A Pow Wow with Chief Eric
by Eric Domke, Big Chief Chorus President

This is such a great time of year! We get to sing for so many folks and bring them joy in singing Christmas songs. Many smile, some sing the songs, some just move their lips to certain songs. But all know a joyous noise and the friendly company that we bring. Being with people suffering whether from dementia/Alzheimer’s or just plain loneliness or whatever issues they have is just so inspiring.

Thank You Big Chiefs!

December the 25th is here and we have finished another successful month of sing-outs sharing our music with those that need it most!

Thank you for your participation this past month even if you sang one or two sing-outs or you attended each and every one. It takes all of us collectively to do what we do. Thanks to Jack Teuber for once again organizing another successful bus trip.

Thanks to all of our Christmas Chorus guests and we do hope that some of you might stick around for the beginning of a new year of barbershop singing!

A special thank you to all of you who blessed me with a new pitch-pipe (how did you know) and my family and I with cards and envelopes of gifts. I truly appreciate it and your generosity is overwhelming...so to quote a song from Scrooge, the musical...“thank you very much, thank you very much, it’s the nicest thing that anyone ever done for me!” I wish you all the merriest of Christmases and the happiest of New Years! ~~~ Tom Blue, Director ~~~

A Year End Hello from...
our BCC Georgia Extension Program

How time flies! Three years in Georgia. Brunswick seems like an ideal community. We have a lovely home in an interesting community. The weather has some semblance of seasons. The ocean is a short drive away, across the Torras Causeway... During the summer, we spent a week in Michigan visiting family and friends, staying at Dave and Nicole’s new Lake Walloon getaway, and getting together with Limited Edition quartet buddies.

The Unitarian-Universalist fellowship has become an even bigger part of our lives. The fellowship engages on issues of race relations, sex trafficking, housing, et al while trying to remain apolitical. Corinne heads up the ushers, and the coffee hours, and I continue as musical director, and have learned how to accommodate to the absence of a pianist by creative use of electronic backups.

The same boiling water that softens the potato hardens the egg...
It’s about what you’re made of, not the circumstances.

~~ Pete Mazarra ~~
1) Each person singing in the choir must listen sensitively to his or her own section in order to balance the volume of one’s voice with the others, and to blend one’s timbre with the timbres of the other singers. Precise observance of this rule creates good sectional ensemble.

2) Every section, blended and balanced within itself, must listen acutely to all the other sections of the choir in order to balance the volume of the section with the overall choral sound. The implementation of this rule creates overall ensemble.

3) Every singer, while striving to achieve satisfactory sectional ensemble, must listen to his own section, in order to blend the pitch of his voice with that of the section in a precise unison. The observance of this rule will produce proper intonation within the section.

4) Every section, united in sectional and overall ensemble and perfecting its own sectional intonation, must listen carefully to all the other sections and, perceiving the overall chord, must set its pitch with total precision in relation to the pitches of the other sections of the choir. The conscientious observance of this rule will yield good overall intonation in the choir.

5) Each singer must maintain continuous contact with the conductor, so that they can see and understand his indications and carry them out accurately. Implementation of this rule will result in effective nuances.

By consciously teaching and constantly reminding the choir of these elementary rules, the conductor will slowly but surely develop in the singers a feeling of ensemble, a sense of intonation, and an understanding of well-balanced nuances. The choir as a whole will thus, perhaps slowly, but steadily, master these most crucial elements of choral sonority. Only when they have acquired and perfected these essential principles, can a group of singers truly be called a choir.”  (From Chapter 1, pp. 8-9)

Happy January Birthdays to these Harmonious Braves

7th Tom Blue  10th Bob Marshall  18th Ray Sturdy

Will the real Rudolph please stand up?

Our 75th annual show, “Ladies Night” was a huge success. Many people noted how lively our singing was. Pictured here are our guest quartet, Girl Talk, and in-house quartet OverTime, who combined on the show as an Octet to sing “A Whole New World from Disney’s Aladdin.

Renewal Notice: Keith 12/31; McMain 1/21; Knapp 1/30
Our Christmas gig at Canterbury on the Lake included a very nice spread with shrimp cocktail for the chorus to enjoy. Baritone Section Leader, Ray Sturdy, pictured above presented honorary member, Pete Peters, with his yellow Chorus polo while Zaven Melkonian looked on. Thank you, Pete, for helping us obtain a spot for our 2019 picnic!

The Big Chief Chorus sang at many area facilities during the month of December, bringing some much needed holiday cheer to some of our less fortunate neighbors. Lead singer (for Christmas gigs) and baritone (for everything else), and this year’s “Santa” playing opposite Rudolph, Ed Reed, offers a Big Chief side hug to one of our adoring fans. Pete Mazarra, pictured sporting a red nose and dazzling antlers played the role of the most famous reindeer of all this year.

Chapter quartets, 4GVN and OverTime were also on hand at most of our singouts to offer their harmonious cheer.

Chapter Leadership...

Director: Thomas Blue (248) 705 7952
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) 939-0956
Treasurer: Jim Owens (248) 682-4311
Bulletin Editor: Jon Knapp – jknappSLBC@att.net

Chorus Calendar

Rehearsals are Tuesday’s at 7:30 PM at Canterbury on the Lake, 5601 Hatchery Road, Waterford, MI 48329. Singout call times are one half hour before each scheduled event.

Jan. 14 (Tue) Installation Banquet at Shark Club, 7 PM
Tickets are $20. See Fred Pioch to reserve a spot.
Feb. 14 (Fri) Singing Valentines
Mar. 13 (Fri) Auburn Hills Community Center at 12:30 PM
1827 N. Squirrel Road, Auburn Hills, 48326
Mar. 17 (Tue) Canterbury on the Lake Independent 6:30 PM
Apr. 24-26 Pioneer District Spring Convention, Battle Creek

After bringing the harmony, the Big Chiefs have more to share. We really enjoy spreading the love to those who hear our music. Pictured below, Charlie Perry, bass singer of OverTime shares a hug with his father. Gale Perry after our singout at Ideal Senior Living in Bloomfield Hills.