon Guyton, Mark Slamka, Alan Godon, Mark Metzger, Jonny Moroni, Gary Lewis, and Patrick Claypool have in common?

Editorial - Thanks for the Memories

The other day I watched a young woman run down the street past our house. She was graceful and fluid and efficient. I used to run like that, I thought. I ran five marathons, many 10K’s, and one year I ran 1500 miles. But now, that’s all just a memory.

Wait a minute, what do I mean just a memory? As I watched her run, the memories rushing from my mind and my muscles were half as juicy as the present observation. It gives me such pleasure to remember the runner that I used to be that I get half as much enjoyment as I would get if I could still run like that. Half as much. Life’s giving me a fair deal. I’ll settle for that. As the performances deteriorate, the memories kick in to supply some of the joy. The memory is half of the reality.

Our median age is 75. There is much that is behind us. For some of us, our vocal abilities are still rising, as we learn more and more about how to sing better and better. For others of us, the peak is behind us, and we are now on the downslope, as aging exerts its grasp. Skin tone, vision, hair, sex drive, physical strength, bone density - life is full of a wavelike upslope and downslope, peaking at different ages for different skills. If one is on the downslope, appreciate the memories of those moments at the peak.

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

2016
Oct 28, F, 11-6 22nd Annual Brose & Print Show “Tailgator”
Nov 1, T, 5:00 Pre-show Rehearsal, Waterford Mott
Nov 3, Th, 5:00 Pre-show Rehearsal, Waterford Mott
Nov 5, 7:00 72nd Annual Pontiac-Waterford Show ~9:30 Afterglow, Silver Lake Country Club
Nov 8, 7:00 Christmas Chorus Rehearsal, WOAC
Nov 15, 7:00 Christmas Chorus Rehearsal, WOAC
Nov 16, 12:30 Gig, Auburn Hills Snr Center
Nov 20, 2:00 Music Committee Mtg at Roger Holms’ home
Nov 22, 7:00 Christmas Chorus Rehearsal, WOAC
New Officers Installation
Nov 22, 7:00 Christmas Chorus Rehearsal, WOAC
Dec 6, T, 6:30 Independence Village
Dec 8, Th, 6:30 Canterbury on the Lake
Dec 13, T, 6:30 American House, Stone-School
Dec 15, Th Lourdes
5:00 p.m. - Fox Manor - Independent Living
5:30 p.m. - Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center - New building
6:00 p.m. - Clausen Manor - Memory Care
6:30 p.m. - Mendelson - Assisted Living
Dec 20, T, 6:30 Lakeland Place
Dec 22, Th
3:00 Lockwood of Waterford
4:00 Inn at Cass Lake

2017
Feb 4, Sa, 2:00 Orion Twp Library
May 12, F, 2:00 Mother’s Day Celebration, Elmhaven manor.
Jun 24, Sa, 3:00 Log Cabin Days (Warm-Up 2:00)

CHAPTER LEADERSHIP
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Assistant Directors: Fred McFadyen, Mike Frye
President: Jack Teuber (248-334-3686)
Past President: Doc Mann (248-628-0189)
VP: Chapter Dev: Walt DeNio (248-922-9090)
VP: Music and Performance: Roger Holm (248-623-7452)
VP: Marketing & PR: Open
Secretary: Charlie Perry (248-880-9356)
Treasurer: Jim Owens (248-682-4311)
Members at Large - Eric Domke, Fred Pioch, Zach Schroeder, Ray Sturdy
Chorus Manager: Gene Downie (248-682-9321)
Captain Sunshine: Bill Maxfield (248-698-1393)
Chorus Librarian: (open)
Section Leaders: McFadyen, Doig, Cowlishaw, Moss
Music Team: Holm, Blue, Cowlishaw, Doig, Frye, McFadyen, Moss, Murray, Mazzara, Schroeder
Bulletin Editor: John Cowlishaw, (248-891-4498)

Answer to Trivia Question: Each was the Baritone of one of the 20-ought Gold Medal quartets, and in this order
PLATINUM (2000),
MICHIGAN JAKE (2001),
FOUR VOICES (2002),
POWER PLAY (2003),
GOTCHA! (2004),
REALTIME (2005),
VOCAL SPECTRUM (2006),
MAX Q (2007),
OC TIMES (2008), and
CROSSROADS (2009).

Only nine names, because Brandon Guyton was Gold-Bari twice, in FOUR VOICES and CROSSROADS.

Endgame