The Pioneer District Spring Convention was held April 13-15 at Grand Traverse Resort in Acme, Michigan. The Big Chief Chorus competed for the first time under new Director Tom Blue’s tenure. We sang well, and everyone felt good about how effectively we entertained, told our two stories (“Ain’t Misbehaving” and “Let the Rest of the World Go By”), maintained pitch, demonstrated some dynamic range, synchronized our singing, and brought more unity and tallness to our vowel sounds. The judges liked our work also, and we reversed a recent downward trend in our scoring to achieve 693 points for a 58% average. (A table of our recent history – since Chris Miller started taking us to contest – is included below.)

Selected comments from the judges:

From Tom McQueeny, Singing Judge: Sing every note, maintain support, correct attack problems, be more aware of other voices than your own, experiment with variable percents of outputted air and sound.

From David McEachern, Presentation Judge: Show the rhythmic drive visually as well as vocally, more consistency in facial expressions, more playfulness facially.

From Chris Arnold, Music Judge: Tuning was an issue in the first measures, pay attention to vowel matching and taller sounds, swing songs require more emphasis on beats 2 & 4, a bit too wordy (emphasis on words instead of phrases).

But as Greg Moss pointed out, we didn’t hear some of the same old comments from judges, because of our improvements.

We ended up 8th out of 12 competing choruses. We also competed in Plateau 3, because our previous score had been in the 600s (total pts). See: http://www.pioneerdistrict.org/C&J/plateau_explained.htm

We scored just a click less than Traverse City’s Cherry Capitol Chorus, which was encouraging, because we were able to hear them, and they sounded great.

For some strange reason, Mt Pleasant’s Mountaintown Singers came to sing and be scored, but not to compete. Their score would have beaten eventual winner, Lansing’s Capitol City Chordsmen (who scored 847 points for a 70.6 average).

The thirteen quartets ranged quite a bit in quality, and it seemed to us (and the judges) that the average quality also deteriorated from Friday night to Saturday night. FERMATA NOWHERE led the scoring Friday night, but WILDCARD had higher scores Saturday, nearly upsetting FERMATA. MOXXIE was in the running Friday night but fell to 7th after the Finals. INFINITY has died and been reborn as RUSH HOUR with a new, ex-champion bass – Norm Thompson. PARTY OF FOUR had to scratch when Toby Shaver lost his voice.

Our Fall show quartet, FOUR MAN FISHIN’ TACKLE CHOIR, had new creative songs to sing, and sounded great and finished third; they are audience pleasers.

Notes on the weekend:

It was fun to see photos of our Fall show and of our new director periodically pop up on the big screen. We were all impressed at how receptive Tom was to the learning experience and how he jumped right in and became a barbershopper overnight.

Mike and Traci Slamka’s daughters were there to sing in the Sweet Adelines rising star quartet, CHROMATIX. They were a bit shrill, but they were sure pumped, and they knew what a chord was!

HARMONIOUS SHENANIGANS won the College quartet, but it was disappointing that they were the only entry. Where has INSIGNIA gone?

FOUR WHEEL DRIVE did not compete (the only Senior Quartet being WEEKEND AGENDA), but did sing in six afterglows in Chapter Hospitality Rooms, until Al’s infected throat finally gave out. It was a good thing too, that we did, because the competing quartets were delayed by the critiquing sessions...
for so long that many did not make it to the afterglows. We enjoyed a female quartet by the name of SASHAY, who sang of their love of bald men.

Jim Troeger was present to sing bass with his new quartet FULL THROTTLE. They are singing doo wop songs ala ROCKAPPPELLA in their flame-decorated vests over orange T-shirts.

Our new shirts were a hit, and much commented upon by other choruses. Everyone knew who we were, as their pupils contracted under the bright yellow shine.

Doran McTaggart emceed the Saturday night show, and included an emotional remembrance to his wife, who died this past year.

The site was grand (a pun), and we adjusted to the prices. (For example, noting the $3 price of the bottled water in our room, we stored it in the hotel safe for the weekend – just kidding!)

Dar Johnson was voiceless, but not choiceless, as he chose and arranged our Saturday evening dinner at Mountain Jacks. The whole chorus got a chance to meet Tom’s wife, Jana, and to sing “Kitty” to his daughters Grace and Anne.

Michael Baribeau of the Grand Rapids chapter has put a set of 62 photos of the convention on-line. Go to: http://greatlakeschorus.org/photos/album24 Here are two:

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Sunday morning, three chorus members attended the Gospel Sing in the Mackinaw Room. It was led by Neil Nugent, the bass of FMFTC and both FMFTC and WILDCARD sang Gospel Songs.

Close to a hundred district voices sang two polecats in the Joe Barbershop Chorus under Mark Hale before the competition.

It was the swan song for long-time competitor BORDER CROSSING, since Roy Gurney has moved to the East coast.

Jeff Gougeon wrote a generous letter to Pionet expressing their pride in being honored as Pioneer District's reps in this summer's 2007 International Convention and Contest in Denver. Although several illnesses limited their singing and participation at Traverse City, “FN is so very much looking forward to performances for several chapters over the next couple of months, and of course to performing for our friends and families at Windsor's annual Send-Off Show.”

**PR and Bulletin awards**

The Big Chief Chorus was honored to win two district-wide contests. Jack Teuber won the district award for Public Relations Officer of the year, and John Cowlishaw won Bulletin Editor of the Year. The awards were presented at the House of Delegates meeting, Friday afternoon, by Art Lane who said, “This is the first time in recent memory that members of the same chapter have won the district’s top two awards.” Each goes on to the international contest in Denver.

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**Photos by Michael Baribeau**

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**Higgins Lake**

What a wonderful Spring Singing Retreat. Thanks to Pete Mazzara for organizing our 5th one. Once again we gathered, thirty-two-strong, at the DNR’s Ralph A. MacMullan Center on the north shore of Higgins Lake for 42 hours of singing and camaraderie. Being a little later in the year, the snow was almost
gone, and on our Bruce Brede-led Health Walk, we observed broken ice on the Lake that halted ice-fishing activity.

Coach Al Fisk’s absence reduced the coaching factor but increased the focus of contest preparation, as Director Tom Blue had many hours to hone our performance. By Sunday morning, despite lack of warm-up and granted a level of exhaustion, the chorus sounded much improved to all our ears, and with a level of quality and uniformity that was missing at this same point last year.

On Sunday morning, there was an early departure by the Owens-Keith-Marshall car, as they returned for a Sunday afternoon gig of the jazz band. Rumor has it that Walt Bachman has joined the group as a drummer.

On Saturday night, the contest of Colors pitted four ensembles together. Bob Butcher’s UmberJacks took the prize with their heart-felt renditions of “Let Me Call You Sweetheart” and “Shine on Me.” They were “good with their hands” and Dave Myre led a strong Lead section. Congratulations to Bob’s team: Pete Mazzara, Bruce Brede, Dave Myre, Zaven Melkonian, Bob Marshall, Mike Keith and John Northey. They eked out their win over 2nd –place “Con-fuchia-on”, 3rd –place “Anti-Sep(ia)tics,” and 4th-place “Slow-(P)Ochres.”

This year, we missed the comradeship of other groups sharing MacMullan Center except for the brief appearance of the Woodcock Banders. Jokes were great once again, led by Bill Holmes. For those of you who happened to tune out during Roger Holmes penultimate pre-punch line, it was “Warden: Baloney, I don’t believe you, let those fish go.”

The food was great - items like cheesy casseroles, and planks of white fish, and strip steaks, and brownies, and coleslaw, etc.

Jim Owens brought his grandfather’s 50-year-old wine, whose quality, but not fruit source, was identified by all.

Dave Shantz emphasized the need for practice, practice, practice when it’s procedural memory that is involved.

Many renewals were handed out; Tom Blue was inducted into BHS and BCC, and four first-time Retreaters wore their feathered headbands (Blue, Butcher, McFadyen, and Northey).

Jack Teuber continued his incredible skill by arranging a gig Saturday afternoon at the Brooke Independent Living in Roscommon. The audience had the usual 8 to 1 ratio of women to men, and included such celebrities as the past owner of Tassy’s Bar and Grille. We were humble in response to their questioning whether we were on tour and whether we had CD’s for sale.

**Woodshed Contest**

We hosted the 51st annual Woodshed contest on April 6. Because of snow squalls and a religious holiday, attendance was down, but we still had 41 guys including 22 from other chapters. President Zaven welcomed the guests. Freddie McFadyen served as emcee. And the Silverdomes were the judges as well as singing a few songs. Moxxie was present to sing a couple sets, and spoke warmly of their belief in our tradition.

Of the eleven competing quartets, SONS OF PITCHES came out on top. Motor City Metro was awarded the Carroll P. Adams Bennington trophy. Bob Legato won $50 in the raffle, which was run by Dar Johnson.

More at: [http://www.kodakgallery.com/Slideshow.jsp?mode=fromshare&Uc=oxs2xrx.6yrfib9p&Uy=11y3cm&Ux=0](http://www.kodakgallery.com/Slideshow.jsp?mode=fromshare&Uc=oxs2xrx.6yrfib9p&Uy=11y3cm&Ux=0)
AROUND THE PATCH
The professional photographs of the chorus at TVC should be delivered about mid-May. Have ready a $10 check payable to “The Pontiac Chapter.”

Tom Blue came across a children’s book in which four sheep confuse “Barbershop” with “Bah-bah sheep” and head off to town to sing.

Cory Flattoff and his wife Kathleen’s walk for leukemia cure was highlighted in an article in the Oakland Press.

Don’t miss our very own Bob Marshall as the star of “Lil’ Abner,” a musical comedy, which will be put on by the Heart-of-the-Hills Players (“the finest senior citizen theatre troupe in Michigan”) at the Warren Community Center Theater, May 17, 18, 19.

Great to see newcomers Dave Allen and Dan Burleigh returning. We hope you continue to enjoy singing a cappella with us!

Big Chief Chicks met April 19 at Dea Downie’s home for “broach time.” Barb Workman is going to host an Alice in Wonderland Tea Party on Saturday, May 12, at 1:00 p.m. at her house!

AROUND THE DISTRICT
Steve Sutherland writes: The Pioneer web site is now officially at http://www.pioneerdistrict.org All that remains at the old site is an auto-forwarding file that takes you to the new site. Update your bookmarks!

A website of all the Pioneer chapter websites, including ours by Jeff Doig, is available at: http://www.barbershopharmony.org/PDWM.htm

For those of you who are not on PIONET, it’s worth doing. It’s the e-mail means of group correspondence within the Pioneer District. Check it out at: http://launch.groups.yahoo.com/group/PioNet/messages

The Beach Boys will be performing July 8 at Freedom Hill Amphitheatre in Sterling Heights, MI. Unfortunately, I guess Detroit music lovers will have to choose between them and the BCC on the Princess cruise. Tickets for the Beach Boys run from $10 to $45.

Bill Pascher’s name was one of ten solemnly read at the House of Delegates meeting, who have passed away in the last year. The others were:
- Don Adams- Grosse Pointe
- John Anglin- Battle Creek
- Herm Baker- Grand Rapids
- Dell Doctor- Muskegon/Holland
- John Gillespie- Kalamazoo
- Richard Kelly- Benton Harbor/St Joe
- Ron Seager- Saginaw Bay
- Tim Shinsky- Holland
- Bill Pascher- Pontiac/Waterford
- Warren Royer- Kalamazoo

Many of you saw BORDER CROSSING bass, Dan Bezaire at the convention on Saturday night looking a bit “different”. Dan’s wife, Adele is currently battling breast cancer, her chemo treatments, as a follow up to her surgery, have caused her to lose most of her hair. Dan said he expected it would all be gone by the time he returned home from the convention. So to support her, he shaved his head!

Wow, Joe Serwach was generous to Pontiac-Waterford with space in the latest Troubadour (March-April, 2007), and Jack Teuber and I gave him three articles to do so.

QUARTET NEWS
FOUR WHEEL DRIVE sang several times in April. On April 17, they entertained the crowd at Oakland University’s Faculty and Staff Talent Show. On April 20, they sang to 1250 lunch-hour students at Walled Lake Northern High School. On April 28 they sang in the “Spring Sing” at Clarkston Free Methodist Church. Each was a freebie associated with: Jack Teuber’s connections, John’s work-place, or Zaven’s church.

MEMBERSHIP (at 56)
Renewals: Dar Johnson (2), Dave Shantz (3), Art Carinci (8), Bob Legato (8), Walt Bachman (9), Paul Smith (16), Roger Holm (20), Mel Parrish (22)
Pending: Dave Monroe
May Birthdays: Gene Downey (45th), Bill Dabbs (17th), Dave Monroe (31st)
Barbershopper of the Month – Mar – Bruce Brede for his excellent work as section leader and his retreat activities.
Medical: Ted Prueter missed the Convention because of an antibiotic reaction and some loss of feeling in his legs. He’s back now.
Personal: Terry Jamison is taking a little time off to deal with personal issues.
WELCOME TO NASHVILLE!
is the brand new CD featuring some of the best names in barbershop harmony, singing songs inspired by the Music City itself: Nashville, Tennessee. A portion of the proceeds will go directly to the Barbershop Harmony Society (www.barbershop.org) to aid in that move from Kenosha, Wisconsin to Nashville. Featuring performances by champion quartets like Gotcha!, Realtime, Vocal Spectrum, Rounders and more!

This is the first barbershop compilation album ever made entirely from all-new studio recordings, and featuring guest appearances from some famous Nashville celebrities: Richard Sterban from The Oak Ridge Boys, singing "Daddy Sang Bass" with Vocal Spectrum, The Jordanaires (of Elvis fame) singing "Are You Lonesome Tonight" with Rounders, etc.

CDs can be ordered via credit/debit card at: www.nashvillebarbershop.com

Mike Frye forwarded a wonderful website of music - maybe too wonderful. http://www.tropicalglen.com/ It's called Playa Cofi, "the best of the top 100 from the golden years of popular music." However, their web site currently says: The great barbershop arranger and Society Hall of Fame honoree, Walter Latzko, has recently completed his 991st barbershop arrangement. We anticipate our delivery of user selectable streaming audio music "distributes copies of digital files of RIAA member sound recordings to end users," and is therefore in violation of the member artist copyrights. We will take a few days to find a new way to provide you with the music you love at this site." Check back later.

According to Mel Jenkins of the Livingston Lamplighters, April 11 was National Barbershop Quartet Day!

MOVIES

A new barbershop movie just opened April 27, well at least a cappella. "Sing Now or Forever Hold Your Peace" is an ensemble comedy/drama about a group of guys who sang together in a college a cappella group and are reuniting 15 years later to sing at a friend's wedding. "...the amazing a cappella soundtrack features original a cappella arrangements of songs by Coldplay, Ben Folds Five, Sting, Phil Collins and more, performed by Tufts Beelzebubs, MIT Logarhythms, UVA Academical Village People, Oxford's Out of the Blue, Barry Carl and the cast of "Sing Now..." featuring none other than Sean Altman - what's not to love??" (from Amy Briggs at MAC Yak Events notice)

American Harmony, the Movie (a documentary)

For a 5-minute preview of another new movie about Barbershop Music, click on this site: http://americanharmonymovietv.com/ then click on this: "click here to see a sneak peek<http://americanharmonymovietv.com/video.php>"
MEET WAYNE CHEYNE

Wayne Cheyne (say CHEEN, not SHINE, or any other variation) was born in Grand Rapids in 1938, but his family (Wayne, mom, dad, and sister) moved to Athens, MI when his dad took a job at Eaton Manufacturing Company, a maker of automotive valves in Battle Creek. His WWII memories include coupon books, tokens, and 35 mph speed limits.

His love of music began with listening to the Longine Symphony Orchestra in the 1950s on Sunday afternoon radio. In 5th and 6th grades he sang in a sextet, but in 7th grade, his music turned instrumental, playing the trumpet and then the baritone, which he liked for its good harmony. With only 56 in his high school graduating class, there were opportunities for multiple activities, and he played defensive end and kicker on the football team until he broke his collar bone.

He attended Michigan State University, receiving his B.S. in Secondary Education (Math, Physics, and Chemistry). Later he received a Masters’ degree from Oakland University. He started teaching at Athens High School and working at Kellogg’s in the summer. When an opening developed in the Farmington school system, he moved there for a year in 1965, and then to Bloomfield Hills system for thirty-four years. He retired in 2000.

He met his wife Joanie, an elementary school teacher, thru his sister, and married her in 1969. Their son Bob works as a packaging engineer in Rochester, and has a 10-month-old daughter. Their daughter Sarah and her husband work for the US State Department in Washington, D.C.

After raising the kids, Joanie went back to school, got turned on to math, eventually getting her Masters Degree and teaching at Oakland Community College. She retired in December and was named Distinguished Professor Emeritus this April 27.

Although his emphasis was instrumental, Wayne had sung in church choirs, and, in fact, for six years in a gospel quartet in the church, both as baritone and bass. Enter, Walt DeNio. Walt and Jan had been long-term friends, especially thru working on millage campaigns together. So when Wayne was at Meijers doing Christmas shopping in 2000 and he saw Walt in the Big Chief Chorus, Walt invited him to come. Wayne sang Bari for one night but decided he preferred the deeper range of the Bass. He points out that Basses need a good ear to harmonize with Leads, while concentrating on their own line, and he finds his band training has given him that ear; even now, when attending Detroit Symphony Orchestra concerts, he can easily pick out the bassoons and baritones separately.

Wayne has not yet sung in a barbershop quartet. He thinks that prior work with a voice coach would be helpful and is looking for one that understands barbershop singing. (He regrets that Gene Hanover’s visit to town never materialized last fall.)

He appreciates that barbershop gives him a wonderful chance to be with a great group of guys, and has emphasized that aspect in the Welcome letters he has written for Guest Night, the last two Septembers. Wayne is our Vice President for Chapter Development. He also was the point man for three Valentines seasons.

His hobbies include golf, fly-fishing, hunting (geese, turkeys, deer, and ducks), and the theater (Purple Rose, Stratford, and Stagecrafters). Wayne and Joanie co-own a condo in Palmetto, FL, where they go each winter. While there he attends the small Sandpiper chorus in Bradenton.
Sound and Music (the 13th in a series by Bruce Brede)

“Don't Sell Yourself Short”

I've heard many newer barbershoppers, and some long-timers too, say that they could never sing in the Chorus without standing next to a good singer. And singing in a quartet would be out of the question. But, how do any of us know what's in store down the road? Are we really a good judge of what we're capable of long term?

Here's a metaphor to think about. You're driving quite a distance at night over unfamiliar roads. Your headlights show what's ahead but only a few hundred feet at a time. So do you conclude, based on where you are and what's happening right now, that you'll never get anywhere because you can't see what's beyond a hundred feet or so. Do you stop every hundred feet or so to check if the next hundred are viable? Obviously not, but why?

Because you know you're a good driver right now, that your equipment is reliable right now and the experts and authorities tell you what's out there and that there's no surprises in what you can't visualize. You trust, try and move on! The alternative is to stay home and be bored.

Listen to your Directors, Section Leaders and singing friends...they know your potential probably better than you do. I suspect they will also tell you about their own experiences and how they felt before personally venturing forth, anxious but in faith, to ensemble and quartet. They could not imagine the road beyond their immediate vision either and now they've reached more enjoyment than they could have ever imagined. Just ask any new Valentiners how they felt right after they finished their first day of gigs.

So the next hundred feet, or your first couple years, may have you standing next to your mentor with polecats and Chorus Songs on your own 1x2. But then, on faith, accelerate to Chorus Singouts and Christmas Gigs, then Contest, then Ensembling, Quarteting and Woodshedding.

Your speedometer is your feelings and emotions. They will tell you how you're progressing. If it feels good and you're enthusiastic, it is good and keep at it!!! And don't judge your potential when your engine is barely warm. There's promise and rewards out there beyond what you see and imagine. TRUST AND TRY!

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The Society for the Promotion and Encouragement of Italian Cooking in America, by John Cowlishaw (Reprinted from the May, 2004 Smoke Signals)

Listen up, all you Italian chefs. The SPEICA competition is coming and you will be judged in three categories, cuisine, presentation, and cooking. The cuisine judge will be evaluating how well you cook in the Italian style. You'll be expected to use pasta, antipasti, Asagio and Parmigiano cheeses, pestos, cold-pressed olive oil, and fresh vegetables and spices. At least 35% of the dishes should have the requisite tomato sauces. The various courses and dishes should complement each other, such as choosing a wine that matches the dishes you've prepared. Use dynamic variety, alternating mild dishes with
strong, pungent dishes. Look here - you can cook Tex-Mex or French or nouveau
cuisine all you want with your friends, but for competition you must cook in a
manner that exemplifies and does honor to the Italian style of cooking.

The presentation judge will be evaluating how you present your meal to the
diners, including your engaged manner, bright eyes and friendly smiles, your
tempo in the delivery of the various courses, your use of color, a pleasing table
setting including flowers, the manner in which you offer the wine. If your
waiters are costumed, they should fit the type of dishes chosen. Judging begins
at the moment the diner is seated with menu. In summary, the presentation judge
will be asking how effectively you have brought Italian cuisine out of the
cookbooks and into the diners’ hearts, causing them to exclaim, “Mama Mia,
what a meal!”

The cooking judge will be evaluating your ability to cook the ingredients.
The pasta should not be mushy. The vegetables should be crisp. The wine
should be mellow. The individual tastes should synchronize together. You don’t
want some of the asparagus spears to be undercooked while others are
overcooked, but rather each dish should have a “unit taste.” Of course, your
cooking expertise affects your score in presentation and cuisine also, since proper
cooking enhances the presentation and the recognition of Italian cuisine. In
Italian cooking, we are proud to say, the combination of all these elements will
create what we like to call “expanded taste.”

Some advice to new chefs. You won’t be judged on the difficulty of the
recipes, so choose recipes that are within your skills and abilities. Better to cook
a simple spaghetti well, than to fail at a polenta or risotto.

Some chefs are still having trouble distinguishing the categories and thereby
understanding the basis of their resulting scores. Perhaps it would be helpful to
use a simple musical analogy. Our musical brothers, (the “barbers of Seville,” we
might say) have obviously used our judging system in formulating their own,
(replacing our Cuisine, Presentation, and Cooking with their Music, Presentation,
and Singing), and from which I therefore will quote so that you may more easily
understand the fine art of culinary judging.

Music
The Music judge evaluates the song and the arrangement, as performed. He
adjudicates the musical elements in the performance—melody, harmony, range,
tempo, rhythm and meter, construction and form, and embellishments—and the
degree to which the musical elements of the song and arrangement display the
hallmarks of the barbershop style.

Presentation
The Presentation judge evaluates how effectively a performer brings the
song to life—that is, the believability of the theme in its musical and visual
setting. He responds to both the vocal and visual aspects of the presentation and
evaluates everything about the performance that contributes to emotional impact
upon the audience.

Singing
The Singing judge evaluates the degree to which the performer achieves
artistic singing in the barbershop style. This is accomplished through precise, in-
tune harmonizing, a high degree of vocal skill and a high level of unity and
consistency within the ensemble. Mastering these elements also creates a feeling
of fullness, "ring" or expansion of sound throughout the performance.

Ciao!

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

Excerpts from Bill Holmes’ minutes.
March 31, 2007

The Board met at the retreat. All members except Gil Schreiner present,
plus Music Committee members. Following discussion, a motion was approved
that the chapter hire THE NOVELTY SHOP as one guest quartet for our Fall
Show; their cost would be $1,000. A motion was also approved that we hire
FOUR MAN FISHING TACKLE CHOIR to be a second guest quartet; their cost
would be $1,350 plus two hotel rooms for one show and the Cast Party.

April 18, 2007

Attending were: President Zaven Melkonian, Ron Clarke, Dave Myre, Jack
Teuber, Roger Holm, Gil Schreiner, Wayne Cheyne, Dar Johnson and Bill
Holmes.

The treasurer’s report was submitted in writing and showed a balance of
$22,871.

Wayne Cheyne reported that all members up for renewal for this first quarter
have renewed. This puts us at about 56 members. Attendance last Tuesday
evening totaled 33 singers. Wayne noted others are interested in becoming
members.

Roger Holm reported that the Music Committee with Tom Blue assisting
will select show and contest music for this coming season. Following a full
discussion by all the board, the contract to present to the director for one year is
being developed. Roger will talk to Tom regarding its provisions. Roger will
prepare the contract with the added suggestions made by the board members. The
secretary was requested to register our director, Tom Blue, at the District
Convention since the Board agreed to cover such an expense.

Jack submitted a written report on our various sing outs and he will update it
as needed. The board decided not to pay for contest photos. Individuals may
choose to buy one if desired.

The board decided not to establish formal rules regarding members singing
at contest. The Big Chief Chorus includes all members of our membership
family and encourages all to sing who desire to do so. Members who know the
songs, the notes, the pitch, the dynamics and the director’s interpretation are
welcome to be on the risers.
The Barbershopper of the Month is Bruce Brede. Bruce’s work as section leader, his excellent planning and execution at the retreat developing the various ensembles as well as his other involvement in the chapter earn him the selection by the board.

Letters to the Editor
From Ron Arnold:
John,

I am taking this opportunity to once again thank you for keeping me on the distribution list for the "Smoke Signals", and to let you know of an upcoming concert event that is sure to please the most discerning musical enthusiasts and also help a worthwhile cause that all-too-often strikes those closest to us.”

It is The BeckRidge Chorale’s concert, Sing for the Cure. We welcome the Birmingham-Bloomfield Symphony Ensemble and thank them for their participation in this worthwhile charity event. The concert is Saturday, May 5 at 8pm and Sunday, May 6 at 3pm at Northville High School, 45700 Six Mile Rd. Tickets are $25 and $30. Proceeds benefit Karmanos Cancer Institute.

www.plycommunitychorus.org

From Art Carinci:
Hey John,

Thanks for the photos. I do miss you guys and I'm happy to see everyone having a good time. My thoughts and prayers are with you all as you travel to TC for the competition. I am sad to think that I won't be making the trip with you. This is the first one I’ve missed since I joined the BCC. Break a vocal chord (Is that what you're supposed to say to a vocal group?)

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#66, October, 2006
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Selected vocal warmups
Meet Greg Moss
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Dreamgirls – review
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#70, February, 2007
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Meet Dave Myre

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Meet Tom Jackson

#72, April, 2007
Sound & Music – one year from Bruce Brede completed
Meet Tom Blue
**CHAPTER LEADERSHIP**

Director: Thomas Blue (248-814-9627)  
Assistant Directors: Dick Johnson, Fred McFadyen, Lyle Howard, & Bill Holmes  
President: Zaven Melkonian (248-698-1144)  
Past President: Pete Mazzara  
VP: Chapter Dev: Wayne Cheyne  
VP: Music and Performance: Roger Holm  
VP: Marketing & PR: Jack Teuber  
Secretary: Bill Holmes  
Treasurer: Dick Johnson  
Members at Large – Ron Clarke, Dar Johnson, Dave Myre, Gil Schreiner  
Chorus Manager: Terry Jamison  
Music Team: Holm, Johnson, Doig, Ensign, McFadyen, Melkonian, Murray, Prueter

**CALENDAR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 1, T</td>
<td>Chorus rehearsal, Crary</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 8, T</td>
<td>Chorus rehearsal, Crary</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 9, W</td>
<td>Exec. Bd Mtg, 7pm @ Bill Holmes’ home</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 11, F</td>
<td>Mothers’ Day at American House, Rochester Hills, 6pm, 5:30 warmup; 3617 S. Adams Rd, Manor 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 15, T</td>
<td>Chorus rehearsal, Crary</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 22, T</td>
<td>Chorus rehearsal, Crary</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 29, T</td>
<td>Chorus rehearsal, Last @ Crary until Fall</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 5, T</td>
<td>Chorus rehearsal @ Waterford Oaks ‘Lookout Lodge’</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jun 8, F</td>
<td>Send-Off Show @ Windsor Host</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jun 13, W</td>
<td>Exec. Bd Mtg, 7pm @ Jack Teuber’s home</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jun 15, F</td>
<td>St. Anne’s Mead, 12 Mile nr Greenfield, Southfield, 7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jun 26, T</td>
<td>Frankenmuth Bratfest, 7pm; bus leaves at 6pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 1-8</td>
<td>BHS International convention, Denver, CO</td>
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<td>Jul 8, Su</td>
<td>Detroit Princess Dinner Cruise</td>
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<td>Jul 17, T</td>
<td>White Lk Twp &amp; Library, M-59 @ Porter Rd</td>
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<td>Jul 28, Sa</td>
<td>Goodrich Su. Concert Series, Goodrich Village Park, 7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jul 29 – Aug 5</td>
<td>Harmony University 2007, St. Joseph MO</td>
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<td>Aug 7, T</td>
<td>Michigan Snr Oympics Banquet, Rochester Stony Creek</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 9, Th</td>
<td>Oxford Village Park (with Sweet Ads’ Great Lake Chorus)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 26-28</td>
<td>District Convention, Kalamazoo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 3, Sa</td>
<td>BCC 63rd Annual Show, 7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 1, Sa</td>
<td>Lake Orion Christmas Parade 4:30pm</td>
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