



**Pontiac/Waterford Chapter**  
Meetings on Tuesdays: 7:30 to 10 PM

**Bulletin #21, January 14, 2003**

### **Some smoke (thoughts) from President Pete Mazzara**

BCC Goals: Fun, Fellowship, and Good Singing.

Eight board members attend COTS training Jan. 4-5 in Okemos: Pete Mazzara, President, Dick Johnson, Treasurer, Jeff Doig, Secretary, Doc Mann, VP Membership, Chris Miller, Director, Jeff Spires, Young Men In Harmony, and Zaven Melkonian Chuck Murray, Members-at-Large. In addition, Doc and Pete attended the Membership Summit the previous day.

This years COTS program was the biggest and the best to date. We had Officer Training, learned a couple of new songs, and sang tags. The after glow on Saturday night featured several outstanding quartets including the FOUR-MAN FISHING TACKLE, POWER PLAY, CROSSFIRE, AND ANTIQUE ROAD SHOW. Our Board members are excited, enthusiastic, and ready to go.

Congratulations! The Christmas Sing Outs made \$525 for our chapter.

All BCC members are encouraged to attend Uncle Sam Night, hosted by the Windsor chapter, Friday, Jan. 17th @ 7:30pm. We would like to have our chapter on stage, so make the commitment to attend.

The Executive Board approved the Singing Retreat for March 21-23, at the MacMullan Conference Center on the north shore of Higgins Lake, IF at least 30 men pay their half of the cost, \$65, by February 4th. If we do not meet these requirements, we will be forced to cancel the project. Checks should be made out to the Pontiac Chapter for \$65.

Since Crary MS will be closed Feb. 25 for midwinter break, the Board has decided to have Pizza Night, 7:30pm, at the Over Tyme Grill, in place of a rehearsal. The BCC will buy the Pizza.

BCC members are welcome to attend Executive Board meetings, or they may contact any Board member to express their concerns or interests. The next meeting will be Feb. 6th, 7:30pm, at Pete's house.

Dick Johnson and Gene Downie will be attending a six-hour Grant Writing conference Saturday, Feb. 8th.

Gene will be chairing the Valentine Sing Program this year. Please get those flyers out and sell Singing Valentines.

DOC is having their Show Feb. 14 & 15, @ Clarenceville HS. See Jeff Spires for tickets.

We have a 2003 Calendar for the BCC. (It's included in this issue.)

Remember: Ask not what you chorus can do for you; ask what you can do for your chorus.  
Pete

### **And from VP for Chapter Development Doc Mann:**

Gentlemen: I know unless you were there it is hard to get excited and enthusiastic about what transpired this past weekend at COTS (Chapter Organization Training Seminar). But rest assured your Board as well as your Young Men in Harmony Chairperson Jeff Spires, represented you and became excited for you.

(Don Bazely's email) caught the excitement and along with what your board will bring back to you, I am hoping it will help reinstall the excitement and pride that we also feel.

This pride of our hobby needs to continue to grow. Not only in our own achievement to becoming better singers which helps us enjoy what we are doing and have more fun but also in our growth and expansion. I am asking you to begin to seriously think of sharing this hobby with others not yet involved.

I would like each of you to think of why you are here, week after week? What

makes you continually renew your membership? Think of how you feel when you hear a quartet or a chorus sing a song or ring a chord that excites you and makes you feel the pride of being a barbershopper. Give your relatives, good friends, church chorus members, fellow service club members and people you meet the opportunity to feel that same pride and self-esteem that you feel and have by sharing our wonderful hobby.

Lets all work together to help this hobby of ours continue to grow and prosper. We will be here with the tools to help you, just ask and you will receive.

In harmony, (sometimes)  
Doc Mann, Lead  
VP Membership

## AROUND THE PATCH

### MEMBERSHIP (Now at 59)

**Renewals:** Ron Clarke (2), Ted Prueter (2), Bill Auquier (4), Walt DeNio (6), Bruce Brede (6), Donald Carrier (20), Bill Nevaux (27), John Smith (45), Len Barnes (48), Bill Pascher (60)

### Birthdays:

Jan – Dennis Robinson 25<sup>th</sup>

Feb – Ross Ensign 7<sup>th</sup>, Bill Pascher 10<sup>th</sup>,

**Barbershopper of the Month** – December – **Bruce Brede**

## FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT

The 1980 International Champion quartet **THE BOSTON COMMON** will headline the Lansing Chapter's show at the Wharton Center for Performing Arts, on the campus of Michigan State University, Saturday, March 8, 2003 at 7:30 p.m.

Gregory P Humbel, our Pioneer District V.P. of Marketing &Public Relations points out that the **Book Cadillac Building** in downtown Detroit was the home of many Pioneer District Firsts. It was just purchased by the Marriott Hotel Corp. and will be refurbished in time for the Super Bowl 2006. "I would think that we could be a part of this reopening with some Harmony and maybe a Barbershop plaque of some kind." Although the first gathering of the first Michigan chapter was at Lake Orion in the summer of 1939, the first regular meeting was held at the Book Cadillac Hotel.

The **new editor of Troubadour** is Joe Serwach from Grosse Pointe (jservach@aol.com). He replaces Gary Simon who served four years. The next deadline is Feb. 5.

Harmony Travel is proud to announce that **POWER PLAY**, the 2002 third-place international quartet medalist, will host the post-Montreal convention cruise next July. The post-convention cruise leaves Montreal at noon Sunday, July 6, and ends in Boston Saturday, July 12. The cruise is on a 5-Star ship from Holland America Lines, and features tours of Quebec City; a cruise of the scenic Saguanay Fjord; Prince Edward Island; Sydney and Halifax, Nova Scotia; and Bar Harbor, Maine.

Cruise prices start from \$1,595. Airfare, port charges, government fees, and security charges of \$260 are additional.

The following two new **multimedia presentations from Kenosha** are well worth the time it takes to download the software to handle them from the web.

**(1) Have you ever tried to tell someone why you devote so much time and energy to barbershop and stumbled? Watch "SINGING IS LIFE"** and it may become easier. Or just let the video speak for you. It's 12 minutes and 48 seconds of great barbershop harmony and information. There's a link from the home page directly to it.

[http://stellent.spebsqsa.org/web/groups/public/documents/pages/pub\\_id\\_042542.hcsp](http://stellent.spebsqsa.org/web/groups/public/documents/pages/pub_id_042542.hcsp)

It includes **FOUR VOICES** (singing "I Love that Old Barbershop Style"), **NORTHERN LIGHTS, FRED, VOCAL MAJORITY, POWER PLAY**, and others. You'll need Windows Media Player to watch and listen.

**(2) What is barbershop? How has it evolved through the years? A fascinating multimedia presentation by David Wright traces our musical roots.**

This is a wonderful musical lecture available from the SPEBSQSA home site. It's a 35-minute presentation by David Wright to the *Style Examination Committee*, as that body was preparing its report for the Society Contest and Judging Committee. In it, Mr. Wright discusses the historical evolution of BBS with recorded examples from BBS artists thru the years, including: FLAT FOOT FOUR, BARTLESVILLE BARFLIES, PITTSBURGHERS, GAS HOUSE GANG, MID STATES FOUR, and MICHIGAN JAKE. He says that **all the examples exude the following characteristics**, which he uses to define the barbershop style:

- (1) Four part *a cappella* harmony. (This is the way the style developed on the street corner and in the barber's shop.)
- (2) Chord vocabulary consisting of consonant chords, frequently using the barbershop seventh.
- (3) The presence of circle-of-fifths resolutions.
- (4) Solid voicings, meaning the bass generally occupies the root or fifth of the chord, and doublings of triads occur on the root or the fifth.
- (5) Just intonation and emphasis on match, blend, ring, and lock.
- (6) The use of embellishments.

He ends with examples of music that aren't quite BBS and he shows that none of the non-barbershop examples possess all of these characteristics. "The purpose is to make observations about the progress and evolution of the barbershop style and especially to point out the strong thread of heritage and continuity born out by these comparisons, a thread that binds us with our past."

Currently the talk is highlighted on the SPEBSQSA home site, but if it is moved, copy and paste this URL:

[http://stellent.spebsqsa.org/web/groups/public/documents/pages/pub\\_id\\_044942.hcsp](http://stellent.spebsqsa.org/web/groups/public/documents/pages/pub_id_044942.hcsp)

*You'll need RealOnePlayer to listen to it, but that only takes a few minutes to download (for free) from [www.real.com](http://www.real.com).*

### MEET BRUCE BREDE

You know that Bruce was chosen as Barbershopper of the Month of December for his many services to the chorus, such as organizing the cast party and the bus tour. And his delight in "joke-ing." But did you know....?

Bruce is a native Michigander, born in Detroit in 1931. When Bruce was two, his dad lost his Chevrolet dealership in the depression, and the family moved to Oakland County. Bruce graduated from Pontiac High School, then attended General Motors Institute for two years before being called up to active service in the Navy in 1951.

When he returned, he married his high school sweetheart, Bonnie, a UofM-educated nurse, and finished up his bachelors degree in Mechanical Engineering from GMI in 1955 while co-op-ing at GM Truck and Coach. Bruce and Bonnie started their family, daughters Diane and Beth and son David.

Night classes led to an MBA, and in 1963 Bruce left GM for Ford, where he was in the management of advanced heavy truck engineering.

In 1969, the family moved to San Paolo, Brazil for 2 years in Ford's new truck program.

In his final 20 years at Ford, he had various technical positions that involved corporate strategy, planning, analysis, writing, and leading meetings.

He lives in the same neighborhood as Smitty and Lennie Barnes, and started walking with Len, whom he knew from the old GM days. Len invited him to a rehearsal one night in 1996 "for pizza." (It's a standing joke whether Bruce thought pizza was served every night.) Bruce joined that year (along with Gene Downey, Walt DeNio, & Bill Holmes.) Soon Bruce was deep into it, and had the lead in the 1998 show, "Barbershop from the Heart," in which he played a kind of nerdy character who duetted "Lida Rose" with Eileen Marshall.

Other interests have included running and sailing. In middle age, he determined to run a 26-mile marathon when he turned 50, and he eventually ran five marathons in the 1980's, even breaking 4 hours! He also sailed competitively on Watkins Lake, and instilled the bug in his son who lettered in sailing at UofM, and then represented the United States in Sardinia, Italy.

Bruce took piano lessons as a child and then as an adult, giving him a good basic knowledge of music. He has sung tenor in the Oakland Avenue Presbyterian Church choir. He really enjoys quartetting and formed HARMONY WAY with Jack Teuber, Tom Jackson, Jeff Spires, and later Don DeNoyer, Al Monroe, Mike Keith, and Chuck Murray. Our shortage of tenors has aborted that effort. Bruce points out that a good lead has to (a) sing the lead notes, and (b) enjoy being out front in the spotlight, and that some of our present leads who do (a) but not (b) might well consider switching to tenor.

**NOW YOU KNOW THE REST OF THE STORY!**

---

What if you lose the ability to sing? In the next few issues, I will be including material on **treating the voice well**. As a beginning, consider the issues in this excerpt from an article in the Washington Post, December 2, 2002.

**"A Hunt for Ways to Keep the Talkers Talking"** by Louis Jacobson

IOWA CITY -- Ingo R. Titze, the director of the National Center for Voice and Speech at the University of Iowa, gained attention in the mid-1990s for appearing onstage and singing a duet with "Pavarobotti" -- a computer he had programmed to accompany him in an operatic aria.

Today, Titze is investigating a less highbrow challenge, but one that will have a greater impact on Americans who use their voice on the job. With funding from the National Institutes of Health, Titze and his fellow investigators will soon be hooking up vocal-cord monitors to almost 100 volunteer teachers in Denver. The hope is to gain a better understanding of the basic mechanics of speaking, so that people who talk for a living can better avoid raspiness and pain.

Titze's project will be the first extensive study of how human vocal cords perform in real-life, workaday settings. "He is attempting to use the idea of a 'vocal vibration dose' much like we do with noise exposure for hearing, radiation exposure for nuclear power plant workers, or sun exposure for avoiding skin disorders," says Brad H. Story, a University of Arizona professor and former student of Titze's in the world of speech and hearing sciences.

Studies by Titze and his colleagues show that at any given time, 3 percent to 9 percent of the U.S. population exhibits a voice disorder. **Singers have 575 times the risk**, and teachers have a little less than five times the risk.

Pop vocalists and opera singers typically develop routines in which they alternate intense public performances with mostly quiet periods of rest -- much as baseball starting pitchers take the mound every fifth day to keep their arm muscles fresh.

But Titze and his colleagues want to know more about the mechanics of speaking. How much rest is needed for vocal cords to operate optimally? Ideally, how should those periods of rest be spaced throughout the day? And how are patterns of pitch and volume related to vocal-cord stress?

In Titze's study, volunteer teachers will be hooked to an electronic gadget for two weeks at a time. The pocket-sized device will measure vocal vibrations using a wire attached to the subject's throat. The device is designed to record continual feedback about the volume, pitch and duration of the subject's speech.

When the teachers are hooked to the machine, they will be asked to rate their voice periodically by how tired it feels, both during normal classroom conditions and while performing a set of standardized vocal exercises between classes. "If they have any bobbles, they will have to rate how severe they are," Titze says. Titze and his colleagues will then cross-reference the teachers' voice-quality indexes with the patterns of pitch, volume and duration that they exhibited during that time period.

Human vocal cords, which are about the size of a dime, consist of symmetrical folds of muscle that are joined at the top. They make sound by vibrating -- moving closer together or farther away at their separated end, as the sound demands.

The researchers want to come up with tables that explain how much tissue damage is caused by varying levels of vocal-cord vibrations. Such tables already exist in analogous contexts, such as the use of jackhammers by road workers.

Workers who use jackhammers for too long can experience loss of circulation or nerve activity. With vocal cords, "we're talking about vibrations with accelerations reaching 200 g's" -- that is, gravitational-force equivalents, Titze said. "The cellular matrix has to withstand all of that."

When a person's cords are overworked, a "vocal nodule," consisting of a callused area, may develop; typically, this makes the person's voice sound raspy. This condition is more common among higher-pitched speakers -- including sopranos, tenors, and women and children -- because higher pitches come from making faster vocal vibrations than are made for low pitches. People who scream regularly, such as cheerleaders, are especially prone to nodules.

Over the years, patients with serious vocal problems have been injected with everything from collagen and Teflon to foam and fat. "But it's a pure guess as to whether any of these match what's ideal for the job," Titze says. No sustained research on this question has been done before, because having a good voice "is not a life-or-death issue. It's a quality-of-life issue," he says.

© 2002 The Washington Post Company

---

Jeff Doig submits the following **Executive Board Minutes** for January 5, 2003. Treasurer Dick Johnson reported a balance of \$11,796.50. The account will be audited annually. Expenses over \$100 require Board approval, smaller expenses by voucher. The Christmas singout program netted \$700 minus \$175 for the bus.

Gene Downie will chair the Singing Valentine program. Dick Johnson and Gene Downie will attend a Grant Writing Training course. A 2003 calendar was established. It includes the Woodshed contest March 28, Dick Johnson to chair, and the singing retreat, March 21-23. Decided that all chapter members will be bonded. Dick Johnson will seek an interest-bearing savings account for a rainy day fund. Doc Mann laid out his game plan for membership. The music committee, Chris Miller, John Smith, and Dick Johnson, would like to establish a small ensemble that could qualify for the fall contest. Chuck Murray will assist Jeff Spires on Young Men In Harmony.

#### **Letter to the editor:**

**The bulletin is some of the "glue" that binds the Chapter together.** It needs to be mailed to Florida and Arizona to the Snowbirds, as well. You have a great challenge and responsibility in writing the Smoke Signals. It helps new members get oriented. It helps current members recall what events are scheduled, when, etc. It helps sick members stay in touch with the Chorus pulse. It helps absentees remember what was on the schedule, when.

One of the problems which plague all writers of Monthly Newsletters is "**lack of information flow**" from Chorus members, Board members, etc. to the Smoke Signals author. With a little thought, we can all do better at our individual responsibilities to the Chorus, and with a little planning, we can all do so much more efficiently, so our jobs are not "burdens."

The previous editor of the Troubadour requested articles to be submitted in a certain format via email attachments. This streamlined his "information flow". A good push internally (New Year's Resolution) at Pontiac would be to get **all members "on-line"** next year. Another good push internally (New Year's Resolution) at Pontiac would be to work on "physical fitness" as it relates to our abilities to sing well, and to be able to "stand on the risers for three (3) hours" as they do at Macomb Chapter for rehearsal. Better physical fitness, weight loss, etc. would enhance our "moves and stage presence", as well as increase the longevity of the membership.

Keep the faith, and continue doing the great writing job you are already doing on the Smoke Signals!

Sing from the heart, Chordially,

**Chuck Murray**



---

## Chapter Executive Board

### Officers

Chorus Director: Chris Miller ((248-960-5101)  
President: Pete Mazzara (313-563-4026)  
VP, Chapter Development: Doc Mann  
VP, Music and Performance: John Smith  
Secretary: Jeff Doig  
Treasurer: Dick Johnson  
Members at Large: Chuck Murray, Zaven Melkonian

### Chairmen

Quartet Activity: Len Barnes  
Service (Charity): Bruce Brede  
Singing Valentine: Bob Marshall  
Chorus Manager: Art Carinci  
Music Librarian: Bill Holmes  
Uniform Manager: Bill Auquier  
Sunshine (Chaplain): Bill Dabbs  
Bulletin Editor: John Cowlshaw  
Marketing & PR: Walt DeNio

# BIG CHIEF CHORUS

## 2003 CALENDAR, OUR 60th YEAR

### JANUARY

03 Fri Membership Summit, Okemos  
 04 Sat COTS, Okemos  
 05 Sun 1st Exec. Board Mtg., @ COTS  
 07 Tue Linda Liddicoatt Coach  
 14 Tue Rehearsal @ Crary MS  
 17 Fri Uncle Sam Night, Windsor Host, 7:30pm  
 19-25 Sun-Sat Midwinter Convention, Albuquerque, NM  
 21 Tue Rehearsal  
 27 Tue Rehearsal

### FEBRUARY

04 Tue Linda Coach  
 06 Thr Executive Board Meeting, 7:30pm @ Pete's  
 10 Mon Bill Pascher, Charter Member's Birthday  
 11 Tue Rehearsal  
 13-14 Thr-Fri Valentine's Day Sing Outs  
 18 Tue Rehearsal  
 25 Tue Pizza Night @ The Over Tyme Grill, No Rehearsal

### MARCH

04 Tue Linda Coach  
 11 Tue Rehearsal  
 13 Thr Exec. Brd. Mtg., 7:30pm, @ Jeff Doig's  
 18 Tue Rehearsal  
 21-23 Fri-Sun BCC Singing Retreat, MacMullan Center, Higgins Lake  
 25 Tue Rehearsal  
 28 Fri Woodshed Contest @ Pontiac CC, BCC Host

### APRIL

01 Tue Linda Coach  
 08 Tue Rehearsal  
 10 Thr Exec. Brd. Mtg., 7:30pm @ Gene's  
 11 Fri SPEBSQSA Birthday, Founded 1938  
 15 Tue Linda Coach & Family Night  
 17 Thr Big Chief Chorus, Founded 1943 – Our 60th Year!  
 22 Tue Rehearsal @ Church, Crary Closed  
 25 Fri House of Delegates Mtg., 1pm, Lansing  
 25-27 Fri-Sun District Convention, Lansing  
 29 Tue Rehearsal

### MAY

06 Tue Rehearsal  
 08 Thr Exec. Brd. Mtg., 7:30pm, @  
 13 Tue Rehearsal  
 16-19 Fri-Sun Harmony Round Up, @ MSU  
 20 Tue Rehearsal  
 27 Tue Rehearsal

### JUNE

03 Tue Rehearsal  
 06 Fri Return the Jug Night – DOC Host

10 Tue Rehearsal  
 13 Fri Send Off Show – Windsor Host  
 17 Tue Rehearsal  
 19 Thr Exec. Brd. Mtg., 7:30 pm @  
 24 Tue Flint Chapter's Picnic, Frankenmuth  
 29-July 01 International Convention, Montreal

### JULY

01 Tue Rehearsal  
 08 Tue Rehearsal  
 10 Thr Exec. Brd. Mtg., 7:30pm @  
 15 Tue Rehearsal  
 22 Tue Rehearsal  
 29 Tue Rehearsal  
 27-Aug 03 Harmony College, St. Joseph, MO

### AUGUST

05 Tue Rehearsal  
 12 Tue Rehearsal  
 14 Thr Exec. Brd. Mtg., 7:30pm @  
 19 Tue BCC Picnic  
 26 Tue Rehearsal

### SEPTEMBER

02 Tue Rehearsal  
 09 Tue Rehearsal  
 16 Tue Mystery Trip  
 18 Thr Exec. Brd. Mtg., 7:30pm @  
 23 Tue Rehearsal  
 26-8 F-S Bush League, Gaylord  
 30 Tue Rehearsal

### OCTOBER

07 Tue Rehearsal  
 09 Thr Exec. Brd. Mtg., 7:30pm @  
 14 Tue Rehearsal  
 17 Fri House of Delegates Mtg., Battle Creek  
 17-19 Fri-Sun District Convention, Battle Creek  
 21 Tue Rehearsal & Election of Officers  
 28 Tue Rehearsal

### NOVEMBER

04 Tue Rehearsal  
 07 Fri Canada Night – DOC Host  
 08 Sat BCC Fall Show, Clarkston HS  
 11 Tue Christmas Rehearsal  
 13 Thr Exec. Brd. Mtg., 7:30pm @  
 18 Tue Christmas Rehearsal  
 25 Tue Christmas Rehearsal

### DECEMBER

02 Tue Christmas Chorus Sing Out  
 07 Sun Summit Place Mall - Christmas Chorus Sing Out  
 09 Tue Christmas Chorus Sing Out  
 13 Sat Bus Trip - Christmas Chorus Sing Out  
 16 Tue Christmas Chorus Sing Out, BCC Party, & Officer Inductions