



SMOKE SIGNALS



Bulletin #13, May 14, 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

The Big Chief Chorus sang to a 9th-place finish at the spring District Convention (out of 15). We scored 667, singing "Let's Get Away From It All" and "If I Had the Last Dream Left in the World." Not quite what we'd hoped for, given the growth (to 61 members, putting 44 on stage) and improvement we've experienced in recent months. But it's always exciting to be out on the stage. We've benefited from the coaching of Linda Liddicoat (half-funded by a Michigan Council of the Arts Mini-grant). And from the Pioneer District Chorus Coaching Clinic on the Michigan State University campus March 2 which 35 guys attended despite the snow. One bright note is that we were the Plateau 4 Champion. Macomb is the new Pioneer District Chorus champion, with a score of 872. Power Play won the quartet competition; WJBC scored 3rd place behind Philatoga Township.



From the Pioneer District Website

From the Director's Corner

The Pioneer District Spring Convention was somewhat of a disappointment in that we did not achieve our scoring goal of 750 points. When it came time to perform our songs on stage, we did not execute. Like many choruses before us, our best singing was left in the warm up room.

On the positive side, we know that we are able to achieve a higher level of singing. I know because I have heard it. We must continue our goal of constant improvement and learn from our mistakes. I think everyone knows by now how hard we must work. As we improve, so do other choruses; the judges grade harder and the bar is constantly raised. In an effort to continue our quest to sing the best, I ask everyone to commit to the following:

- Attend a weekend session of one on one vocal training with Linda & staff
- Take self responsibility to know the notes and music (I am also counting on the Section Leaders to take full responsibility for the sound that comes out of each respective section)
- Bring a tape recorder to rehearsal and use it for self evaluation
- Sing in a quartet every week...even if it is only a pick up quartet
- Attend Harmony Round Up &/or Harmony College.
- Attend rehearsals regularly

Always sing from the heart. Chris Miller

AROUND THE PATCH

MEMBERSHIP

New: Jan Graham – Welcome to the Big Chief Chorus!

Renewals: Pete Mazzara (3), Tom Jackson (4), Ross Ensign (20).

Now at 58 members. A year ago we were at 48.

May Birthdays: Dave Willett (22nd),

June Birthday: Bob Legato (13th), Bruce Brede (22nd), Al Monroe (24th)

BBS of Month, April – Al Monroe

Gene Downie's father-in-law died.

Alexander Boltenko asked **what Barbershop Quartet was chosen** to sing in the lobby before *Meredith Wilson's The Music Man*, at Detroit's Fox Theater, April 16. Anybody know?

Bulletin Editor of the Year Contest. Your editor submitted issues #5,6,7 of Smoke Signals to the PROBE Bulletin Contest. The bulletins are graded on in three categories – Content, Layout and Reproduction, and Grammar and Style. My final score was 1400 out of 2000.

Board Meeting Minutes, April 14

\$7,173 in the treasury. Jeff Spires' report on convention plans. Bill Pascher presented for consideration a new opening song, an old Hopi Indian prayer, as a possible signature piece. Board to refund 50% of Harmony Roundup registration fees. Jeff Spires and Chuck to check with area schools for representation at A Cappella Blast. Chris Miller's idea of adding some new activities, such as amateur or talent night. Cary is installing a new security system.

Board Meeting Minutes, May 9

\$6,179 in the treasury. Dick Johnson spoke for reinstating the Ensemble. Smitty attended the Delegates meeting. Gene Downie designed the tri-fold brochures, of which 1000 have been printed. The Fall Show will be "Dorothy Returns to Oz." Discussion of the possible purchase of sound equipment.

Around the District

COTS

Growth is a good thing! For the past several years, the attendance for COTS has been right at its limit at the Kellogg Manor near Battle Creek. But now, Larry Parker, our district events coordinator, has been able to secure the Holiday Express in Okemos, near East Lansing. After several site visits by Board

members, a contact was signed for our new COTS home. This hotel recently completed a new convention center addition that will suit our growth needs for years to come, up to 200 attendees. It was necessary to move the weekend permanently to the first weekend in January each year; we now have the benefit of not having COTS during the busy Christmas season. The 2002 cots will be held in January 4-5 2003. Doug Lynne of the Flint Chapter has agreed to accept the position of COTS coordinator.

Ed Fritzen has put a number of interesting articles on a "**Contest and Judging**" section of the Pioneer District Homepage (<http://www.harmonize.com/Pioneer/pio.htm>). Just click on "C&J" to check out: "Competitor Survey on Evaluation Systems," "Contest and Judging Handbook," "How to Go to Contest – A Fresh Approach," "Every Singer's Contest Checklist," A Guide to Chorus Contest for the Novice Barbershopper," "Microphone and Sound System Guidelines."

International

A new video, *Basic Singing Skills for Barbershoppers*, is available from Harmony Marketplace for \$20. It 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.

MUSIC PREMIERE TITLES RELEASED

Music Premiere 2002-A will be in the mail by the first of June. Some really wonderful songs and arrangements will provide harmony lovers lots of variety. And there is a cassette tape included that has fine quartets performing the songs to demonstrate how the songs might be sung. The song titles are: "Cross That Mason-Dixon Line," "Got My Thumb Out," "He's Got The Whole World In His Hands," "I Love To Hear That Old Barbershop Style," "If My Friends Could See Me Now," and "Love Letters." An annual membership gets you two six-song packets, one in the spring and one in the fall, each with a demo tape of the songs. Part predominant learning tapes are also available for purchase. To subscribe, call Harmony Marketplace at 800-876-7464 x8410. An annual subscription is \$14.95 (USD), no shipping or handling charges. It's a real bargain.

Kenosha urges us to keep our email addresses up to date. An e-mailing to top Society, district and chapter leaders resulted in nearly 250 bounced e-mails. This is a recurring problem. Despite frequent reminders about the Members Only site on the Society web page, the problem persists. Members Only is a tremendously useful tool for all Barbershoppers to update personal information -- especially an e-mail address -- as well as other information such as mailing address, phone number, etc. Using Members Only is very simple. Start by logging on to the Society web site (www.spebsqsa.org) then click on

"Members Only" at the top of the page. If you are a current user, sign in and scroll down to "Update your member information." If you are a first-time user, you'll need to get password from the headquarters. On the sign-in page, scroll down to "Step 2: Don't have a password? Click [HERE](#)" and follow the instructions. A password will be e-mailed to you. When you receive it (normally within 24 hours), log on to Members Only, enter your password and click on the box that says, "Check here to remember this login." That way, each time you sign in your password will be remembered and you will not have to re-enter it. Then scroll down to "Update your member information."

PORTLAND CONVENTION

As of March 31, 8,419 people were registered for the upcoming international convention in Portland. Power Play will sing 7th of the 44 quartets that have qualified. Great Lakes Chorus, the Pioneer District representative, will sing first of the 21 choruses performing.

Keep the Whole World Singing (from Kenosha)

How important is singing to our culture? How important is it to each of us? You know the answers to these questions. Barbershoppers, perhaps above all others, understand the rewards of recreational singing.

We are desperately in danger of losing this important aspect of our North American culture. Of course the contributions Barbershoppers provide to the Harmony Foundation General Fund will provide grants for projects that help keep singing alive for young and old alike.

But another way we can keep the flame of recreational singing alive is to promote community singing when and wherever we perform. We can also encourage community singing in other organizations we belong to.

SPEBSQSA has produced a "*Community Song Leading Guide*. It contains advice and ideas from Joe Liles, Burt Szabo, Val Hicks and Bill Biffle.

INDEX TO THE 1ST 12 ISSUES OF SMOKE SIGNALS

(All are still available online at www.pontiacchapter.com, under Officers/Members.

#1, May, 2001

Spotlight on "Sunnyside"

#2, June, 2001

"What it's like to get Quartet Coaching?" (Jeff Doig, Harmony RndUp)

"The Anatomy of a Breath"

Membership Committee's promotional outline

#3, July, 2001

Report on the 63rd Convention, by Chris Miller

"What is it like to move from an international award-winning chorus to Pontiac-Waterford Big Chiefs?" Wally Plosky

#4, August, 2001

Spotlight on: Bill Pascher (Continued in #5,6,7)

Big Chief Membership Contest

#5, September, 2001

Smitty's Kraft Korner - Mistakes (And I don't mean "the Song")

Report on summer picnic

#6, October, 2001

Singing Judge Ed Fritzen's workshop on judging, Harmony Roundup

So why's it so hard to sing in a quartet? Chris Miller

Code of Ethics By Dick Johnson

"PURE BARBERSHOP", a digest of a Pionet colloquy

#7, November, 2001

Fortune in Dreams, Report on our fall show

"How to Become a Member"

#8, December, 2001

2001 Christmas Program

Bob Woodward obituary

2002 Officers election

#9, January, 2002

Barbershopper of the Year – Dick Johnson

The Year Ahead: Gene Downie

Music Goals 2002, Chris Miller

Members' goals for the Chorus for 2002

Quiz #1

#10, February, 2002

Finale NotePad™ 2002

Quiz#2

Music Man in Detroit

#11, March, 2002

Valentines Day Singouts

Woodshedding

#12, April, 2002

Annual Woodshed Contest, report by Dick Johnson

Calendar

May 14	Chorus Rehearsal
May 17-19	Harmony Roundup, MSU
May 21	Chorus Rehearsal
May 28	Chorus Rehearsal
June 4	Chorus Rehearsal
June 11	Chorus Rehearsal
June 13	Board Meeting
June 14	Windsor Send-Off Show
Jun 30-Jul 7	International Convention, Portland, OR
July 28-August 4	Harmony/Directors College, St. Joe, MO
Sept 27-29	Bush League
Oct 19-20	District Convention – Battle Creek
Sat, Nov 9 (2pm mat, 7:30pm eve)	Fall Show
Jan 4-5	COTS, Okemos, MI
January 18-26, 2003	Midwinter Convention, Albuquerque

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