



SMOKE SIGNALS



Bulletin #12, April 16, 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

PIONEER DISTRICT SPRING CONVENTION

We have received our slot, 1st, in the program that begins at 12:00 pm on Saturday April 27. It's bound to be a day of excitement and experience. Let's pour our feelings into "Let's Get Away from it all," and "If I had the last dream."

AROUND THE PATCH

WJBC visited the chorus on the Tuesday night of April 9. Tuning up for District competition in Lansing, they sounded great! They honored their primary coach, Greg Backwell, and talking about the importance of practice and comfort and the value of dueting.

Sunnyside spent the whole Friday, April 12, at Clarkston Elementary School as part of their Festival USA. Lyle Howard joined Dick Johnson, Roger Holm, and Smitty Smith to conduct classes in Barbershop Harmony to the kids (Kindergarten thru 5th grade). Dick brought a large collage of BBS memorabilia. The day started off with a big assembly in the Gymnasium, with Sunnyside singing to the hundreds of kids. What a wonderful educational

experience for the kids! And Dick says it was “superfine, super-satisfying!” for the quartet.

Irwin “**Doc**” **Mann** will be forming a **mixed ensemble**, for Broadway music only, in May. If you’re interested, get in touch with him at 248-628-0189.

MEMBERSHIP

Renewals:

Wayne Chene (1), Doug Corliss (1), Art Carinci (3), Bob Legato (3), Dennis Robinson (3), Jeff Spires (4), Walt Bachmann (5), Gene Downey (5), Tom Tailford (8), Jeff Doig (10), Thomas Blackstone (15), Roger Holmes (15), Joe Voynar (16)

Now at **60 members!**

April Birthdays: Wayne Chene, (25th),

May Birthdays: Gene Downie (4th), Bill Dabbs (17th), Dave Willett (22nd)

BBS of Month, March – Bill Auquier for his work getting the risers to Lansing and even delaying his return 3 hrs so another chorus could use them.

Illnesses

Len Barnes is convalescing. Don Denoyer continues to do battle.

Bob Woodward will be among those remembered at the House of Delegates meeting from Pioneer who have left the earthly chorus since the last convention.

2002 ANNUAL WOODSHED CONTEST, by Dick Johnson, Woodshed Chairman

The "Silverdomes" (John Wearing, Russ Seely, John Wade and Gene Bulka) were the singing judges at Pontiac-Waterford's 46th Annual Woodshed Contest. They judged the singing of 18 quartets (72 singers) and their ability to join together in harmony. Who did they judge to be the best? The "Four Hoots" with Frank Fortier (Grosse Pointe) at lead, Fred McFadden (Macomb) at tenor, Mike Profitt (Grosse Pointe) at bari and Bob Wisdom (Motor City Metro) at bass. They are now the proud winners of this year's coveted Woodshed Badges.

Five chapters attended this year's Woodshed Contest and Bill Pascher awarded the "Bennington Trophy" for best chapter attendance and participation to the Grosse Point chapter.

Another evening highlight was the presentation by Chris Miller to Russ Seely of the Pontiac-Waterford Honorary "Big Chief" trophy for Russ's many contributions to our singing society.

Many thanks the Bill Dabbs, Roger Holm, Irwin "Doc" Mann, Chuck Murray, John Smith, Jeff Spires and Len Barnes' appearance to making the evening a success.

HARMONY ROUNDUP

Dan Bezaire writes that response “has been pretty good, but we still have lots of room. We are offering classes in Vocal Production, Sight Reading, Repertoire, and others. Register now for the best barbershop weekend of the year, May 17-19, at MSU.”

From Kenosha: A new learning resource for barbershop singers. It's called *Basic Singing Skills for Barbershoppers*, a video that is designed to be of great value to you who are concerned about improving the singing skills of barbershoppers so that they can enjoy our great hobby to the fullest extent possible. This new video is being offered at Harmony Marketplace at the very affordable price of \$20 and is particularly designed to teach the most important singing skills to newcomers and seasoned singers alike.

LINK TO NPR BARBERSHOP FEATURE

If you did not hear the March 18 NPR Morning Edition feature on the roots of barbershop, you can still listen to it on the NPR web site at:

<http://www.npr.org/programs/morning/features/patc/barbershop/>

There's also an extended audio of Jim Wildman's interview with David Wright, plus much more.

Calendar

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