

ONLINE AT www.bigchiefchorus.org

Vol. 16, No. 10 (#190) February 1, 2017

January was a tough month for the Chorus.

Alice McFadyen



“Sweet Alice completed her journey today, (Saturday, January 14) and, as we had prayed, without discomfort or pain; surrounded by family including great-grandkids. Per Alice's strong wishes, no memorial is planned.”

Fred

Alice was 77 – Fred’s wife of 57 years, mother of three children, grandmother, great grandmother, in “The Card Club” for over 50 years, and sang with the Great Lakes and Shoreline Sound Sweet Adelines Choruses.

Sandra Northey



Sandy Northey died on January 19, age 77. Sandy was John’s wife for 51 years and as devoted a barbershop fan as could be imagined.

Memorial Services were Sunday, January 29, at 3 p.m. at First United Methodist Church of Troy, 6363 Livernois Rd., Troy, MI. The Big Chief Chorus and other Pioneers were scheduled to sing "It is well with My Soul" and "The Irish Parting Prayer” at the service, a dinner to follow.

David Stone

Dr. Dave suffered a massive stroke Wednesday morning, January 25, and the prognosis is not good.

His daughter, Peggy, writes that he is in ICU with plans to move him to hospice.

Around the Patch

The chorus detoured to **Lookout Lodge** for two rehearsals in January. (The alarm that went off was out of tune.)

Music VP Zach has handed out **nine new songs**.

Tom has been introducing **the first two**:

- “There'll Be No New Tunes”
- “NewYork, New York”

Get all the **learning tracks** online at:

<http://bigchiefchorus.org/MemberPages/LearningAids.html>

Or go to www.bigchiefchorus.org >Favorite Links > Members page.

Jeff has regrouped the recordings into (a) BCC song library, (b) Christmas music library, and (c) Pole Cats library.

Click on your voice part for the songs you wish to access. Enter your User Name and Password (as agreed upon by you and Jeff). Then Left-click to hear the song, or right-click and click "save link as" to download it to your computer.

From Director Tom

Men and Friends of the BCC,

I think the February concert at the Lake Orion Township Library will have the theme of...*Barbershop, Broadway and Popular Music*. And we need everyone that is available to really help us put on a good show. The OTPL has always supported us with a good crowd and we would not want to disappoint.

Orion Township Library Gig

On Saturday, February 4th, we have the opportunity to perform at the Orion Township Library. This will also be a great opportunity to promote our Valentine Deliveries.

In addition, Orion Neighborhood Television will be present "to film the concert and put it live on our show that happens during our annual food drive."

Plan on a WARM-UP in the Community Room FROM 1:15 TO 1:45. We can then break and return to entertain at 2:00 P.M.

UNIFORM for the PERFORMANCE. YELLOW LONG SLEEVED SHIRT with BLACK PANTS and BLACK SHOES.

LOCATION : 825 JOSLYN, LAKE ORION




Rawley Hallman Awards presentation to John Cowlshaw and Tom Blue, January 3

Welcome to guest **Jon Knapp**, who has been visiting us. jknapplsbc@att.net

Quartets

**CHAPTER
QUARTETS**



<p>BIDIN' OUR TIME Fred McFadyen, T Mike Frye, L Ray Sturdy, Br Roger Holm, Bs</p>	<p>4 UR PLEASURE Jack Teuber, T Gil Schreiner, L Walt DeNio, Br Bob Wallace, Bs</p>
<p>LIMITED EDITION Tom Blackstone, T Jeff Doig, L John Cowlshaw, Br Charlie Perry, Bs</p>	<p>4GVN Pat Hefner, T Bob Greenwood, L Eric Domke, Br Greg Moss, Bs</p>

Chapter 2017 Performances: Nothing reported yet.

MEMBERSHIP: (at 51)

Renewals: None

Due in February: Bill Auquier, Eric Domke, Dave Stone

Overdue: None

Feb Birthdays: John Northey (22nd), Pete Mazzara (23rd)

Dave Stone's birthday was missed in **January**. He turned 86 on January 6.

In Memoriam:

Feb 1, 2014, Dick Johnson, #155

Feb 2, 2011, Marv Wilson #119

Feb 25, 2011, Jim Clafin, #120

Midwinter Convention, San Antonio
January 17-22, 2017



By Zach Schroeder



On Thursday, January 19th, The Voice headed over to San Antonio for our third consecutive International Youth Chorus Festival appearance. The chorus walked away with an **Outstanding** rating from the judges on Friday evening. Before the 2017 Mid-Winter Convention began, The Voice was asked to be the guest entertainment for the Harmony Foundation International dinner on Saturday evening. Being that last year's guest was the 2015 International Quartet Champions, INSTANT CLASSIC, we had big shoes to fill! But to no avail, we left the donors on their feet with a tear in their eye.

We owe a hearty "Thank You!" to our support team who was at the convention with us: Dave and Pat Anderson, Mike Hansen, Jamie Carey, Rolls Voyce, Craig and Jill Pollard, Ken and Vicki Gibson, Kendra LaPointe, Dave Montera, Al and Bonnie Fisk, Roger Lewis, Dave and Cindy Ellis, and Doug and Lynn Weaver. We were so humbled by all of the support and encouragement that we received over the weekend. IT'S GREAT TO BE A BARBERSHOPPER!

-Zach

From The Voice (Aaron?)

Jan 22. Hi everyone! This week, I got to see first-hand, the transformation of 29 young singers! What started out three years ago

as just a dream, culminated this year with The Voice finishing the set with the words "that's where dreams come true!" This chorus truly is a place where lives are changed, a family is made, and Dreams Come True! Thank you to everyone who made this possible! We will never fully understand what you have done for us until we use your example to give back later in our lives to encourage more young men and women.

Meet The Voice online at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CKpwv4Q9IXg>

Other stories from San Antonio:

- 25 Senior quartets vied for the title of [International Senior Quartet Champion](#). It was won by PARTY OF FIVE, out of MAD. Pioneer rep ROLLS VOYCE was 13th with a score of 70.6, singing "The Sunshine of Your Smile" and "Being With You."
- Beside The Voice, 19 other ensembles participated in the [Youth Chorus Festival](#)... men's, women's, and mixed!
- 5 Senior choruses launched the first ever [Senior Chorus Festival](#) Vocal Seniority, out of JAD, won.
- 200 guys sang in the MASSIVE [All Chapter Chorus](#). They sang "Hallelujah"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xZFthD4T0Ug>

Our 2018 Guest Quartet SIGNATURE was present at Midwinter to sing a cover of Queen's "Somebody to Love."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U59IVIsGaYA>

SIGNATURE also joined FOREFRONT to perform a spine-tingling version of Seal's multi-GRAMMY winning hit "Kiss From a Rose."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lkbyqK77Tdo>

Deke Sharon gives the keynote address at <http://www.barbershop.org/deke-sharon-testifies-in-keynote-address/>, starting about 7 minutes

A three minute summary of the convention is at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=icnkVwwtrLo&feature=youtu.be>

District

Where is the **Troubadour**?

“Unfortunately, no one has stepped up to replace the [previous] editors of the Troub. I’ve reached out to several likely candidates, but unfortunately all have declined.”

Mike Hansen

Uncle Sam Night

A big THANK YOU to the Sun Parlour Chorus of Winsor for the Uncle Sam Night last night! Lots of good music, food and camaraderie. I had a GREAT time. Can't wait 'til next year.

Great job, guys!

(The OTHER Steve Armstrong)

International

BHS has a new Board President, Skipp Kropp, and Harmony Foundation has a new CEO, Perry White.



Skipp Kropp



Perry White

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



HARMONY UNIVERSITY - July 23-30, Nashville, TN

Meet Bill Sclesky

Bill was born in 1941 in Spangler, PA in west central Pennsylvania, where his father was an Appalachian coal miner. When Bill was 13, the mines were closing, and the family moved to Pontiac Michigan, where his father worked for GMC. The family included seven children, and a musical mother who played the piano, the accordion, and the violin. (Bill’s grandfather had played the fiddle and even crafted them.)



Bill attended St Fred’s High School in Pontiac, and became an altar boy at Sacred Heart Church, where he began singing. Upon graduation in 1960, he got a job with Pontiac Motors (1962), from which he retired in 1992. He had worked in Plant 5 as a line worker and Plant 17 as a supervisor, eventually of the Tempest frame assembly.

In the ‘60s, when it was time for Bill to move out of the family home, he moved in with a fellow who played saxophone in a band that needed a drummer. So, Bill promptly got a drum set at a pawn shop and began playing and singing. He has sung in church choirs (St Vincent DePaul Catholic Church on Wide Track in Pontiac) and now enjoys karaoke.

Bill was divorced from his wife after twenty years and has partnered with Connie Morgan for the last twelve years, (though they have known each other since high school). They live in Clarkston near Maybee and Sashabaw.

Last summer, he saw our chorus ad in the Clarkston News, and joined us as Lead. He has enjoyed the experience of singing with “a

great bunch of guys,” and looks forward to the possibility of quartetting.

When he is not singing, he is an enthusiastic hunter. He enjoys all kinds of hunting, including deer, bear, elk, and turkeys, and has hunted as far away as Ontario, Colorado, British Columbia, and Alaska.

MEDIA

A Barbershop Mystery

Sweet Adeline Mary Ellen Stepanich of Peoria, Arizona, has written a romantic comedy mystery novel entitled, “The Doo-Wops and the B-Flat Murder,” based on the adventures of her comedy quartet, Lilac Crazy (they “LIE like crazy!”). Kim Vaughn, one of the organization’s top coaches and sound judge, has called the novel “delightful fun, with just the right amount of musical humor. Hawaii descriptions make me feel like we’re there.” And former SAI president, Pat LeVezeu wrote, “It reminded me of The Perils of Pauline. The details made for fun reading.” Paperback and Kindle versions are available from Amazon https://www.amazon.com/Doo-Wops-B-Flat-Murder-Lilac-Quartet/dp/1535386487/ref=sr_1_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1485455420&sr=8-2&keywords=Doo-Wops+and+the+B-Flat+Murder , or from the author at DrStep@cox.net <mailto:DrStep@cox.net>.

Web Sites

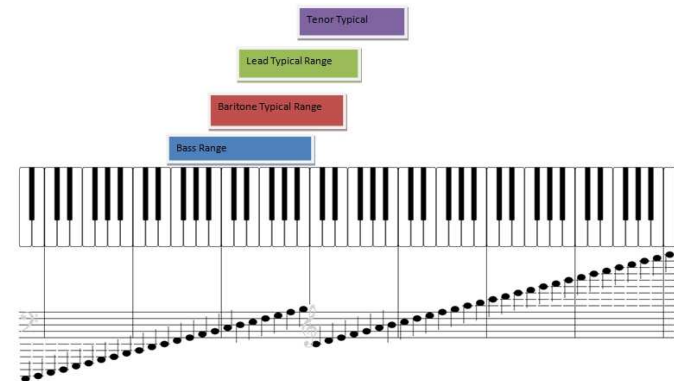
The BCC chorus website is www.bigchiefchorus.org

The Pioneer district website is <http://pioneerdistrict.org>

The BHS website is <http://www.barbershop.org>

SINGING, MUSIC, AND PERFORMANCE

Tom Blue pointed out that there were errors in the voice scale diagram in the January Smoke Signals. He forwarded this diagram (from *Music Fundamentals for Barbershoppers*) as an alternative. I like the simple way it relates clefs, keyboard, and ranges.



Chorus Uniforms

CLASS A--TUXEDO—The tuxedo coat, vest and pants are provided by the Chapter for each member in good standing. Each member buys his own shirt. Used for Valentines, Contest, and some Annual Shows.

CLASS B--BLUE BLAZER, with Red Pocket Puff, white shirt, chapter tie and Gray Pants, Black Shoes

CLASS C LONG SLEEVED Yellow Shirt with Black Pants.

SUMMER CLASS C--Yellow Polo Shirt with Black Pants.

CHRISTMAS---White Shirt with Christmas tie and Black Pants .

Report from Big Chief Chorus-Southern Contingent:

Corinne and I have done much in three weeks in Brunswick, Ga. Brunswick is on the coast, half-way between Savannah and Jacksonville. On the map, it’s where the Atlantic coast is most deeply indented.

Brunswick itself is quite small – 16,000 residents – and contains two main regions: (1) the small but lovely old Victorian residential downtown; (2) the surrounding poverty-stricken area.

In the last 20 years, (3) the Glynn county region to the north and west of Brunswick has been developed, with Home Depot, Target, Walmart et al, and new homes and condos, and the only 55+

community, Peppertree Crossing, where we have bought a two-bedroom attached home.

But most people, if they know the region, know it because of (4) the more prosperous islands – St Simons Island and Jekyll Island - that are easily accessible by causeway and bridge across the lovely sea grass marshes of Glynn.

Brunswick is the 6th busiest port in the country, and the primary export facility for Ford and General Motors.

The climate is humid subtropical, very pleasant now, not so pleasant, we hear, in August and September.

We arrived to an empty shell of a house and have spent most of our time renting and buying furnishings, especially from a consignment shop “on the island.”

I have joined the choir of the local Unitarian church; our first offering will be an arrangement of a poem by Emily Dickinson, “I Shall Not Live in Vain,” this Sunday.

Letters

From **Bob Wallace**

On warfarin to get rid of blood clot in lung. Other than that I am back to singing again. Leaving for Arizona Feb 22. Coming back Apr 5.
Bob

From **Ben Frick**

I just wanted to inform you that I have accepted a new position with the College of Music at Michigan State University and will be leaving the Waterford School District at the beginning of March. So, looks like I won't be there for your future performances. Just wanted to let you know so you weren't taken by surprise in the fall. It was an absolute pleasure working with you and I hope you have many more successful productions with the Waterford School District.

All the best!

Ben

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

- Jan 29, Su, 3:00 Sandy Northey Memorial, 1st Un.Meth.Ch Troy,
Class B Uniform (without badge)
Jan 31, T, 7:00 Chorus rehearsal, WOAC

- Feb 4, Sa, 2:00 Orion Twp Library, 1:15 warmup, Class C
Feb 7, T, 7:00 Chorus rehearsal, WOAC
Feb 14, T Valentines Sing-Outs, Class A
Feb 14, T, 7:00 Chorus rehearsal, WOAC
Feb 21, T, 7:00 Chorus rehearsal, WOAC
Feb 23, Th, 7:00 BCC Exec Bd Meeting
Feb 28, T, 7:00 Chorus rehearsal, WOAC
Mar 7, T, 7:00 Chorus rehearsal, WOAC
Mar 16, Th6:30 Canterbury on the Lake St Patrick's Day. White shirts, black pants & shoes. Green ties provided.
Apr 22, Sa Pioneer District Spring Convention, Traverse City, Class A
May 12, F, 2:00 Mother's Day Celebration, Elmhaven manor. Summer Class C
Jun 16, Fri, 12:00 Auburn Hills Senior Center, Summer Class C
Jun 20, T, 5:30 Bus leaves for Frankenmuth Dead Creek Picnic. Short sleeve yellow polo and pants/shorts
Jun 24, Sa, 3:00 Log Cabin Days (Warm-Up 2:00) Summer Class C
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, Cowlshaw/Sturdy, Moss
Music Team: Schroeder, Blue, Frye, McFadyen, Doig, Cowlshaw, Moss, Mazzara
Bulletin Editor: John Cowlshaw, (248-891-4498)

Endgame

Have a Barbershop Quartet deliver your
SINGING VALENTINE
February 14

You Get:

- Two love songs by a Big Chief quartet
- Beautiful red rose
- Personalized Valentine card
- Photo of the recipient and quartet

To Order – Call Bill: (248) 698-1393
Cost \$45

Pickup quartets at January 24th Rehearsal (Photos by Eric Domke)



Advertisement

Pietenpol Air Camper for sale.
To be picked up in Redding, California
Contact Jeff Doig

