Hello to all Big Chief Chorus members and future members,

I hope Christmas included family, friends and laughter. We as a group are like family to one another. I am glad that you are all there for me in one way or another. Please do not hesitate to call on each other for your support. Many will surprise you with their willingness to assist or to just be a friend.

Now how about that money you had for me? Just kidding.

With the new year I will take on the role as President of our chapter. Jack is a great leader and spokesman for The Big Chiefs, and I am happy he is the new VP of Public Relations.

We will meet again on January 3rd at the Waterford Oaks Activity Center as usual. Take note that the following two weeks, Jan 10th and 17th we will meet behind the Wave Pool on Scott Lake Rd at the Lookout Lodge. This building is accessible by going into the wave pool entrance (off Scott Lake Rd) but continuing on past the wave pool to the end of the road (and there you will find the rehearsal building on the right).

Have a safe and Happy New Year,

Eric Domke

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Dec 6 - Independence Village
The BCC Christmas chorus began its season with a fine performance at Independence Village. Thirty-one Chiefs sang a variety of seasonal songs (including two new ones - “Ding Dong,” and “O Christmas Tree”) to an audience of about 50. It has been two years since resident Dr Dave Stone heard us there and decided to join the chorus. On Tuesday night, he had returned back to the Village, recovering from sacral injury. He sat and sang with the chorus thru the whole show. “Silent Night” was performed in German (Walt Bachmann), French (Art Carinci), and English (the rest of us).
Dec 8 - Canterbury on the Lake
A large group (150) of residents and their families had dinner in the beautiful sanctuary before hearing a performance by the chorus and its quartets 4 URPLEASURE, LIMITED EDITION, and BIDIN’ OUR TIME.

Dec 13 - Stone School American House
John emceed and Freddie directed the 17-man chorus thru a set of 11 songs, to the audience of about 20 residents. 4 URPLEASURE sang “White Christmas.” Art Carinci sang the French verse of “Silent Night.” At the conclusion a small trio gathered around a resident who contributed the German version.

Dec 15th was the date of the BCC’s annual tour of the Lourdes Campus. Seventeen men made up the Chorus. This year we started at Fox Manor. We were received by a capacity audience. It was the dinner hour and every table was full. We proceeded to Lourdes Nursing and Rehab. The walk was brisk and the pace was quick. The Chorus visited three different dining areas. We then moved on to a smaller audience at Clausen memory Care. We concluded the night by spreading Christmas Cheer to the residents of Mendelson Assisted Living. Thanks to Tom Blue for directing the Chorus this evening. It was time well spent.

Dec 20 - Lakeland Place
The chorus (26) sang to 40 enthusiastic residents at Lakeland Place. Tom Blue led the chorus. Freddie conducted “O Holy Night” with a new French intro from Art Carinci. LIMITED EDITION sang “Chestnuts,” and BIDIN’ OUR TIME sang “Christmas Chopsticks.” Roger recognized an accomplished Sweet Ad in the audience, Jeanine Shearer, who sang in a well-known quartet named IMPULSE.

The annual Christmas season concluded Dec 22 with gigs at Lockwood of Waterford and Inn at Cass Lake on Thursday. About 27 singers
performed for around 40 auditors at each location. Quartets performed, Tom and Freddie conducted, and Art sang French.

Returning guests to the Christmas Chorus this year included basses Dick Knapp and Jim Lawson.

About 500 people heard the Christmas Chorus this year (down from last year’s 1200, due to fewer staged gigs and the decision not to do the bus tour this year).

From incoming VP of Music and Performance, Zach Schroeder
Hello All,

I hope you that you all are enjoying this time with your family and loved ones! Next Tuesday, January 3rd is our first rehearsal of the 2017 season. Are you as excited as I am? No? OK! I will be at Waterford Oaks around 6:45 that first week with some of our new music for you to sign out! Please feel free to come early, if possible, so we are not taking up time signing out new music!

For those of you who still have your Christmas books, could you please take out “We Need A Little Christmas” and add it to the binders you use at our rehearsals. Happy Holidays,

Zach

From Director Tom
Men and Friends of the BCC,

Thank you all for our time and commitment this holiday season as we have tried our best to lift the spirits of those who come within an "earshot" of our singing. It is especially gratifying to see people who need good cheer the most singing right along with all of you.

Thank you, Roger for all you have done for the BCC and your weekly plans and reminders.

Thank you all for your generous support and encouragement this past year as it is always a pleasure and privilege to be of service to you and to be with you in song each week. Thanks to all and to all a good night!

Bob Wallace’s recovery has been slowed by low blood pressure.

Bidin’ Our Time visited hospitalized Len Barnes in November. Surprisingly, Dan Valko was also in that rehab wing and sang several
songs with them. On December 17, Len was well enough to travel, escaping from Michigan to Peoria, AZ.

**Sandy Northey** had two blockages, one complete. Stents have been put in. She was present at our Canterbury sing-out.

**Bill Dabbs’** daughter, Karen, reports that he is doing well. They live near each other, about 10 miles inland from Atlantic City.

**Alice McFadyen**
After five months of uncertainty and inconclusive Cytology reports, the preponderance of medical evidence concludes that Sweet Alice has been stricken with Pancreatic Cancer. She has been released from St. John Providence Main (Moross) into At Home Hospice Care with the goal of transitioning her painlessly and comfortably to the completion of God’s Plan. We ask that you continue your wonderful prayers for her and our family as we make this final journey together,

In harmony,
Fred

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**Quartets**

**Bidin’ Our Time**
B.O.T. was invited to welcome Mr and Mrs Santa Claus in song at the Christmas Celebration at Heroes Restaurant Thursday night, Dec 8.

**Limited Edition**
LE had two gigs on Sunday, December 4. What with John’s continuing throat tickle, subs were called in to handle some of the repertoire at each gig.

At the first gig, Eric Domke and John shared Bari duties as LE sang at a private home south of Ortonville, where 15 guests had gathered to raise good cheer and decorate the tree. The home shares its property with O.A.T.S, “Offering Alternative Therapy With Smiles,” providing equine-assisted therapy for disabled individuals. “So fun! All my guests just loved their own little concert from the guys!” (Carrie Dwyer)

LE then drove an hour south, and Ray Sturdy an hour west from a Coda Honor gig in St Clair Shores, to the Gibson House, the new home of the Wixom Historical Society, where the fivesome sang to about 15 volunteers and guests, as they celebrated an old-fashioned Wassail.

![Limited Sturdiction at Gibson House](image)

**4GVN**
The Pines of Clarkston again invited 4GVN to entertain their residents for the Annual Christmas Entertainment. Holly and the residents are always very welcoming to the quartet. After the Sing-Outs at Lockwood and Inn at Cass Lake 4GVN continued on to visit and sing with patients at The Pavilion of Canterbury. It was a day well spent.

Jack (subbing at Tenor)

**Chapter 2016 Performances:** 81 gigs to 5,911 people (Plus TV audiences)

**MEMBERSHIP:** (at 51)

- **Renewals:** Jim McMain (6), Walt DeNio (19), Mike Keith (35)
- **Due in January:** None
- **Due in February:** Bill Auquier, Eric Domke, David Stone
- **Overdue:** Bachman, Doyle
- **ByeBye:** Wayne Oberstadt, who has transferred to the Livingston County Chapter.

**January Birthdays:** Len Barnes (Jan 3), Tom Blue (Jan 7), Bob Marshall (Jan 10), Ray Sturdy (Jan 18)
**In Memoriam:**

Jan 30, 2004, John Smith #34
Jan 30, 2012, Dave Monroe #131

**District**

Paul Howe will publish his almost unbelievable 800th weekly e-newsletter, *The Woodshedder*, on January 17, and then retire. May another Lansing member pick up the reins!

Al Rehkop passed away, November 27 at the age of 88. Al was the tenor of two of our District's three International Gold Medalists - *The AutoTowners* (1966) and *Gentlemen's Agreement* (1971). He attended the International Convention last July to be honored on the 50th anniversary of *The AutoTowners* championship.

**Leadership Academy with Johnny Appleseed District**

January 6 - 7, 2017
Doubletree Hotel, 175 Hutchinson Avenue, Columbus, OH
Sign up before January 2, 2017 for discounted rates
Select here for more information

“As you may know, we had to cancel ours last year due to poor registration. Johnny Appleseed District (JAD) has kindly invited all Pioneer chapter leaders to attend their Leadership Academy. The registration form and info is on the PIO website. Cost is $150, including room, a legitimate chorus expense.”

The Voice, Pioneer's Youth Chorus, will throw a send-off party on Sunday, January 15 at Trinity Church, 3355 Dunckel Rd, Lansing - 2-5pm. The chorus will be rehearsing/performing their set, which they will present at the Mid-Winter Convention's Youth Chorus Festival later that week.

Windsor - Uncle Sam Night
January 20, 2017 - 7:00 p.m.

**International**

http://www.barbershop.org/sanantonio/

**INTERNATIONAL** – LAS VEGAS, NV. July 2 – 8, 2017.
http://www.barbershop.org/vegas/

**HARMONY UNIVERSITY** - July 23-30, Nashville, TN

**MEDIA**

Tyler Wigginton sings bass for Denver's up-and-coming a cappella group *Motive*.

However, his path to the stage wasn't always clear. As a teenager, his life journey was uncertain. A turbulent childhood was slated to shape his future.

As a high school senior, he decided to drop out of school, but his choir teacher would only agree to let that happen if Tyler would first attend an a cappella clinic. That workshop changed his life, and it gave Tyler a reason to finish school.

Tyler went on to sing in college quartets, International-qualifying quartets the Front Row of the Sounds of the Rockies and 52Eighty Youth Chorus, with whom he sang at multiple Youth Chorus Festivals.

In Tyler's words, the art and family of Barbershop saved his life and now allows him to make a difference in the lives of others.
**La La Land**
If you enjoy musicals, you will probably love *La La Land*, a new Hollywood movie that pays tribute to the dance-and-song-filled movies of the 50s, albeit with a modern touch. The American romantic musical stars Ryan Gosling, Emma Stone, and John Legend. As one reviewer wrote, “Musicals made me a romantic. They taught me that some emotion is so powerful that it can’t be put into mere words—it must be sung...and danced.”

**Russian Tragedy** *(From BBShop)*
When I was a kid my parents had a 78 RPM record album of the Red Army Chorus. Listening to that music, even before my voice changed, with the basses that sang those incredible low notes and the full voiced tenors singing those wonderful songs are what gave me my first exposure to male harmony. When I learned to sing later in life, that exposure is what generated my love of vocal harmony. When I heard barbershop, that music came back to me and I was hooked for the next 66 years.

This weekend the Alexandrov Ensemble, which is the current version of that chorus that I heard so long ago, suffered a major loss in an airplane crash.

As Barbershoppers, Sweet Adelines, and HI members we should all feel a kinship for those singers. It is as much of a loss to the Russian music community as it would be if one of our top choruses suffered a similar tragedy.

So keep those people in your thoughts and prayers.
Shelley Herman

**Web Sites**
The BCC chorus website is [www.bigchiefchorus.org](http://www.bigchiefchorus.org)
The Pioneer district website is [http://pioneerdistrict.org](http://pioneerdistrict.org)
The BHS website is [http://www.barbershop.org](http://www.barbershop.org)
Letters
Although I am around 1200 miles south of you it's always a pleasure to keep in touch from your emails. It sounds like you had a successful Christmas swing out. I'm concerned that Santa won't get to me this year because there is no snow now or in the forecast.
Doc Mann

CALENDAR, (With Performance Times; Warm-ups 30’- 45’ earlier)
2017
Jan 3, T, 7:00 Chorus rehearsal, WOAC
Jan 6-7, F,Sa Leadership Academy, Columbus, OH
Jan 10, T, 7:00 Chorus rehearsal, Lookout Lodge
Jan 15, Su, 2:00 The Voice, Lansing
Jan 17, T, 7:00 Chorus rehearsal, Lookout Lodge
Jan 17-22 Midwinter, San Antonio
Jan 20, F, 7:00 Uncle Sam Night, Windsor
Jan 24, T, 7:00 Chorus rehearsal, WOAC
Jan 31, T, 7:00 Chorus rehearsal, WOAC
Feb 4, Sa, 2:00 Orion Twp Library
Feb 7, T, 7:00 Chorus rehearsal, WOAC
Feb 14, T Valentines Sing-Outs
Apr 21-23 Pioneer District Spring Convention, Traverse City
May 12, F, 2:00 Mother’s Day Celebration, Elmhaven manor.
Jun 20, T, 5:00 Bus leaves for Frankenmuth
Jun 24, Sa, 3:00 Log Cabin Days (Warm-Up 2:00)
Jul 2-8 International, Las Vegas, NV
Jul 23-30 Harmony University, Nashville, TN

CHAPTER LEADERSHIP
Director: Thomas Blue (248-814-9627)
Assistant Directors: Fred McFadyen, Mike Frye
President: Eric Domke (248-674-2323)
Past President: Jack Teuber (248-334-3686)
VP: Chapter Dev: Walt DeNio (248-922-9090)
VP: Music and Performance: Zach Schroeder (248-929-1285)
VP: Marketing & PR: Jack Teuber (248-334-3686)
Secretary: Charlie Perry (248-880-9356)
Treasurer: Jim Owens (248-682-4311)

Members at Large - Pat Hefner, Fred Pioch, Ray Sturdy, Austin Suthers
Chorus Manager: Gene Downie (248-682-9321)
Captain Sunshine: Bill Maxfield (248-698-1393)
Chorus Librarian: Gene Downie (248-682-9321)
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)

Endgame

Year-End Chapter Membership Statistics:

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Your Editor as Snow Bird
Corinne and I will be living in Brunswick, Georgia from mid-January thru March this year, in our new home at 176 Peppertree Crossing. I intend to publish the Feb, March, and April Smoke Signals from there, albeit with perhaps reduced content. I will also be counting on chorus members to be sending me material.