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[www.bigchiefchous.org](http://www.bigchiefchous.org)



## 2019 Spring Convention



Early Saturday morning on April 27 Director, Tom Blue led a small contingent of Big Chief braves onto the risers in Traverse City to lead off the Pioneer District's 2019 Spring chorus competition. After months of preparation with concentrated focus on producing a

unified sound and showing good progress with choreography and authentic emotional expressiveness,



the Big Chief Chorus ably performed the Rob Hopkins arranged 1938 ballad, "I'll Be Seeing You," and the Barbershop Harmony Society's own

version of the up tune "Cabaret" from the 1966 musical by the same title. Their efforts obtained an average score of 57.3, which was good enough to land them in 8<sup>th</sup> place.

Satisfied with the progress they had made, the chorus passed up the opportunity to attend the



judges review session. Instead they went to sample the local faire in the glow of support from loved ones who accompanied them on the dusty northward trail. It was an enjoyable getaway for a hard-working chorus. Not to be outshined by the amazing championship performance of the newly reconstituted City Lights Chorus, in which four of our braves also sing, the BCC returns home to complete its 2019 singing season in which we will be ministering in harmony at dozens of sing outs for the benefit of Oakland county residents.







April, 16th  
**WORLD VOICE DAY**  
 BE KIND WITH YOUR VOICE

## Vocal Health Tips by “Dr. Chaz”

Submitted by Chuckles Murray

- **Hydrate! Hydrate! Hydrate!** (Well in advance of singing.) Stay hydrated! Avoid, reduce your caffeine and alcohol intake. Check to see if your medicine(s) dehydrate. Start hydrating in the early morning for a noon chorus competition. (Fred Kienitz used to say, “Pee white, sing right!”) Bring a water bottle to every singing opportunity, every rehearsal, every sing-out, to keep the vocal folds lubricated!
- Be aware of how much speaking or singing you do, and know when you, and your voice get tired... QUIT! And save your voice! (A real-life example: We have one Lead in our District, who’s quartet was almost a District Champion, until he over-used his voice, and the result is, he can no longer sing a great Lead... and he is now struggling, learning how to sing Bass!
- Never try to sing in a noisy environment, like restaurants, noisy machinery. Never compete with loud sounds! Never scream! Singing “Maxed Out”, all the time, is not pleasant to hear. Sound quality declines, and tuning becomes difficult. Introduce more “dynamics”, and “more life”, into your singing!
- Smoking, including vaping, is particularly irritating to the vocal folds. Quit smoking, etc.! Yes, it, and the related products, can cause cancer! (Ask me how many people who have touched my life, are no longer here because of smoking!)
- Avoid excessive throat clearing or coughing. Protect your vocal folds! Drink a “singer’s elixir” to help clear mucous before singing!
- Avoid excessively acidic foods. Do you experience “reflux”? Avoid over-eating or eating late at night, such that food resides in your stomach while you are sleeping. Sleep with an elevated head. Acid Reflux can damage vocal folds, increase inflammation, sensitivity, and stimulate cell mutations, which can turn into cancers.
- Pain, hoarseness, loss of control or range, and rapid vocal fatigue are all warning signs. Seek a competent voice health professional. Do not “over-sing”, as this can ruin your voice. “Sing Pretty!”, as R.D. Mathey,

Vocal Music Prof. at Bowling Green Univ. used to say! (Jeff Oxley of Acoustix quartet fame was a student of his!)



**THE CLARKSTON VILLAGE PLAYERS**  
 EST. 1961

Big Chief guest, Eric Easterday is acting in the play “Out of Order” (a farce) at Clarkston Village Players on White Lake Rd in Clarkston (between Dixie Hwy and Andersonville Rd). Performances are each Friday, Saturday and Sunday from May 3 through 18. Check online for times and tickets.

## “It’s Great to Be a Barbershopper”!



...especially if you’re a bass... That’s according to our newest barbershopper of the month, Charlie Perry, who has been heard on more than one occasion making the bold claim on behalf of his entire section, “We get all the cool notes!” Here lead singer of OverTime

Quartet, Austin Suthers, presents his friend with the certificate that declares our pride and admiration for a truly great voice. Charlie has been known to rumble the pews when he sings in church, and may even emit some notes below the hearing range of the human ear. Charlie deserves this month’s honor for faithfully bringing Austin to rehearsals and sing outs and for his leadership and quartetting experience. Charlie is the bass singer in the registered quartet OverTime, which will be competing this year in the Pioneer District’s Fall convention.

## Happy May Birthdays to these Harmonious Braves!

4<sup>th</sup> Gene Downie

9<sup>th</sup> Austin Suthers

## Membership Renewals

Downie, G.

MacDonald M.

**Let's Celebrate!**  
**No, Don't Hesitate**



**April 11, 2019**  
**National**  
**Barbershop**  
**Quartet Day**

Chief Eric cuts the cake  
as we celebrate a happy

**81<sup>st</sup>**

birthday of the  
Barbershop Harmony  
Society

**Chapter Leadership**

Director: Thomas Blue (248) 814-9627  
Assistant Directors: Mike Frye; Jeff Doig  
Section leaders: G. Moss, R. Sturdy, J. Doig, P. Hefner  
President: Eric Domke (248) 674-2323  
VP-Chapter Development: Fred Pioch (248) 330-2050  
VP-Marketing & PR: Jack Teuber (248) 334-3686  
VP-Music & Performance, Austin Suthers (248) 722-4464  
Secretary: Art Carinci (248) 494-0884  
Treasurer: Jim Owens (248) 682-4311  
At large: J. Knapp, B. Maxfield, E. Reed, R. Sturdy,  
Please email articles, photos, chorus news items etc. to  
Bulletin Editor: Jon Knapp - [jknappSLBC@att.net](mailto:jknappSLBC@att.net)

***It's that Time of the Week***



One of the special and unique features of our harmonious tribe is the weekly tradition of Quartet Time. Here the Tom Blue Quartet sings "My Wild Irish Rose."

Quartet time usually takes place in the fifteen minutes or so after the weekly business meeting and 50/50 raffle. And it offers a fun safe and encouraging opportunity for new barbershoppers to try their hand at quartetting.

**Upcoming Chorus Events**

Rehearsals are 7:30 PM every Tuesday at Canterbury on the Lake, 5601 Hatchery Rd. Waterford, MI 48329. Sing outs are listed by performance times. Warm-ups are 30 mins. prior.

- Apr. 26-28 Pioneer District Spring Convention  
Grand Traverse Resort, Traverse City, MI.
- May 10 (Fri) American House Elmwood, 12:30 p.m.  
2251 W. Auburn Rd., Rochester Hills
- May 13 (Mon) Barbershopalooza! (aka "Jug Night")  
Sponsored by Detroit Oakland Chapter  
7:30-10PM at Royal Oak Middle School  
709 N. Washington Ave, Royal Oak, MI
- June 8 (Sat) Ice Cream & Harmony Benefit Concert, 4 p.m.  
Central United Methodist Church  
3882 Highland Rd. Waterford
- June 18 (Tu) Flint's Dead Creek Picnic, Frankenmuth, 6pm  
Bus leaves from Scott Lake Baptist Church at 4:45  
811 Scott Lake Road, Waterford
- Aug. 20 (tentative) Big Chief Chorus Annual Picnic TBA
- Oct. 18-20 Pioneer District Fall Convention, Muskegon  
Holiday Inn: OverTime plans to compete.
- Nov. 2 (Sat) BCC 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Show at Mott PAC
- Nov. 5 (Tue) Christmas Chorus

***A Friendly Challenge***

By

Fred Pioch, VP of Chapter Development

I got an idea for the recruitment of new members to our chapter. I'd really appreciate your participation on this matter. I feel that all of us need to make an effort to this cause, due to the ages of our current members and the fact that our chapter will dissolve, if we don't make an effort to get younger members into the chorus. This is a serious situation to me and I hope it is to you, also.

After the rest of the month of May is over, I'd really like to hear from every member, to see if they were able to accomplish anything, in this regard. There's absolutely no pressure regarding this, I'd just like everyone to make an effort at this.

We really should do this from time to time, to motivate all of us in getting younger members into our chorus.