All the hard work paid off. The 70th annual Big Chief Chorus show, “Big Chiefs on Broadway,” was called a success by all who heard it at Waterford Mott High School, Saturday, November 1.

From the opening drawing of last year’s ticket raffle, won by Tom Blue excitedly charging the stage, to the final curtain call, that got mangled, but who cared?, the audience of about 380 was appreciative.

The show sported five chapter quartets. 4 UR PLEASURE and 4GVN showed what their hard work can do. LIMITED EDITION’s rendition of “When I’m Sixty-Four” was a crowd-pleaser. CODA HONOR is always a delight. BIDIN’ OUR TIME’s skit with “Annie Oakley” brought laughs from the audience, and their rendition of “Hands of Time” as a memoriam to Dick Johnson brought tears.

Our first guest quartet, ALLURE, Regional Silver medalists, dazzled us with their garb and with their singing. Already regional silver medalists, they will be aiming one step higher at the Sweet Adelines regional contest in Dearborn, April, 2015.

RUSTY PIPES brought nine international gold medals to the stage and showed why. Bass Jay Hawkins won gold with INTERSTATE RIVALS (1987) and MARQUIS (1995). Carl Taylor won Seniors Gold with THE BARONS in 2003. RUSTY PIPES won Gold as the 2012 Seniors Quartet champions. When their Tenor Dale Fetick was hospitalized with pneumonia this month, Kipp Buckner was recruited and learned their songs in the last five days. He has won Gold with INTERSTATE RIVALS (1987), GAS HOUSE GANG (1993), and OLD SCHOOL (2011).
For the second year, the Afterglow was held at our favorite restaurant, Heroes. We filled the room with barbershoppers and music. Mike Frye emceed with lots of great groaners, and all the quartets sang. Thanks to Jeff and Pete for the script, Donna Bevington for stage management, Gene Downie for tickets, Howard Lynn for set construction, the Rochester Guardians of Harmony for re-use of their stage signs, Doug Metzger for programs, Lance Shew for liaison to the guest quartets, and all the businesses that bought ads in our show program. Jeff Doig, Doc Mann, and Bob Wallace handled emceeing.

We sold 72 program ads.

We sold 27 tickets in our first-ever online ticket sales program, including 15 to Maryann Lambrecht who brought her Men’s Ensemble and their parents.

Now it is on to the Christmas season, and we are already one song ahead – “We Need a Little Christmas.”

### QUARTETS

A blend of **LIMITED EDITION** (Jeff Doig, John Cowlishaw, Charlie Perry) and **BIDIN’ OUR TIME** (Mike Frye) sang a 10-set at the 80th anniversary luncheon of the Cedarcrest Lutheran Church, on Sunday, November 2. The foursome sang to about 50 current and past members of the church, established in 1934 in White Lake Township, a congregation that values appearances by our quartets and chorus. Church members Gil Schreiner and Ted Prueter were present, and Gil joined the quartet on “Let the Rest of the World Go By.” Wanting more, the attendees asked the quartet to add “Little Toy Trains” (ooh, it’s been a year) and “We Need a Little Christmas.”

**LIMITED O’DITION** (Oberstadt, Doig, Cowlishaw, Perry) joined with the Huron Valley Community Chorus to sing as the Holiday Arts and Greens Open House at Bogie Lake Greenhouse on Saturday morning, November 22. The quartet sang 11 songs, interspersed by songs from the chorus, whose 17 performers included Charlie Perry. The fine amplification system pumped the music thru the extensive room, which was filled with a collection of poinsettias and artworks by regional artists. Eight other musical groups performed during the weekend.

### AROUND THE PATCH

Gene **Downie’s** new email is **genede3@att.net**

With Eileen **Marshall’s** latest medical challenge, **eibobmar@att.net** is no longer being monitored.

Freddie **McFadyen** may be less available for chorus events as he cares for Alice.

The Music Committee met at Roger Holm’s home on November 9, and tentatively decided on a theme for **next Fall’s show** – “Grammy Awards Night.” We already have one guest quartet booked – **INSTANT CLASSIC**, and are exploring the possibility of adding our Pioneer District Youth Chorus – The Voice.

Chuckles **Murray** participated in the Indiana Harmony Brigade November 7, 8. Paul **Teska** was also there, and was able to do a little singing.

**HVCC, Charlie Perry at back left**

### MEMBERSHIP

**Chapter 2014 Performances thru October:** 89 gigs to 48,774 people

**MEMBERSHIP:** (at 50)

- **Renewals:** None
- **Due in December:** Denio, Doyle, Keith, Prueter
- **Overdue:** Hoff, Oberstadt
December Birthdays: Jack Teuber (15th), Howard Lynn (18th), Mike Frye (23rd), Zaven Melkonian (26th), Jim Owens (28th)

Medical:
Ted Prueter – being treated for leukemia
Duane Roy – being treated for esophageal cancer

In Memoriam:
Dec 7, 2001, Bob Woodward, #8
Dec 18, 2005, Bob Wisdom, #57

District

Canada Night, November 7
The Detroit-Oakland Chapter once again hosted a party for our Canadian brothers. Sixty-nine barbershoppers showed up at the Stitt American Legion Post #232 in Dearborn Heights for a fine meal and lots of singing.

Four mini-choruses sang. Holm and Cowlishaw joined our dual members in a Rochester-Grosse-Pte-Pontiac-Waterford minichorus.

The four judges chose the Windsor chapter as the winners. They received the “new” Old Oakland Bucket to relish for a year. Oddly enough, the other three choruses all tied for second place (D.O.C., the “Big Grosse Guardians,” and Wayne). Quartets included YESTERDAY’S COFFEE, SERAPHIM, INTRIGUE, and EVENIN’ GENTLEMEN.

D.O.C.’s Dave Montera presenting the bucket (re-crafted by Pontiac-Waterford) to Eric Best, Assistant Director of Sun Parlour Chorus

The annual Pioneer District Leadership Academy will be held Saturday, January 17, 2015 at Bovee University Center, Central Michigan University. The program from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. will include workshops for Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers, and Marketing as well as workshops on

*Your voice, care and maintenance.
*Voice training demystified.
*Creating a Brand for your Chapter.

It’s about a 2-hr drive from WOAC.

International

A new quartet has formed in Tampa Bay named Dewey, Singum, & Howe. (Now why didn’t I think of that?)

“What’s Up, Big Chief?”

What’s Up Dan Valko?
Dan has recovered from last year’s surgery for his “triple-A”, aortic abdominal aneurysm. He still sounds upbeat, and Marie cares for him with his dementia. He still sings along at church.

What’s Up Fred Pioch?
Now that his Sear’s store at Pontiac Mall is closing, Fred has to decide whether to retire, at age 62, or find another job. He could relocate; his two sisters live near Portland, OR.

After his divorce eighteen years ago, Fred lived with his mother for nine years until her death at Port Cove Condos, where he still lives. He chose not to seek another relationship while his kids were young, but now that his son is in medical school in Erie, PA and his daughter at MSU Law School in Lansing, MI, that is an option that he wants to pursue.

He spends time on the computer (at night), and has joined the Waterford Senior Center on Williams Lake Rd., where he plays shuffleboard, euchre, volleyball, and is looking to learn pickle ball.

He has sung (in the past) in the church choir at Our Shepherd Lutheran Church in Birmingham. His goal is to sing in a quartet on next year’s show.

MEDIA

Crossroads’ new album, The Simple Life, along with their other two albums, That Lucky Old Sun, and Crossroads, make great holiday gifts!
THE SINGING CRAFT

What’s Your Vocal Range?
   If you can’t answer that, and don’t use a keyboard or pitch pipe, use this simple website exercise. (Do it when you’re warmed up.)
http://tinyurl.com/kvczubx

HISTORY

Mike Slamka put together one song, “Without a Song,” by four different quartets (The Buffalo Bills, The Suntones, Bluegrass Student Union, Keepsake) to show how barbershop has evolved.
http://tinyurl.com/p5wlj6e

VP Growth and Development: Membership - 50. Active members - 44.
VP Music and Performance: Show preparation progressing.
Show to include a tribute to Dick Johnson. Jeff Doig & Mike Frye to meet with Heroes to finalize afterglow plans. Show article may appear in Oakland Press, Clarkston, Lake Orion, Oxford and Spinal Column.
Reimburse Jack Teuber for shed keys & 50\50 tickets.
Barbershopper of the Month: Neil Braun

Letter to the Editor
From Mike Doyle
   “Gentlemen: I am again obliged to take a winter sabbatical from Big Chiefs. Lots and lots of business travel coming up for me. Our company is launching a new product line - kind of a make-or-break deal for us - and I’m just not going to have the time or energy for singing. But I will see you in the spring.”

Errata: The Rochester show attracted an audience of about 415, not 270 as reported in the November Smoke Signals.

CALENDAR, (With Performance Times; Warm-ups 30’- 45’ earlier)
Uniform for Christmas singouts: white L-S dress shirt; Christmas tie, black pants and shoes.

   Nov 25, T,  7:00 Christmas Chorus rehearsal
   Dec 2, T,  6:00 Waterford Tree Lighting
             7:00 Lockwood of Waterford
   Dec 4, Th,  1:00 Oakland Co. Retirees, Whilte Lake Oaks
             3:00 Independence Village (White Lake)
   Dec 9, T,  7:00 Lakeland Place
             7:45 Heroes
   Dec 11, Th,  6:30 Canterbury on the Lake
   Dec 13, Sa  Noon Mendelsohn,Lourdes
               Elmhaven Apartments
               Ryan’s Fresh Market
               Krogers of Union Lake
               Pine Tree Place
               Hiller’s Mkt, Union Lake

Executive Board Minutes, Oct 17, Excerpts
   Members present: Pioch, Holm, Doig, DeNio, Perry, Domke, Mann, and Teuber.

Lew Mahacek, in El Yunque National Forest, Puerto Rico, a 2009 coincidental encounter with John Cowlishaw, 1937 miles from our homes in Commerce Twp.
Dec 16, T 6:30 American House, Rochester Hills
    7:15 American House, Rochester Hills
Dec 19 F 12:30 Ensemble at Lourdes Nrsing
    1:30 Ensemble at Loudes Clausen
Dec 23, T 12:00 Fox Manor @ Lourdes, 2350 Watkins Lk Rd
    1:00 Inn at Cass Lake

2015
Jan 23, F Uncle Sam Night, Knights of Columbus, 2401 Columbus
Dr, Windsor, ON
Feb 13,14;F,Sa Valentines deliveries
May 8, F, 1:00 Elmhaven Mother’s Day
Jun 27, Sa, 3:00 Log Cabin Days, Waterford

CHAPTER LEADERSHIP
Director: Thomas Blue (248-814-9627)
Assistant Directors: Fred McFadyen, Mike Frye, & Bill Holmes
President: Jack Teuber (248-334-3686)
Past President: Doc Mann (248-628-0189)
VP: Chapter Dev: Eric Domke
VP: Music and Performance: Roger Holm
VP: Marketing & PR: Open
Secretary: Charlie Perry
Treasurer: Jim Owens
Members at Large - Fred Pioch, Ray Sturdy, Jeff Doig, Walt DeNio
Chorus Manager: Open
Captain Sunshine: Bill Maxfield
Section Leaders: McFadyen, Stephenson, Cowlishaw, Moss
Music Team: Holm, Blue, Cowlishaw, Doig, Frye, McFadyen, Moss,
    Murray, Prueter, and Stephenson
Bulletin Editor: John Cowlishaw, (248-891-4498)