



## SMOKE SIGNALS



### Bulletin #10, February 12, 2002 Pontiac Waterford Chapter SPEBSQSA

And on the Web at [www.PontiacChapter.com](http://www.PontiacChapter.com)  
Big Chief Chorus Sings: Tuesdays, 7:30-10:00  
Crary Middle School, 501 N. Cass Lake Rd  
Waterford, MI

#### MEMBERSHIP

**Renewals:** Bill Pascher, (59).

**BBS of Month, January:** Jeff Spires, for work as chorus manager plus YMIH

#### Illnesses and deaths:

Bert Cederleaf's wife, Lucille, died Jan 24 of lymphoma. Born in 1920 in Chicago, she and Bert had so many warm memories together, many of which were portrayed in photos at the Godhardt-Tomlinson Funeral home. They had returned from Florida a few weeks earlier as she weakened. The funeral service was in Chicago.

Len Barnes has been diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

Don Denoyer is on daily radiation for his brain tumor.

Bob Marshall's brother died.

#### January Birthdays

01/03 Len Barnes  
01/10 Bob Marshall

#### February Birthdays

02/10 Bill Pascher  
02/19 Jack Cavalier  
02/23 Pete Mazzara

#### AROUND THE PATCH

**Chorus coaching,** March 2 in E. Lansing. The three nationally regarded coaches have been announced: Barry Towner, Ken Buckner, and Gary Plaag. The other two choruses that morning will be: Lansing and Detroit-Oakland.

#### Afterglow

In the light of all of the Pionet controversy about under-appreciated public barbershop singing, it's nice to hear that Wally Plosky and Russ Parry seem to have found a new location for afterglow - The Lodge, at 2442 Orchard Lake Rd, in Sylvan Lake. (Take Cass Road south from Crary to Orchard Lake, turn left and it's a couple blocks on your left.) On Feb 5 about 20 chorus members met there after chorus rehearsal. Wally writes: "It meets our requirements for food, beverages, relative privacy, lack of competing jukebox, hours of operation, and most importantly, supportive management. We had a BALL and so did a number of patrons who came over from the "younger", sport bar-ish side of the restaurant to listen and applaud.... The highlight of the evening was serenading 4 young lasses at the behest of their Gen X partners...wow, nothing like a blush and wide eyes to help me remember what singing is all about. We ended up selling a number of Valentine's gigs for the chorus, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, a couple of patrons (younger ones) came up and wanted to know more about barbershop harmony as well as congratulating us on the singing.... you could tell by the look in their eyes that with careful cultivation, we might get some more new (and younger) blood into our chapter."

Chris has appointed a **Warmup committee** – Dick Johnson, Ross Ensign, and John Cowlshaw

**Acapella Fellas** (Barrett, Plosky, Cowlshaw, and Melkonian) sang for its first time (and last time with Chuck) at chorus rehearsal on Jan. 29, singing "Happy New Year" to the Big Chief Chorus (as printed in the January Bulletin), and "From the First Hello" to and with Chuck who departs our presence to move to Madison, WI, on March 1.

On Feb 5, we were **jug-visited by the Livingston Lamplighters** from Brighton. The small, harmonious group had 32 singouts last year, and one can

see why, as we enjoyed their presentation. The chorus includes a quartet, "By Appointment Only," which also sang several songs.

**Doc Irwin** reported on his Florida visit with John and Karen Smith. Smitty took him to the Naples chorus in Bonita Springs where Doc was impressed by the attentiveness of the members, and by their "seniority."

Mel Parrish announces the formation of a **Daytime Barbershop group**. It will meet every Tuesday at 2pm at the Lake Orion Senior Center, at Broadway and Church. Check with Mel for further details. All are welcome.

Omigosh, have they made a **movie about us**? There is a movie called "**Smoke Signals**." It won the 1998 Sundance Audience Award and Filmmakers Trophy winner, and is described as "simultaneously a road-trip movie, a light-hearted coming-of-age and coming-to-terms comedy, and a portrait of modern Native American life."

## REGIONALLY

**DOC Show:** "Souvenirs of the Seasons," Feb 15 & 16, at Clarenceville High School, Livonia, MI. Featuring "The Gentlemen Songsters Chorus," and "NightLife" and "Humdingers." See Jeff Spires for tickets.

**Macomb County Chapter Show:** May 11. With Riptide and Philatoga Township, The Harmony Heritage Chorus, and some other fine quartets. The show will be held at the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts in Clinton Township at 7:29 PM.

Steve Sutherland has put **pictures on the web** site from all sorts of events around our last convention. Click on the "Happenings" button on the Pioneer site to view Quartet and Chorus competitors, House of Delegates meeting, Stan Williams-2001 Hall of Fame inductee, Mass Sing, and the Power Play seminar.

## NEWS FROM RIVERSIDE CA. INTERNATIONAL

Pioneers' Seniors Entry, **New Wrinkle**, from Huron Valley - with Jack Frucci, Kelly Brummett, Walt Quick and Don Kondor - placed 17th among 26 in the midwinter Senior Quartet Contest. Full scores are at: <http://www.spebsqsa.org/midwinter/oss.htm>. Russ Seely wrote on Pionet: "All Pioneers can be extremely proud of our own Roger Lewis who was installed as our Society President in Riverside CA. ... Although not a large number of Pioneer members attended, those that did were quite visible, especially **Power**

**Play** who continue to dazzle the audiences with their crisp, unmistakable blend that supports their well earned Medal."

**Finale NotePad™ 2002** is your invitation to the world of music notation software. This is the cheaper version (as in, duh, **FREE**) of Finale PrintMusic that Chris Miller and John Cowlshaw have. Wally Plosky discovered that this free version is available by a download from a website: [www.codamusic.com](http://www.codamusic.com) Here are instructions. If you have any questions or run into a problem give Wally a buzz.

1. Enter: [www.codamusic.com](http://www.codamusic.com) in the address area of your internet browser
2. Double left click on your mouse on the area of the screen that says "Free Download"
3. Complete the registration info on the next screen...don't worry it's free
4. Write down the serial number and double left click on whichever operating system you're using, Windows or a Mac
5. On the next screen, double left click on "click here to download"
6. After that it will automatically download Finale Notepad 2002....if you are asked to click on something, double click on "next" since the software usually knows the best way to store itself
7. Wallah, youse in business

Wally says: "Hey remember, that this software is NO SECRET and that other choruses will start using it to help guys improve their singing and hit the right notes. If we want to stay ahead of them and get to the top of the pack in Pioneer, this software can be an essential tool."

## Board Meeting Minutes, Feb 7.

Discussion on how to use the bulletin more effectively. Show date reaffirmed as Oct 26 (to avoid the MSU/UM game). Will be at Central United Methodist Church, but two shows, including a matinee. We need a chairman for the Woodshed Contest, scheduled for April 5 at Pontiac Country Club. New policy that all new members will need to take a voice test before membership approval.

When Treasurer Dick Johnson returned the \$100 check from Sharon Woodward that she sent us for singing at Bob's funeral, she asked that it then be donated to the Society. The Board voted to add \$150 to this and make a donation to Harmony Foundation in Bob's name, in honor of his work keeping the chapter going during the lean years. This will put Bob's name on a permanent memorial plaque in Harmony Hall.

### Quiz time: ANSWERS TO JANUARY'S QUIZ

- (a) In what city, in what year, and by whom was SPEBSQSA founded?  
**Ans: Tulsa**, April 11, **1938**, O. C. Cash and Rupert I. Hall, on the Roof Garden of the Tulsa Club, where 26 men met. 70 showed up a week later at the Tulsa Hotel, and 150 at the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting at the Alvin Hotel. (What a growth curve!)  
(b) What do the initials SPEBSQSA stand for?  
**Ans: Society for the Promotion and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America**, though the first name was "The Society for the **P**reservation and **P**ropagation of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in the **U**nited States."
- Name our chapter director before Chris Miller, our President before Gene Downie, our Bulletin Editor before John Cowlshaw.  
**Ans: Director Dick Johnson**, President **Bill Dabbs**, and Editor **Bob Woodward**.
- If "Five Foot Two" begins in the key of C, it then moves to "...eyes of blue..." in E7, and then thru four perfect fifths back to C. Name those four chords. (Hint: the correct answer does NOT include Scotch and Absolut.)  
**Ans: A7, D7, G7, C.** (These are fourths above, since D is the 4<sup>th</sup> of the key of A, etc. But A is a perfect 5<sup>th</sup> below, in the key of D. You have to back down through the answers.)
- "The Old Songs,...I love those minor chords." But there aren't many minor chords in Barbershop music. The notable feature of Barbershop music is the large number of \_\_\_\_ chords.  
**Ans: 7<sup>th</sup> chords.** Actually, Bert Szabo equates the "Barbershop 7<sup>th</sup>" with the Major/Minor 7<sup>th</sup>. For example, in the key of C, the E note is major, not flatted, but the 7<sup>th</sup> is Bb, which is called minor 7<sup>th</sup>.

### Quiz Time: FEBRUARY QUESTIONS

- Where did the chapter meet and practice before Cray middle School?
- How many members are in SPEBSQSA?  
About: (a) 13,000 (b) 34,000 (c) 95,000 (d) 230,000
- What chorus member won 8 medals last summer in the local Track and Field Senior Olympics? Was it (a) SmartStart Art Carinci (b) Dapper Billy Dabbs (c) Rapid Robby Marshall (d) Dandy Don Denoyer (e) Len Barebones Barnes (f) Zowie Howie Lynn?

And if you want more...Yong McDowell has a quiz on his new **Members-Only page** on our Website, [www.PontiacChapter.com](http://www.PontiacChapter.com).

### The Music Man...

...was in Kalamazoo, MI from 1/29/02 to 2/3/02. Kalamazoo's Alex Boltenko arranged with Steve Wilde (Tenor of Joker's Wild, and cast member) to share a cast party following the show, here shown with our new International President, Roger Lewis.



It will also be nearby twice more:

**East Lansing**, MI at Wharton Center for the Performing Arts from 2/19/02 to 2/24/02

Detroit, MI at **Fox Theater** from 4/16/02 to 4/21/02

Here's the latest info regarding Music Man stop in East Lansing. One half hour prior to each of the 8 performances, the Lansing Chapter will have one of its four quartets entertain showgoers in the Grand Tier of the theatre. Additionally, there is a \$5 discount on tickets for some performances.

### Barbershop Tax Deductions (from <http://www.spebsqsa.org/Update/>)

Some things you do as a Barbershopper are tax deductible. If you itemize your deductions, you may be entitled to include some expense for barbershop activity.

If you had verifiable out-of-pocket expense in connection with a chapter duty as an elected or appointed officer or board member, or, if you sang in one or more local shows, such expenses as travel (14¢ per mile, or actual cost) telephone, postage, parking, etc., for which you were not reimbursed are

deductible.

Expense of travel to chapter meetings is not deductible unless you hold an office directly involved in conduct of the meeting.

A different rule applies to travel away-from-home. Transportation, meals and lodging may only be deducted if there is no significant element of personal pleasure, recreation or vacationing the trip. If golf games, sightseeing, and similar activities heavily overbalance singing and participation in meetings as a duty for the away-from-home expenses, these expenses would not be deductible.

Your cash contributions to the chapter, the Society or to Harmony Foundation Inc. (for the General Fund or to the Endowment Program) are directly deductible. Include this figure in Schedule A, under "gifts to charity, cash or check." Be sure to retain verifying records such as appointment books, calendars with notes, etc. Additional information is available at: <http://www.spebsqsa.org/Operations/taxdeduct.htm> .

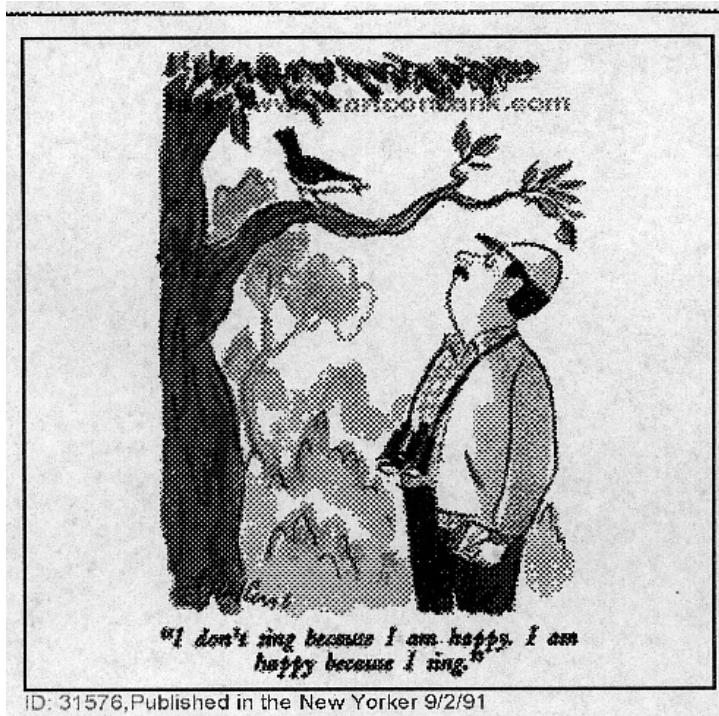
### Chapter Executive Board

#### Officers

Chorus Director: Chris Miller  
President: Gene Downie  
VP, Chapter Development: Walt DeNio  
VP, Music and Performance: John Smith  
Secretary: Jeff Doig  
Treasurer: Dick Johnson  
Members at Large: Pete Mazzara and Wally Plosky

#### Chairmen

Quartet Activity: Len Barnes  
Service(Charity): Bruce Brede  
Singing Valentine: Bob Marshall  
Chorus Manager: Jeff Spires  
Music Librarian: Roger Holm  
Uniform Manager: Bill Auquier  
Sunshine (Chaplain): Don Denoyer  
Bulletin Editor: John Cowlshaw



### Calendar

Feb 12,19,26,Mar 5,12,19	Chorus rehearsals
2/26, 3/26, 4/13(Sat), 4/22(Mon)	Linda Liddicoat coaches
Mar 2	Chorus coaching, Lansing
Mar 14	Board Meeting
Apr 5	Woodshed Contest
Apr 26-28	District Convention, Lansing
May 17-19	Harmony Roundup, MSU
Jun 30-Jul 7	International Convention, Portland, OR
Oct 26	Fall Show