Bulletin #50, June 7, 2005

The Big Chief Chorus sang out three times in May. On Friday, May 6, twenty-three men went on stage to sing to 126 folks at the Waterford Senior Center, replete with a surprise final story by Bill Pascher. On May 9th, sixteen men were at Coats Funeral Home for the James Younger Memorial (a former Pontiac chapter Lead singer). And on Thursday, May 19th, twenty-six chorus members sang to the seventy-two Oakland County Retirees that showed up at the Silver Lake Golf Club. Thanks to Dick Johnson for daytime directing, and to Jack Teuber for keeping those gigs coming.

Repertoire has included: Hi Neighbor, I Feel a Song, Darkness on the Delta, Ain’t Misbehavin’, Don’t Blame Me, Old St. Louie, Shine/Do Lord Medley, and Irish Parting Prayer.

Thanks also to Bob E’s Super Chief Coney (340 West Walton Blvd, Pontiac) for their reception of us after Silver Lake. The Big Chief Chorus namesake, the “Big Chief,” is the Super Chief’s foot-long Coney Island hot dog, the only Coney, according to Chuckles Murray’s years of extensive mouth-on research, with a grilled or toasted bun. It sells for $2.99.

From Roger Holm, Music Committee:

Remember guys: Next Tuesday, June 7th, we start meeting at our summer venue - the "Outlook Lodge" building, about 3/4 mile inside Waterford Oaks Park (at the "fridge"). Access is off Scott Lake Rd., just north of where Watkins Lake Rd. intersects Scott Lake. NOW! with two BIG chorus sing-outs coming up on June 10th and (especially) June 14th, we need everyone there next Tuesday as it will be our LAST chance to practice songs for those gigs!! It would be a great boost for our chorus if we could field 35 to 40 singers for the June 14th gig!! SO- we need all of us at the "Outlook Lodge" next Tuesday!!! For the June 14th gig, we will have quartets Four Wheel Drive and B-Natural to help shoulder the load, as we’re on-tap for an hour & a half of entertainment! It’s a tall order, so let’s rise to the challenge!! Jeff Doig will be our Emcee/announcer, (and maybe joke-teller)’! Uniform will be our class "B"!

At our music committee meeting on Wednesday, we chose the following songs for those gigs (not listed in order of singing necessarily):

- Hi Neighbor
- Star Spangled Banner
- Darkness On The Delta
- Ain’t Misbehavin’
- Don’t Blame Me
- This Little Light/Do-Lord medley
- I Feel A Song Comin’ On
- Old St. Louie
- Let’s Get Away From It All
- Keep America (or Whole World) Singing
- Irish Parting Prayer
- God Bless America
- (potentially - Old Routine and Coney Island Baby)

From Jack Teuber, VP Marketing and PR

May was a very successful month highlighted by a STANDING ROOM ONLY performance at the SUPER CHIEF CONEY ISLAND. Thanks to Tom Jackson for making the SILVER LAKE GOLF CLUB sing out happen and being an enthusiastic M.C.

The family of James Younger has expressed their deep appreciation many times over to the men of the Big Chief Chorus who sang in Jim’s memory. Thanks to Bill Dabbs and Dick Johnson for making this happen on short notice.

Thank you to Tom Jackson. The bus to FRANKENMUTH, June 21st leaves at 5:29 PM. Board the bus at the Christmas Tour Parking Lot at 2800 Watkins Lake Rd. (Oakland County Parks Office)

Clear your calendar for June 10th. Let’s make a superior appearance for Parks and Recreation from all across the nation. We deposited this fee up front in December 2004. Our goal is to have 30 or more men at the Cohn Amphitheater in INDEPENDENCE OAKS. Show your Blue Chapter Shirt/Gray Pants to avoid admittance charge and proceed to the Nature Center area. Save room for the pasta and great fellowship at the WINDSOR SEND OFF later that evening.
Check your local papers or Orion Cable for the “ORION SUMMER CONCRT SERIES”, June 14th. We anticipate putting 41 men on the risers that evening. We are honored to share the billing with B-NATURAL and FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE. Plan on arriving at 6:45 and parking on the west side of Joslyn to save prime parking for concert-goers. Sing with feeling and commitment. Thanks to JEFF DOIG for providing the sound system for this event.

AROUND THE PATCH

On May 12th, the chorus visited the Rochester chapter, to which several of our members are linked. As Roger Holm said: “Those of you that didn’t make it to Rochester last Thursday missed a pretty good time! There were 17 of us that did, and it was a good contact with another good bunch of guys at a sister chapter!”

A number of BCC’ers visited the Macomb Chorus rehearsal May 26th in order to watch/hear Michigan’s own Cindy Hansen, who coaches Vocal Majority, North Brook, Northern Lights, and Power Play, among others. Followed by a ‘glow’ at East Side Mario’s, it doesn’t get much better than this. As the new director of the Huron Valley Harmonizers put it: “I just want to send a big thanks to Jack and his team for allowing all of us to participate the past two Wednesdays with Cindy Hansen’s wonderful coaching sessions. To quote her as she sat to watch her handiwork coming to fruition this week, "Pioneer District in last place...I don't think so!" (plus some other mumbled tidbits!).

WOOOOHOOOO, Harmony Heritage!!!!! See you all in Windsor next Friday! Carol -- Director, Huron Valley Harmonizers”

Pete Mazzara’s 6-year renewal was announced on May 24th, and was accompanied by a letter of appreciation from the Board for his work as President.

Welcome back, Bill Nevaux, from four months in Arizona.

Big Chief Chicks have scheduled monthly events. For June, it will be joining the chorus in traveling to the Frankenmuth Bratwurst gathering. For July, it will be participating in the D.O.C.’s Barbershop River Cruise on July 30th.

QUARTET/ENSEMBLE NEWS

The newly reconstituted Four Wheel Drive had its first sing-out, Wednesday, May 18, performing for the 105th birthday dinner celebration of Eastern Star in Birmingham. Zaven’s brother, Dodge Melkonian, was present to serve as honorary factotum.

The quartet sang thirteen songs to the audience of about fifty, and mixed in some patter and jokes. They finished the evening by blowing half their profit at The Moose Preserve (but also received some free drinks).

Zaven Melkonian, Mike Frye, and John Cowlishaw joined Wally Plosky as an impromptu “wedding quartet” to sing at Wally’s daughter, Natalie’s wedding, May 29th at Weber’s Inn in Ann Arbor. “Everyone was so impressed with the barbershop addition to the reception, particularly the poignancy of the Mom tag and the Irish Parting Prayer.”

B NATURAL and FUN ADDICTS will be performing for the Red Hat Society, June 18th, 12:00 to 3:30 at the Romeo Frontier Village.

MEMBERSHIP (at 58)

Renewals: Pete Mazzara (6), Tom Jackson (7), Bill Dabbs (35). (Still waiting for renewals from Tom Tailford and Dennis Robinson.)

June Birthdays: Bob Legato (13th), Bruce Brede (22nd), Jim Troeger (23rd), Al Monroe (24th), (Tom Jackson, July 1st).

Barbershopper of the Month, May – Bill Pascher. What more need be said?

Illnesses: Jim Owens has recovered from a bout of appendicitis. Bill Pascher has been under the weather.

AROUND THE DISTRICT

District photographs from Kalamazoo are now viewable at http://www.anthonydugal.com/pioneer

Harmony Roundup was cancelled.

Windsor Sendoff. Tickets for this year’s June 10th, “Windsor Sendoff are available from Doc Mann at $16.50 per person. All profits from this event will go to next year’s district representatives to the International Convention.

Do you enjoy Power Play, Golf, and/or camaraderie? Then check out Michael Slomka’s email: The 5th Annual Power Play Invitational Golf Outing will be held Friday Morning, July 22, 2005, at Fore Lakes Golf Club in Kimball, MI. Cost is only $50 per golfer which includes 18 Holes and Cart, Continental Breakfast, Lunch, Prizes.

Fools Gold has decided to end its quartet life. It won Bush League and placed second at the Buckeye Invitational comedy contest in Columbus, and its members have included Lead Dan Casamatta, Bari Stacy Oldenberg, Bass John Baker, charter member Tenor Bill Mousel and in years past, Baritone Jamie Carey, Bass Mark Wilson and fellow charter members Bass Mark Kettner and Bari Joel Mills.

Looking for quartets: The Patch Chords write: The South Lyon Theatre & Bistro, offering food, movies and LIVE ENTERTAINMENT, is up and running in a big way. It’s
Located in downtown South Lyon (10 mile and Pontiac Trail) in southwest Oakland County.

Of special importance to you district members, they're looking for QUARTETS TO HIRE (men, women, mixed or comedy).

If you want to get a good feel for it, our Patch Chords quartet will be the entertainment on Saturday, June 18 (cheap plug!).

The Theatre/Bistro's most common format is a dinner/show package -- dinner about 7 pm, show about 9 pm, followed by a dessert buffet (our afterglow) back at the restaurant. The restaurant is casual with up-scale dining. The theater, directly across the street, seats about 250. Tickets are usually $25 for both dinner and show, or $10 for the show only.

ALSO WORTHY OF NOTE -- There's a large, private room above the restaurant, which you could use for practices, meetings, etc.

Stagecrafters, an established amateur theatrical group in Royal Oak Michigan, as a part of their 50th anniversary celebration, are presenting Meredith Willson's MUSIC MAN. The show opens September 9th with regularly scheduled evening performances on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and a matinee on Sunday afternoons through October 2nd, 2005 for a total of 14 or 15 performances. They are looking for a quartet to perform in the show, and also for performances.

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AROUND THE WORLD

The Society has narrowed its search for a new staff headquarter site to the following four cities: Atlanta, Austin, Dallas/Ft. Worth, and Nashville.

The official website of our Barbershop Harmony Society is now www.barbershop.org Typing in the old www.spebsqsa.org will still work though.

The Montreal Gazette had a pretty knowledgeable article on Barbershop, as shown by their appendum on BBS lingo:

Tag: The often-tricky part at the end of a barbershop arrangement, where the best harmonies are often found. Barbershoppers have been known to spend entire evenings singing only tags. They'll stop strangers in halls at competitions to form a makeshift quartet for an impromptu tag session.

Overtone: If there's an addictive element in barbershop, this seems to be it. It happens when four harmonies are in such sync that they produce a fifth note, which "rings" - even though no one is actually singing that note.

Up-tune: A fast song.

Polecats: Favourite songs known to every Joe Barbershopper.

Fifth wheel: An uninvited singer who vocalizes with or near a quartet. Such a gaffe is considered poor manners.

Pitch: The key in which the song is sung.

Chord worship: Holding a chord longer than necessary just to enjoy it.

Following on the heels of Don Harris's resignation as CEO of the Barbershop Harmony Society comes news of Greg Lyne's resignation as Director of Music Education and Services.

This could make a "private first class barbershopper" a little nervous. To which purpose, Society President Rob Hopkins responds:

“While all organizations with professional staffs periodically go through times of change in key personnel, I know that many members are concerned about the recent resignations of CEO Don Harris and Director of Music Education and Services Greg Lyne.

“Don made some significant and important contributions to the Society as our CEO, and of course Greg has been a particularly revered musical expert in the Society for many years. I expect that Greg will continue to be very active throughout the Society in helping us learn more about our unique style and how to perform it to the best of our musical ability. Indeed, his skills will now be more available to our membership, not less.

“Through this time of transition, we have the benefit of the leadership of two outstanding and long-time Barbershoppers who I am sure will be very effective in their interim positions.

“Roger Lewis is our interim CEO and is particularly well-suited to serve in that position. A retired businessman and our current past international Society President, Roger is an accomplished manager and a great team leader, who also has extremely broad knowledge of the Society based on experience as a performer, leader, and judge. We are grateful that Roger has agreed to assume this position until we select a new Executive Director and CEO. (Details on the search, now underway, are available at http://www.spebsqsa.org/ceosearch.

“At Roger's request, Joe Liles has agreed temporarily to act in the role of Director of Music Education and Services, a position he held for many years prior to his being named Society Executive Director. Joe is a great musician, an inspiring leader, and a Barbershopper who knows and appreciates the needs of our members. He will ensure that our talented music staff continues serving the needs of our membership with outstanding dedication and skill.

“With Roger and Joe in these interim positions, we are in good hands. You will not find two Society members more dedicated to our style, our members, and the prosperous future of our organization. Many of you know them, and know how deeply they love our Society.

“Our staff will continue striving to meet the needs of our membership every day. Roger and Joe are helping to provide continuity; and our dedicated staff is, as usual, committed to handling the myriad details that keep our Society running well. Naturally, in addition to other ongoing projects, they are currently hard at work on arrangements for a fabulous celebration of barbershop at our
international convention in Salt Lake City. Hope to see you there!"

**Thurl Ravenscroft** has died. He was the voice of Tony the Tiger. "Grrreat!" was his own invention. The Kellogg people asked him to come up with something catchy based upon a drawing of the character. One of the groups he sang with was a quartet called **The Mellomen**, who did lots of backup vocals for such notables as Bing, Elvis, Frank and Norman Luboff. An interesting footnote about “The Grinch...” Thurl was not given credit anywhere in the film for his delightfully ominous rendition of “You're a Mean One, Mister Grinch.”

**SALT LAKE:**

Place your order now for your official copy of the "International Barbershop Junkie" Book. This is a great keepsake of the 2005 International Competition. The Junkie Book is an easy reference guide to all the competitors of the quartet and chorus contest.

Each competitor is featured with a dedicated page that gives a brief bio, contact information, personnel, current director, and stats over the past few years, and much, more! You can order at: [http://www.senateaires.org/junkiebook.htm](http://www.senateaires.org/junkiebook.htm) for $15.00.


**MEET HOWARD LYNN**

Howard comes from Canadian stock (aye?) though he was born in Michigan in 1928 during his father’s brief Detroit stint as a pipe steam fitter. Most of the ten kids were born in Toronto, and that is where Howard grew up. He left school after 8th grade to help support the family, working in a variety of jobs, from photoengraving electrotypes for mail-order catalogs, to bakeries and groceries, to dairies, where he learned how to run the refrigerators used in the ice-cream making business. In 1950, with the family on better financial footing, Howard left them for Detroit. (As long as he was born in the United States, the American embassy had told him, and had neither voted in Canadian elections or “sworn allegiance to the King,” he had dual citizenship.)

He arrived during a period of auto strikes, but was able to get a job with Borden’s Dairy on Dexter because of his knowledge of creamery package freezers. When Korea happened, he converted from freezers to service as a boiler room fireman on the Navy battleship USS Wisconsin. After the war, he worked for Wesley Quaker Maid and then for Bendix Research Labs in Southfield.

Howard had developed an early interest in aviation, having soloed in 1955 in an Ercoupe after 8 hours, and a J3-Cub after 15 hours, and did spins- and stalls-training in a big radial-engined Commonwealth (at 12,000 feet – anybody nervous yet?). But with only forty-one hours in his logbook, family obligations had intervened. So when the opportunity to work at Williams International arose, he jumped at it and fed his aviation interests there for twenty years. After “retiring” in 1998, he learned of Canterbury-on-the-Lake’s need for a “refrigeration man” and he worked there part-time until last year.

Howard had met Janet when he worked at Wesley, and they were married in 1956. He teases her that she was a farm girl from Cass City who had come to Detroit in order to wear shoes. Janet has had multiple sclerosis for the past twenty-five years. She has her good days and her bad days, and can usually get around pretty well without a walker. She also plays the organ in their home. Their three children live locally, working as an auto mechanic, a construction foreman, and a warehouse manager for TJ Maxx. Howard and Janet have two granddaughters.

Howard remembers his father singing old barbershop songs while he lathered up and shaved, songs like “That Old Silver-Haired Daddy of Mine,” and
THE BIG CHIEF CHORUS DRESS CODES

CLASS A UNIFORM    BLACK TUXEDO, RED VEST AND BLACK SHOES
CLASS B UNIFORM    BLUE BLAZER, WHITE SHIRT with TIE, GRAY PANTS AND BLACK SHOES
CLASS C UNIFORM    BLUE CHAPTER SHIRT, GRAY PANTS, BLACK SHOES

Upcoming Sing-outs: (Times are warmup times.)
June 10, Fri, 11:00, Independence Oaks, Class C Uniform, 9501 Sashabaw Rd, Clarkston, Cohn Amphitheater
June 14, Tue, 6:45, (Performance 7:30-9:00) Orion Township Hall (Civic Center Park), 2525 Joslyn Rd, Lake Orion. (Please Park on the West Side of Joslyn; save East Side Parking for Concert Goers.) Chapter shirts, gray pants, black shoes.
June 21, Tue, 5:30, Frankenmuth, Bus leaves promptly at 5:30, returns about 10:30; 2800 Watkins Rd, Waterford. Sign up with Tom Jackson
July 15, Fri 5:45, Clarkston Depot Park, 375 Depot Rd, Clarkston
July 19, Tue 6:30, Clarkston Sunrise Apartments, 5700 Water Tower Place, Clarkston
Sep 14, W, 2pm, Woodward Hills, 39312 Woodward Ave, Bloomfield Hills, Class C uniform
Oct 11, Tue, 12:30, Pontiac Musicale, Class B Uniform, United Central Methodist, 3882 Highland Rd, (M-59), Waterford

Upcoming Sing-outs:

Southern Gospel Quartetting
Zaven Melkonian and John Cowlishaw visited the Union Lake Baptist Church, Sunday evening, May 23rd, to hear The Master’s Touch, apparently one of the better-known Southern Gospel quartets in Michigan. Although Zaven was familiar with this oeuvre (having even sung in it), John was not and it gave him the chance for comparing traditions – a little unfairly perhaps since it was early in their season – of twenty-four engagements between May and October. (See http://www.themtq.com/products.html)

First of all, it is not a cappella. They brought their sound equipment for instrumental backup, but the overtones added by the instruments make all hope of “expanded sound” a lost cause.

Also they miked everything they sang. The bass’s voice, in particular, was muffled, and it was strange that they each had an earphone to listen to the instruments that we could hear all too well; at one point the bass just stopped, saying he couldn’t hear the beat.

Another difference seems to arise from the wider pitch range of Southern Gospel singers. There is such delight in those deep-voiced basses (e.g., to sing a song like “How Great Thou Art,” which they performed). And the tenor had a very strong, high-pitched rather nasal tone that could have nailed a fly to the wall from twenty paces. Zaven suggested that that might be more southern than gospel. At any rate, we barbershoppers tend to sing with closer pitch because it is easier to blend voices and create overtones that way.

Of course, another difference is that their purpose is openly religious, with little sermonettes interspersed.

A similarity between the two forms are the large national organizations. The Master’s Touch will be attending the National Quartet Convention in Louisville, Ky September 15-18.

Craft Corner: Using the breath for musical effect
It’s more than just oxygen – it’s a part of the musical experience.
By Kevin Keller, Music Judge/Coach (from the BSH Website)

There are a number of things that make a group “musical”. One of the primary tools is the delivery of the breath. Yes, the delivery of the breath. The breath is the most important part of each and every phrase; more important than any note that you sing. Furthermore, the breath concludes the musical phrase rather than starting it.

“When You and I Were Young, Maggie.” So he had developed a liking for four-part harmony. When his neighbor Bob Sprowls invited him to visit the Pontiac chapter chorus in 1960, he went. He has remained active ever since, except for a twelve-year period when he was heavily involved with scouting.

The scouting interest began with his kids as cub scouts, but has continued to the present. Northwest of Clare is a 2300 acre piece of land, Lost Lake, that was once the estate of Harry Bennett, Henry Ford’s union-busting body guard and personal assistant. Bill Pascher helped to acquire that property for the Clinton Valley Scout Council. Howard helps to open it up each spring. And for twenty-seven years, he and three friends have gone there for deer hunting.

Howard joined American Legion nine years ago, and contributes to the Wixom Post 224, such as cooking breakfast for the public on the last Sunday of every month. He has also worked the lines as a chain-man at Walled Lake football games for twenty-two years.

Besides hunting and fishing, his hobbies include oil painting (landscapes) and woodcarving. The latter developed from his having carved animal-shaped neckerchief holders for Scouts when they attained Eagle rank.

He says his real accomplishment in the Big Chief Chorus has been getting Jeff Doig to join. But we know better – that that discounts the behind-the-scenes work he does. In fact, he literally did the background for the last show, and the hockey net four years ago. What Gene Downie builds, Howard paints.

Why haven’t we seen Howard in quartets? That is his conscious decision. After breathing a ton of ammonia, and some asbestos, and having smoked three packs a day (until a hypnosis session nineteen years ago), Howard’s breath isn’t what it once was. But as a chorus singer, he can sneak a breath when he needs to.
When the breath is the most important part of the phrase and it concludes the phrase, you must energize the end of the phrase to raise the musical value of the breath. You will also sustain the energy through the phrase and build it, as opposed to plodding along and falling into chord worshiping (whether you intended to or not!). This reinforces the lyrical message of the song. Musically, you can sing louder, softer, faster, slower, more/less color, more/less texture. Just about anything you believe will work actually will work. You manage your breath better, because less air is expended needlessly at the beginning of the phrase. You improve your synchronization on attacks and releases. When the breath is “ordinary” (re: a place to get air), all that you can do is exactly what you were doing with dynamics, texture, color, tempo, etc. This is not musically appealing!

Take one of your repertoire songs and perform this exercise. Sing 32 bars where the breath is ordinary, a place to get air. Then sing those same 32 bars and focus on making the breath the most musically interesting part of the phrase. See what results you get and which you like better.

There are a host of other things you will discover a focus on the breath will bring. Enjoy!

**Big Chief Chicks** (from Joan Cheyne)

Hi Chicks! Several of your fellow Chicks met at Deanna & Gene Downie's home on the afternoon of May 19 for what was advertised to be an afternoon of cards and/or other games. We were quite a small group, but any of us, Deanna, Jan DeNio, Barbara Workman, Barbara Holmes, Hermine Mazzara, or I would be quick to tell you we had a wonderful time visiting and just catching up. In fact, we were so busy laughing and sharing that the cards never left the middle of the table!! We were thrilled when Jan demonstrated that after many months of intense therapy for the leg she broke last fall, she is again able to stand!! Deanna is also making excellent progress and is able to take many steps following her hip replacement in January. At our meeting, we did some planning as always and these are the outings we're all looking forward to:

**JUNE 21 -- BRATWURST FESTIVAL -- The Big Chief Chorus will be traveling to Heritage Park in Frankenmuth where they will again be the guests of the Flint Arrowhead Chorus for a splendid picnic and WE are invited to go along. The gals who've been before say it's lots of fun, so we decided to let that be a June event for the Chicks. The guys are renting a bus and word has it there's plenty of room for Chicks too. The sign up for the bus has already begun, so be sure to ask your fellow to reserve a seat for you as well. The bus will leave Waterford Oaks Park at 5:30. We hear there might be some great entertainment. Wonder what that could be . . . ?!!**

**JULY 30 -- RIVERBOAT CRUISE -- Again the Chiefs have an event that sounds too good to pass up. Our neighboring Detroit-Oakland Chorus has invited the Chiefs and friends to join them for their exciting fundraiser on the Detroit River. (Look for the flyer in my second email to you -- your guy probably already has it.) Save the date!

**AUGUST 19 -- BIG CHIEF CHORUS ANNUAL PICNIC --** We wouldn't think of missing this one! It is, in a sense, the first birthday of the Big Chief Chicks!! The terrific picnic at Tom and Beth Ford's last year is where quite a few "Ladies of the Big Chief Chorus" found themselves sitting together around a large round table, trading stories, getting to know one another, and laughing a WHOLE LOT!! This is where we came to know we had something too good to let go. The rest, as they say, is history. Hope to see YOU there this year!! Mark your calendar.

Dear ladies, please keep in mind the Chicks are a very open, very friendly group. We look forward to seeing you at ANY function you're able to attend!! Even if you haven't attended a Chick event for months or ever, we hope you'll come and join the fun. We'll do our best to make all feel welcome.

In the meantime, take care; stay healthy; and hope to see you soon.

Joan Cheyne

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING Excerpts, May 11, 2005**

**Bill Holmes, Secretary**

Present were Pete Mazzara, Wayne Cheyne, Zaven Melkonian, Jack Teuber, Gene Downie, Bill Holmes, Dick Johnson, Ron Clarke, Doc Mann, and Jeff Doig.

The secretary distributed a draft letter over Pete’s signature proposed to be sent to our previous guests/members to invite them to join us for the Fall Show. The board approved the proposal with corrections.

Treasurer, Dick Johnson, presented his financial report noting the current balance on hand is $8,487.80.

Wayne Cheyne, VP of Membership Development, proposed having an “Oldies Nite” at which time previous members not able to be regular attenders would be invited. Wayne and Dick will create a mailing list for such an occasion which may be held on Sept. 6, 2005.

It was also suggested we note birthdays of the members once a month. Currently they are listed in the “Smoke Signals” by John Cowlishaw.

The board approved the “Big Chief Chorus Membership Plan” including draft letters submitted by Wayne while making suggested revisions. The “Plan” package includes guidelines regarding former, present and new members, a “Welcome” letter to guests on their first visit, and letters on their second and third visits. Wayne is currently preparing a Membership Packet.

Jack Teuber, VP Marketing, gave his report and submitted maps for two of the sing-outs scheduled. His written report included recent, upcoming, and potential performances, future publicity and sponsorship. Jack recommended a generic business card be developed for chapter members to be left at various facilities to promote the chorus.
Doc Mann reported on his efforts in securing sponsorship from the Oxford Bank. He proposed three levels of sponsorship such as one, two or three thousand dollars. The chorus would provide publicity and singouts for the various levels. The board approved Doc Mann’s proposal to be presented to the bank official as modified.

Ron Clarke reported the request for the Bulk Mail Permit ($150/yr.) is being processed by the postal service.

Following much discussion, highlighting the positives and the negatives of having the named guest quartet, 3 Men and a Tenor, the board reaffirmed its decision to contract with 3 Men and a Tenor. It was noted that all the chapter members should and will work together to make this effort a resounding success.

Jeff Doig, Fall Show Chairman, submitted proposals from the Show Committee in writing. The board approved the proposals with revisions. A summary of the proposals is:

- THE FACE VALUE (price shown on ticket) OF THE SHOW TICKET IS $18.
- MEMBERS MAY BUY THEM AT $15 if purchased before 8-30. Members will pay $18 for tickets secured after 8-30.
- A DISCOUNT COUPON OF $2 off each ticket will be available if purchased before 8-30. It can be put in any mailings/ads distributed for the show. Coupons expire 8-30.
- CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER MAY BUY AT $5 OFF THE TICKET PRICE: THEREFORE, BEFORE 8-30 THEY ARE $10, AFTER 8-30 THEY ARE $13.
- BATIONS BEING HELD BY ADULTS DURING THE SHOW ARE FREE.
- AUGUST 30, 2005, TUESDAY EVENING REHEARSAL: An audit and accounting will be take. All money for sold tickets must be turned in. An accounting for unsold tickets must be identified.
- Prior to 8-30, the face value of the tickets does not have to be strictly adhered to for tickets sold to non-members.

Chorus Policy Manual
Did you know that we have a BCC Policy Manual? Here is an abbreviated version:

1. Publicity: Individuals or groups must be approved in order to represent the Chorus to the public. Requests for info from media sources should be directed to the public relations chairman.
2. Expenditures: $100 limit without prior approval by the Pres and Treas.
3. Presidential Vacancy: Order of succession after President is: VP Membership, VP Music, VP Marketing et al.
4. Quartet Performance fees: Chapter quartets need not share any of their earnings with the chapter, even if the job was secured through inquiry to the chapter.
5. Uniforms: New members will be assessed $100 for Class A uniform, some of which is refundable. Class B’s are to be handled by members.
6. General membership concerns to Board: Members should contact the Pres in advance of a Board meeting to whose agenda they wish to be added.
7. Email addresses: The chapter has established individual chapter email addresses (Joe.Doe@bigchiechorus.org) which are linked to one’s personal email address and should be used for representation to the public.

Frequency-Dependent Tone Generator
After much searching I’ve found a site that will sound the tone of any frequency you desire. Just type in the frequency, and it will sound the note. For example, Concert A is 440 cycles per second. Our pitchpipes should be tuned to that. If you play this site along with your pitchpipe and hear any “beats” your pitchpipe has wandered off pitch. This is used by audio engineers for test tone generation, by musicians to tune musical instruments, by educators to demonstrate principles, and by medical personnel for hearing tests. The site is NCH Tone Generator at http://www.nch.com.au/tonegen/ Dial that in, and click on the download button, and you’ll be able to use it, for individual notes, or to sound out chords.

You might just be a Barbershopper…
Selected by Tina Gunther
If you hear a car horn and immediately reach for your pitch pipe, you might be a barbershopper. If you wonder why the seats on a plane aren't FOUR across, you might be a barbershopper. If the person sitting next to you at the symphony kindly suggests you stop humming the seventh of every chord played, you might be a barbershopper. If you've ever gotten that weird look from the Dry Cleaner when you show up and ask if they can do sequins really well, you might be a barbershopper.
If you watched the first round of American Idol and made a list of potential recruits in your city, for your chapter, you might be a barbershopper.

If your most prominent bumper sticker is "I Can't, I Have Rehearsal," you might be a barbershopper.

If you have 1-800-876-SING on your speed dial, you might be a barbershopper.

If http://www.spebsqsa.org is your home page in your web browser, you might be a barbershopper.

If you've accidentally tried to blow a pitch on an Oreo, you might be a barbershopper.

"The Quartet is on lines one, too, three and four!"

courtesy of the Cedar Rapids Hawkseye

CHAPTER LEADERSHIP
Director: Jim Troeger
(248-853-4360)
Assc. Directors: Dick Johnson
President: Pete Mazzara

Past President: Gene Downie
VP: Chapter Dev: Wayne Chene
VP: Music and Performance: Roger Holm
VP: Marketing & PR: Jack Teuber
Secretary: Bill Holmes
Treasurer: Dick Johnson
Members at Large: Ron Clarke, Zaven Melkonian
Chorus Manager: Art Carinci
Music Team: Holm, Johnson, Doig, Ensign, Melkonian, Murray, Prueter, Troeger
Bulletin Editor: John Cowlishaw
Music Librarian: Ted Prueter
Singing Valentines: Ross Ensign
Polecats: Zaven Melkonian
Quartet Development: Bruce Brede
Sunshine (Chaplain): Walt DeNio/Bill Dabbs
Uniforms Manager: Ron Clarke
Tape/CD Librarian: Ross Ensign
YMIH: Ron Clarke

Calendar
Jun 7, T BCC Rehearsal, Lookout Lodge, Watrf.Oaks Park
Jun 8, W Exec Bd Mtg, 7 pm at Ron Clarke’s
Jun 10, F, 11am Performance, Independence Oaks
Jun 14, T, 6:45pm Performance, Orion Parks Concert Series
Jun 14, T, eve Windsor Send-Off
Jun 21, T, 6:30 Frankenmuth Bratwurst Gathering
Jun 28, T BCC Rehearsal, the Fridge
July 4-10 BHS Convention, Salt Lake City
July 13, W Exec Bd Meeting, at Bruce Brede’s
July 15, F, 5:45 Sing-out, Clarkston Summer Concert Series
July 19, T, 6:30 Singout Sunrise Apts,
July 30, Sa Barbershop River Cruise
July 31-Aug,7 Harmony College 2005, @Columbus, OH
Aug 19, F, 7pm BCC Picnic @ Tom and Beth Ford’s
Sept. 13, T Guest Night @ Crary MS
Sept. 14, W,2 pm Sing-out, Woodward Hills
Oct. 11, T, 12:30 Pontiac Musicale, Central United Methodist Church