The Big Chief Chorus celebrated barbershop with other regional chapters in July.

On Monday, July 17, about a hundred people gathered at D.O.C.’s picnic at the Sylvan Lake Community Center.

All the photos from the D.O.C. picnic (and our chorus rehearsal the next night) are easy to access; just click on this link: https://tinyurl.com/y9tkms7c

The Livingston Lamplighter Chorus performed John Cowlishaw’s arrangement of “Desperado.” They called it a work in progress for their fall show, but it sounded pretty good. https://tinyurl.com/ybdjn4st

In addition, you can view the chorus signing off the next night with “Keep the Whole World Singing” at https://tinyurl.com/ycxsqo32

On Tuesday, July 25, Grosse Pointe held its picnic at Pier Park. Twenty-six men represented the BCC, among 125 attendees. Jon Knapp may have led singing in the most quartets although Fred McFadyen and Mike Frye sang in many quartets as well. Newcomer Steve Armstrong sang with the Chorus and two or three quartets as well. Newcomer Kyle Sclesky sang with the Chorus on two selections, “No New Tunes on This Old Piano” and “What a Wonderful World.”

Thanks to Fred McFadyen for leading the BCC.

Other Chapters attending were D.O.C. and Windsor. The highlight of the night was the appearance of FORTE and DETROIT SOUND MACHINE.

(Jack Teuber)

Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society, Saturday, July 29.

Twenty-one Chieftains turned out to sing at the Society’s Summer Social at the Wisner home in Pontiac. The Society was founded in 1874. Freddie McFadyen led the group thru a set of sixteen songs. TIMELY EDITION also sang two songs. Without amplification, only the 50 or so people around the hot dog cooker
could really be called “the audience,” but others of the several hundred in attendance heard strolling quartets afterward.

Photos at: https://www.facebook.com/bigchiefchorus/posts/1772848019395358

**Around the Patch**

**From Prez Eric:**
Hello Men,

It was a great [D.O.C.] picnic last night with good singing. It was also a pleasure to see such a good turnout from the Big Chief Chorus.

[Expect some guests at our upcoming rehearsals.] Keep in mind the extra time it may take for guests to locate music. It can be overwhelming for a new potential member who first is exposed to our group. (I remember my first visit and this feeling I had).

Eric

**From Director Tom:**

Many thanks to all who ... cover for my absence(s).

Welcome again to our visitors and guests, we enjoy having you be with us in voice and in song!

**From VP Jack Teuber:**
MEN,

YOUR ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED August 8 for the 2017 Chorus Show Photo. In order to appear in the photo you must be present. Brian Doig will manage the photo shoot. The risers will also be there and hopefully our new railing for the back of the risers will have arrived.

Uniform for the photo will be Class B. (Blue Blazer, White Shirt, Red Tie, red pocket puff, and Gray pants.

We are now purchasing our chorus apparel online. Let us know if you need any of the attire.

RED TIE--provided by the Chapter
Red Pocket Puff---provided by the Chapter
BLUE BLAZER-- $55
GRAY PANTS --- $30
OTHER CHORUS APPAREL
YELLO POLO SHIRT--$27
LONG SLEEVE YELLOW SHIRT----$30

**From Chuck Murray:**

BIG CHIEF CHORUS 2017 Picnic and “Annual Bratfest”
Tuesday, August 29th, 2017
Starts at 5:30 PM

Mark your calendar, and bring your spouse, significant other!
This year, the BCC Picnic and “Annual Bratfest” will be at:
The Sylvan Lake Community Center
2456 Pontiac Dr.
Sylvan Lake, MI 48320

Note: You must “BYO”, Bring Your Own Lawn Chairs, and Your Favorite Beverages!

**Chapter Website** [www.bigchiefchorus.org](http://www.bigchiefchorus.org)

The vendor for our website has changed, so the appearance is different, but access remains the same. Sacharissa Suthers has formatted it using WordPress.

**New Legacy Project, September 9**
The New Legacy Project, formerly known as the Blackwood Legacy Quartet, will be performing at Scott Lake Baptist Church, 811 Scott Lake Road, Waterford, MI at 7 p.m. on
Saturday, September 9. Jon Knapp’s new quartet, **OVERTIME**, will be opening for this Nashville-based southern gospel quartet. The concert is free to attend but a love offering will be collected for the **NEW LEGACY QUARTET**.

**MIOCA Unique Ovarian Cancer Awareness Event, Sep 16**

Plan to join the Chorus at **Wheels and Teal**, Saturday, September 16, 9:15 a.m. for the Michigan Ovarian Cancer Alliance. “Whether you like to get around on your feet or prefer a motored source of transportation, there’s something for everyone at Wheels & Teal. The day’s events will include a 5K fun run/walk, teal and turquoise classic car show, outdoor concert, activities for kids, and great shopping/dining.”

For more information about all of the events, check out: [http://www.wheelsandteal.com/](http://www.wheelsandteal.com/)

**Quartets**

**LIMITED EDITION** passed away at the age of seven and a half, but OVERTIME has arisen from its ashes, Phoenix-like. Jeff Doig and Charlie Perry are joined by Pat Hefner (T) and Jon Knapp (Br).

**MEMBERSHIP**:

(at 51)

Renewals: Zach Schroeder (3), Bob Greenwood (10), John Northey (29)

Due in August: Neil Braun, Bill Dabbs, Bill Durham, Doc Mann, Bill Sclesky

Goodbye: Bill Holmes

August Birthdays: Jim McMain (4th), Mike Keith (93 on the 5th), Pat Hefner (8th), Bill Auquier (24th), Bill Sclesky (26th), Jeff Doig (29th)

Medical: Jack’s back awaits steroid treatment. Bob Wallace continues anti-clotting medication.

In Memoriam: Aug 1, 2010 Wayne Cheyne, #113

Aug 5, 2015, Duane Roy, #173

Our median age is 76, and our median years of membership is 17.

**District**

**Harmony Explosion**

Yet again, the good people and organizations in this district came through for kids that needed financial assistance getting to camp this year. We were able to fund every scholarship request and have a bit of money tucked away for next time.

THANK YOU PIONEER!!! You continue to impress us and inspire us to offer young singers a "Full Immersion Barbershop Event" each year.

Joe McDonald
MountainTown Harmony Explosion Camp Administrator

**Bush League**

Eight quartets have registered for Pioneer District’s 71st Bush League Contest, hosted by the Cherry Capital Chorus in Bellaire, Aug 25-26. Recognizable names include: **TITANIUM, FORTE', and OLDE THYME HARMONY QUARTET**.

**International**

**MIDWINTER** – January 16-21, 2018, Costa Mesa, CA.
First of all, here are the Pioneer District representatives’ results:

In the **Open Quartet** competition
- **Frontier** - 35th place with a 78.4
- **Hemidemisemiquaver 4** - 48th place with a 76.7
- **Upper Deck** - 53rd place with a 75.9

In the **Chorus** competition
- **Great Lakes Chorus** - 24th place with an 81.1

In the **Youth Quartet** competition
- **Frontier** - 6th place with a 76.8. (Their 78.4 the next day in the Open Quartet competition would have placed them 4th here.)

**Main Street wins gold in Las Vegas!**

“Main Street proved there’s still a place for straw hats and arm garters in the upper reaches of a cappella singing, as it captured the 2017 International Quartet Championship in Las Vegas.

“Even as the competition brought new sounds and stylish intensity to the contest, the six-time medalists stayed true to their vision of an olde-time quartet in the style of the Dapper Dans of Walt Disney World, where all four have sung at various times. Tap dance, hat tricks, and parodies of contemporary pop songs were capped by a tender rendition of the Charlie Chaplin signature piece, “Smile,” in which the quartet thanked its audience for years of support.

“With the win, lead singer Tony De Rosa and tenor Roger Ross recapitulated their win 25 years earlier, as tenor and baritone of 1992 champ **Keepsake**. De Rosa also became only the second man in history to capture quartet gold medals in four different groups.

The top five finishers were:
- **Main Street**, 8354 points, 92.8%
- **Signature**, 8329 points, 92.5%
- **After Hours**, 8199 points, 91.1%
- **Throwback**, 8149 points, 90.5%
- **Quorum**, 8057 points, 89.5%

The international quartet contest included 55 quartets representing the US, Canada, Sweden, Great Britain, Spain, Australia and New Zealand.

**Zach:** ...the ballad in Main Street's Final set. Listen carefully when the video first starts! You can hear them say "Just one more." This was their second highest scoring song during the contest! Enjoy! [https://youtu.be/iPEY2SE1vXk](https://youtu.be/iPEY2SE1vXk)

**Masters of Harmony chorus wins ninth championship**

The **Masters of Harmony** men’s chorus of Santa Fe Springs, California, reclaimed the gold medals that had eluded them in their previous two attempts, as they captured the 2017 international chorus championship in Las Vegas.

A medley of love songs and a scorching performance of “Too Darn Hot/Fever” with extravagant choreography propelled the 112-man chorus to its ninth victory, second on the all-time list behind the chorus it narrowly beat out, the twelve-time champion **Vocal Majority Chorus** of Dallas.

More than 1500 men competed in 30 choruses representing the US, Canada, Great Britain and Australia in the contest, held in the Axis Theater at Planet Hollywood in Las Vegas.

For full scores, see [www.barbershop.org/vegas](http://www.barbershop.org/vegas). Highlights of the Chorus contest are at [https://youtu.be/CL2_oxglz88](https://youtu.be/CL2_oxglz88)

**Flightline wins Youth Quartet championship**

**Flightline**, a quartet from Anaheim, CA, bested 22 other young quartets from around the world to capture the 25th annual Youth Barbershop Quartet Championship in Las Vegas.

Singing “The Nearness Of You” and “Let’s Do It (Let’s Fall In Love)” the quartet posted A-level scores comparable to those in the open division contest. This was the fifth year in competition for **Flightline**, which was last year’s silver medalist.

**BHS convention review**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3xpxx-vadow&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3xpxx-vadow&feature=youtu.be)
Zach: Signature’s "Dance With My Father," arranged by Theo Hicks (Instant Classic’s Lead), was the highest scoring song in the contest. [https://youtu.be/B6FwopHVll8](https://youtu.be/B6FwopHVll8)

From the Troubadour, a chapter bulletin from the Will-Cook Chapter, Knights of Harmony, in the Illinois District:

“Hard on [Main Street’s] heels was Signature, which, if you look at the final scores, was stymied from grabbing gold by a mere 15 points! Main Street relinquished their hold on the #1 position only during the Semi Finals largely because of Signature’s singing the “song of the convention”: Dance With My Father, a Luther Vandross composition. Dance With My Father earned Vandross Song of the Year and Best Male R & B Vocal Performance honors at the 2003 Grammy Awards. Considered by Vandross as his "career song," Dance with my Father is a tribute to his father, Luther Vandross, Sr., who died due to complications of diabetes. Vandross was seven when his father died. Writing the song was emotional for Vandross because it is "a subject matter [Vandross] hadn't written (about) before".

Signature won that Semi-final by 62 points.

In the chorus contest, Masters of Harmony from Santa Fe, CA, eked out a win over the gold standard Dallas, TX, Vocal Majority. Seemingly neck and neck many in the audience could not pick a winner de spite Dallas' placing 160 men on stage versus Master’s 112. The difference of a mere 8 points separated the two choruses.

What’s Up, Bob Greenwood?

For over 15 years, Bob’s summer vacation has included a noteworthy trip to Mackinac Island. This June, Bob and Mari Ellen once again pulled their 27'-9” Bayliner, named Merry Gee, to the Straits Marina in Mackinaw City for the crossing to the Island.

There were small craft advisories the next day, so he sent his wife and daughter Christy by ferry, and he and his son-in-law made the crossing in the Bayliner. “The sea was confused, waves as high as 10 feet from any direction, making a 20-minute crossing extend to almost an hour.”

But the five days cost him only $178 at the Island marina, instead of $1500 in an Island hotel. Bada bing, bada boom.

MEDIA
Toby Shaver has returned to Gold Medal Moments, with two recent interviews - David Wright and Myron Whittlesey of Main Street. At [http://goldmedalmoments.com/](http://goldmedalmoments.com/)

Watch the artful Tony Bennett create music in the documentary, available on Netflix, “The Zen of Bennett.” The film features Bennett’s riffs on life and art, as he travels to recording sessions with Andrea Bocelli, Lady Gaga, Amy Winehouse, John Mayer, Willie Nelson, and others.

ORGANIZATION, PUBLIC RELATIONS, MEMBERSHIP
The Future of Barbershopping

Every barbershopper should watch the new Strategic Vision: EVERYONE in Harmony. It’s nine minutes long, or a seven-page brochure, but it’s worth it, at...

Harmonet, Facebook, et al

A barbershopper asked why there isn’t more activity on Harmonet. Ann McAlexander answered:

“The Harmonet was a wonderful gathering place for well over twenty years, and a lot of us have made many friends and had many a great discussion here, but there’s much more action on Facebook now, especially among the younger crowd. Try it -- They've got some great ideas!

“Facebook and Let's talk (barber)shop are the two most active. Join those if you'd like to be a part of some great discussions.”

Barbershop Harmony Society
[https://www.facebook.com/barbershopharmonysociety/](https://www.facebook.com/barbershopharmonysociety/)

Let’s Talk (Barber) Shop
[https://www.facebook.com/groups/1533445296927319/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1533445296927319/)

Bring a Guest Problems?

“Are you having a problem finding a guest to bring to rehearsal? Well then read on, my friend, as we let you in on ... THE INNER SECRETS OF A VETERAN BARBERSHOP RECRUITER:
You have to be willing to go beyond your immediate circle to find new singers. You may have to ask ten or more guys to find a singer. Don't stop on number nine!

From Concho Capers

HISTORY

Joining the Big Chief Chorus

As my exit draws near (August 15), I reviewed my entrance to the BCC, November 9th, 1999, as I wrote to my son Phil (the singer):

“Well, I had my first rehearsal last night with the community chorus. I was rather nervous walking in, but the 14 newcomers were warmly greeted by the 30 or so old-timers. Some have been in it many years.

“I enlisted as baritone, although I sure had trouble with a lot of the high notes and had to sing falsetto. We’ve got about a dozen songs to learn in three weeks, and then about seven performances, really too fancy a name for participating in the Pontiac Christmas Lights Turn-on, the Lions’ Club, some churches and old peoples’ homes, etc.

“The parts are mostly new to me; I haven’t sung the baritone part on many of them. Sight-reading was a mile a minute, but it started coming slowly to me.

“Anyway, I’m not very good, but I’m good enough to hang in there, and it’s a fun group of men.

“Just wanted to report it 😊

“Love, Dad”

...to which son Phil responded...

“Yeah! Sing pretty! And always sing on the breath...not the vocal cord. Keep the tone floating on the breath like a ping pong ball.
Create a half yawn in the mouth...open...relax and breathe from down below.

“Enjoy!
“Phil”

LETTERS

From Eileen Marshall:
My shoulder surgery went well. The main problem now, is that my eye sight is affected by an infection of the eye lids which is causing severe pain and loss of vision.
I have had to move to the Inn at Cass Lake for my care until further notice. If you would like to contact me, please send me a card to my home address and Bob will get me the mail. Also, if you would like to visit me at the Inn at Cass Lake, please do so.

And thanks for the following thanks...which I include only to show the importance of a chapter bulletin. May Smoke Signals continue!

From Ralph LeRoy, Bass for the Jesters Barbershop Quartet
Hi John, just wanted to say "Thank You" for putting out the Smoke Signals. I realize it takes a lot of time and we appreciate it.

From Mike O'Donnell, of Great Lakes Harmony Brigade
Great job John! Always enjoy the Smoke Signals! Thanks to Ray Sturdy for his report on GLHB.

From Art Carinci
That was great John. Thank you. [re: The Dallas Street Choir, July issue] ...we all need to be reminded that harmony is an inclusive term which crosses all racial and gender lines!

From Chuckles Murray
Thanks, John, for all the years of Smoke Signals you have created!

CALENDAR (With Performance Times; Warm-ups 30’- 45’ earlier)

Aug 1, T, 7:00 Chorus rehearsal, WOAC
Aug 8, T, 7:00 Chorus rehearsal, WOAC, and Chorus Photo
Aug 15, T, 7:00 Chorus rehearsal, WOAC
Aug 22, T, 7:00 Chorus rehearsal, WOAC
Aug 25, 26 Bush League, Bellaire, MI.
Aug 29, T, 5:30 BCC Picnic, Sylvan Lk Comm Ctr
Sep 5, T, 7:00 Chorus rehearsal, WOAC
Sep 16, Sa, 9:15 a.m. MILOA (Ovarian Cancer Benefit), National
Anthem and short performance, 8:30 warm-up, Village of Rochester Hills, Adams and Walton
Nov 4, Sa, 7:00 73rd Annual Show, Mott H.S. Home For the Holidays
Nov 7, T, 7:00 First Christmas Chorus Rehearsal
Nov 28, T, 6:00 Waterford Tree Lighting
    7:00 Lockwood of Waterford
Dec 5, T, 6:30 Independence Village, White Lake
Dec 12, T, 6:30 Lakeland Place, Waterford
Dec 14, Th, 1:30 Waterford Seniors at CAI
Dec 21, Th, 7:00 Independence Twp. Library
2018
Feb 14, W Valentines deliveries
Mar 13 or 15, TBD Canterbury St Patrick’s Day
Mar 16, F, 12:30 Auburn Hills Snr Center

CHAPTER LEADERSHIP
Director: Thomas Blue (248-814-9627)
Assistant Directors: Fred McFadyen, Mike Frye
President: Eric Domke (248-674-2323)
Past President: Jack Teuber (248-334-3686)
VP: Chapter Dev: Walt DeNio (248-922-9090)
VP: Music and Performance: Zach Schroeder (248-929-1285)
VP: Marketing & PR: Jack Teuber (248-334-3686)
Secretary: Charlie Perry (248-880-9356)
Treasurer: Jim Owens (248-682-4311)
Members at Large - Pat Hefner, Fred Pioch, Ray Sturdy, Austin Suthers
Chorus Manager: Gene Downie (248-682-9321)
Captain Sunshine: Bill Maxfield (248-698-1393)
Chorus Librarian: Roger Holm (248-623-7452)
Endgame

Your breath is the bridge between your body and your mind. (Place your hands on your breastbone and feel it.)

Tag Time

The new Member Center portal is now LIVE!