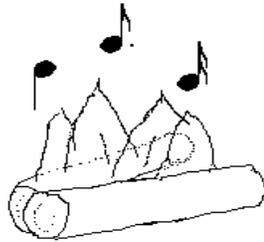




SMOKE SIGNALS



Bulletin #11, March 19, 2002

Pontiac Waterford Chapter SPEBSQSA

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

Valentines Day Singouts

What a successful event! As a chapter, we delivered some 42 paid valentines (that's up from 28 last year) including eight floral deliveries from Waterford Hill Florists. Total income was \$1380. Not bad considering all the fun we had. Bob Marshall chaired the whole thing. The participating quartets were: Harmony Way, Harmony Knights, Acapella Fellas, and Sunnyside. Harmony Knights think they may have sung for a couple of Mafiosos at one Restaurant (better left unnamed). Sunnyside got to sing "Babyface" to the Waterford Police. Acapella Fellas enjoyed serenading "Boomer" at the motorcycle shop. One check arrived two weeks late with the explanatory note that the gentleman's marriage had been wobbly beforehand but now has never been stronger. (Our men had a hard time getting thru security but once they arrived the woman had bawled before they even started singing.) Here are individual reports:

Acapella Fellas (*Barrett, Plosky, Cowlshaw, Melkonian, McDowell*). Wow, what an incredible day!!!! The Acapella Fellas turned 20 gigs yesterday in what was some of the most fun I've had since medalling internationally a

coupla times with the Big Chicken. The gigs ran the gamut from the sentimental, to crying, to incredulity, to loving embraces, to black leather Harley shop, the bowels of EDS, lakeside restaurants, and capped last night about 8:15 P.M. with serenade of a guy at a men's bowling league night to the amusement of his wife and fellow bowlers.... as we finished and he congratulated us on our singing, one of his pals bellowed..."are you gonna bowl or what, sweetheart?" Let me tell you that there was one person who was indispensable throughout our whole day, which started at 7:30 A.M. Mr. Yong McDowell is one SPECIAL guy. He was the glue that kept everything together.... he was our navigator, Mapquestor, doorman, agent, photographer, emcee, jovial face...what a guy!!!! He gave up his day without all the fun of singing just to make sure that everything went smoothly and our clients were "wowed". Every one of the pictures he took was perfect with everyone smiling and their eyes open...hmmmm... maybe he's got some new career possibilities. On behalf of Acappella Fellas, I'd like to thank Yong, Gene Downey for all his coordination, and everyone else involved for giving us a fulfilling barbershop experience. Wally

Harmony Way (*Monroe, Brede, Dabbs, Murray, Spires*) In the 2 days, Harmony Way performed 25 times and drove 203 miles. There were 11 paid gigs and 14 complementary and included two lunches where we "sang for our supper". The complementary gigs were "drop-ins" when we were running ahead of schedule and included 1 extra elementary school in Davisburg (two were paid), 3 nursing homes and 7 of our regular supporting advertisers.

Highlights were our Lead, being asked if he were the limo driver, a student with tears because her teacher was crying with happiness, an offer of a \$100 tip and a former barbershopper who sang bass with us for Wild Irish Rose. All in all, a complete success for the singers and as a promotion for barbershopping and our Chapter. Keep the Whole World Singing, Bruce Brede.

Sunnyside (*Keith, Marshall, Downey, Johnson, Holm*) also had a great (busy) time singing 19 places plus singing for one hour at the Clarkston Big Boy Valentine's Day (they paid the chapter \$100, plus we got in some recruiting). The efforts of our quartets helped spread the word about our society probably more then we realize. Thanks to Gene Downie for an outstanding job of scheduling the presentations, Jeff Spires for arranging an excellent rapport with the florist and of course the quartets and their "5th Man" team members for thrilling the public. The flyers Jeff had made up and the publicity by Mel Parrish, all made it happen. What a great team the Pontiac/Waterford Chapter has. Regards, Dick Johnson

I can't help adding this news from outstate: Doug Pearson's quartet, **Patch Chords**, was the "opening act" of a surprise kidnapping of "two unsuspecting

husbands from their jobs and from Lansing to hold them hostages on a four-day journey to see the sights in San Francisco,” all pre-arranged by their wives. The husbands were stunned, moments after hearing the quartet sing “Sentimental Journey,” to be whisked away to the Lansing airport and to California.

AROUND THE PATCH

The **jug**, received Feb 5 from the Livingston Lamplighters, was passed on to Motor City during a chorus visit on Wed, Feb 27.

Gene Downey reported that the chapter has received the **Minigrant** we applied for to fund half of Linda Liddicoat’s coaching, thereby reducing the cost from \$1500 to 750. Oakland Country distributes Minigrants from money received from the Michigan Council of the Arts.

We need to be out of **McCrary by 10:15** each Tuesday night.

It is to our credit that 35 guys showed up on a snowy day at the well-received **Pioneer District Chorus Coaching Clinic**, Mar 2, Brody Hall, East Lansing.

Sunnyside sang in two school programs in the Florida Keys that raised nearly \$2000 for the schools, one in Sugar Loaf Key, and the other in Marathon Key.

As **Bill Pascher** led us in a tag, he declared that he is dedicating his remaining days to a study of the original tags. They don’t all follow the Barbershop rules.

Russ Parry and Wally Plosky orchestrated a Roving **Irish Pub sing-a-thon**, on St. Patrick’s Day, Sunday March 17th from noon to 5:00 P.M. They made arrangements with a half dozen bars/restaurants to accommodate them and allow them to share some harmonic Irish music and fellowship, concluded at The Lodge.

Thanks to **Neil Braun** for maintaining the attendance rolls during Walt DeNio’s absence.

Your **editor** has agreed to chair the Department of Biological Sciences at Oakland University, with its 35 faculty and staff. Future issues of “Smoke Signals” may be a bit thinner as a result!

Big Chief **Chorus Goals** were distributed on February 19. They are:

1. Improve Chorus Singing to achieve 750 pts in sp competition
 - a. Establishing a chorus ensemble
 - b. Warm up team

- c. Outside coaching
- d. Sectionals
2. Increase membership 20% to 60
3. Have a Fall Show, 2002, with two shows to see if we can raise attendance
4. Improve individual singing skills by
 - a. Sending at least 4 members to Harmony College – July 28-Aug 4, St Joseph MO
 - b. Sending at least 8 members to Harmony Roundup, May 17-19, E. Lansing
5. Establish a Service Project – Young Men in Harmony (Jeff Spires)
6. Each member have a Personal Action Plan, choosing 3 Personal Goals to help Chorus achieve its goals

Quiz Time: ANSWERS TO FEBRUARY’S QUESTIONS

1. Where did the chapter meet and practice before Crary middle School?
Ans: School Administration Offices at the corner of Airport Rd. and Pontiac Lake Rd.
2. How many members are in SPEBSQSA?
About: (a) 13,000 (b) 34,000 (c) 95,000 (d) 230,000
Ans: (b)
3. 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?
Ans: (c) Actually, Bob says this undercounts his medals since this is just the number in track and field.

Do you feel left out because you’re not getting the latest Barbershop news along with your morning cup of java? How do those other members know the latest news? They are one of the 300 Pioneer District members who receive automatic emailings from each other, using **Pionet**. To enlist (it’s free), go to the Pioneer web site, <http://www.harmonize.com/Pioneer/pio.htm>, and click on Pionet. Fill in a few blanks, and you’re on your way.

Don’t forget the **Woodshed Contest** night, Friday, April 5 at 7:30 P.M. at the Pontiac Country Clubhouse! Dick Johnson will head it up this year. Wally writes: There are not a lot of things you can count on nowadays, but Pontiac-Waterford’s Big Chief Chorus is one of them. We have maintained one of barbershop’s oldest traditions, woodshedding, by sponsoring a Woodshedding Contest for 45 consecutive years. The 46th Annual Woodshedding Contest will take place Friday evening, April 5, 2002 at 7:30 P.M. at the Pontiac Country Club, 4335 Elizabeth Lake Road in Waterford. The Pioneer District’s finely

tuned ears (and wannabe ears) compete for fun and the honor of ringing chords without music arrangements with guys they may never have sung with. The rules of woodshedding are simple. The lead sings a melody line of an old standard song (he gets to choose...after all, he is the LEAD) and the other 3 parts scramble to find a harmonic note. The first one to hit a note gets to stay on it, while the other 2 guys scramble for the leftovers until a chord rings (hopefully).....then as the melody changes from note to note, the musical chairs continue. To keep the playing field somewhat fair, there are limits to the number of guys in a woodshedding quartet who may have sung together in a chorus or quartet, so this venue allows you to meet and sing with some really neat guys throughout our district.

Quartet needed! (Or our **ensemble**). Back during the lifetime of *High Octane*, I pledged its participation in a high-class fundraiser for **Lighthouse Community Development**, a creator of affordable housing in the Unity Park neighborhood of Pontiac. The gala evening is June 7. Several different styles of music will be performing, but Barbershop gets to start it off at 7 pm for a half hour or so. Great exposure! Who will it be? (John Cowlshaw)

Bob Marshall's Sweet Adeline wife Eileen writes: I am extending an invitation to each and every one of you to come to one of our coaching sessions with Jim Arns. He is the director of the Melodeers Chorus, Chicago. They have won first place several times in International competition. The man is amazing. He has worked with us before and we do whatever he says. Monday, April 8 is the day and date. He will bounce in about 6:30 p.m. and we will work with him until 10:30 p.m. We meet at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church on Five Mile just one block west of Inkster Road.

Bd. Meeting Minutes. Dick Johnson reported a balance of \$7134 with \$2468 in the general fund. Discussion/Action on: Woodshed Contest, arrangements for District contest, rescheduling fall show (to Nov 9), purchasing new risers. Approval of 4 new members. Request for new blue chorus shirts.

MEMBERSHIP

Renewals: Russ Parry (1), Al Monroe (2), John Cowlshaw (3), Jim Owens (3), Bill Holmes (4), Chuck Murray (7), Bert Cederleaf (12), Bob Marshall (12), Dan Valko (13), Mike Fry (14), Mel Parrish (17), Stan Mersino (18), Howard Lynn (26), Chuck Barrett (28)

Now at **54 members**, with enough others in the pipeline that we may soon reach our goal of 60!

March Birthdays: Ted Prueter (9th), Don Sheridan (12th), Walt Bachmann (16th), Bruce Lamarte (18th), Dan Valko (19th), Bill Holmes (25th)

April Birthdays: Jeff Spires (16th), Yong McDowell (18th)

BBS of Month, February: Zaven Melkonian for all his work including new members and managing our Polecat-oramas.

Illnesses and deaths:

Walt Bachman, fell and broke his tailbone.

Al Monroe's mother-in-law died

Len Barnes has finished his 2nd chemotherapy regimen and feels much better.

Don Denoyer continues to battle.

Gene Downie's wife, Deanna, was hospitalized with pneumonia and heart congestion.

We're happy to see Walt DeNio back after convalescing from his prostate surgery.

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

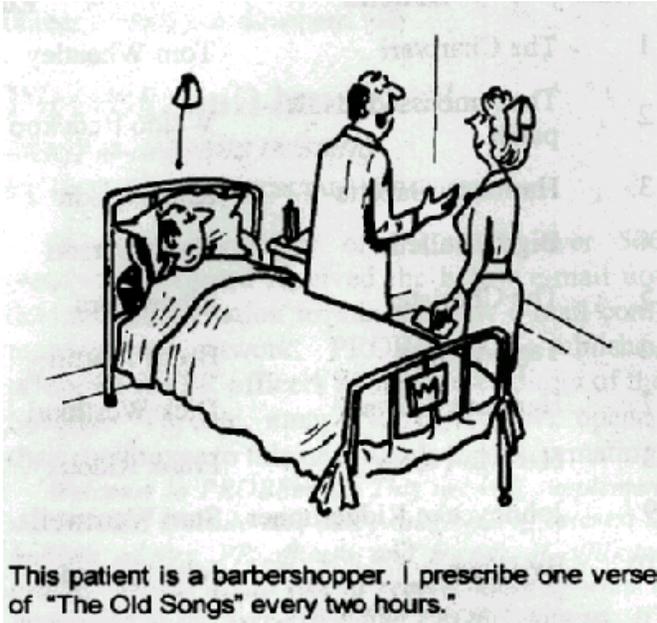
Chorus Manager: Jeff Spires

Music Librarian: Roger Holm

Uniform Manager: Bill Auquier

Sunshine (Chaplain): Bill Dabbs

Bulletin Editor: John Cowlshaw



Calendar

Tues, Mar 19	Chorus rehearsal
Tues, Mar 26 (7pm)	Chorus rehearsal (with Linda)
Tues, Apr 2	Chorus rehearsal
Fri, Apr 5 (7:30)	Woodshed Contest
Tues, Apr 9	Chorus rehearsal
Thur, Apr 11	Board Meeting
Sat, Apr 13 (2pm)	Chorus rehearsal (with Linda)
Tues, Apr 16	Chorus rehearsal
Mon, Apr 22 (7pm)	Chorus rehearsal (with Linda)
Tues, Apr 23	Chorus rehearsal
Apr 26-28	District Convention, Lansing
May 17-19	Harmony Roundup, MSU
Jun 30-Jul 7	International Convention, Portland, OR
Sat, Nov 9 (2pm mat, 7:30pm eve)	Fall Show