



The Voice of Rushmore



Mt. Rushmore Chapter "Shrine of Democracy Chorus"
Rapid City, South Dakota



Volume 13

April 2011

Number 4

Society CEO Ed Watson to retire July 15



...Ed has been the right man in the right place for the past six years.

After six wonderful years of hard work and dedication to the cause of preserving and encouraging barbershop harmony, I find I must move on. Quoting from my upcoming column for *The Harmonizer*:

I have asked the Society Board to accept my resignation effective July 15, 2011. I am doing this for my own good and the good of the Society. It is with pride and humility (an odd combination, don't you think?) that I step down from the greatest job in the world, and yet also with regret at the things I did not accomplish. I could never hope to match the superb and superlative nature of this career, so I will be retiring and enjoying my family.

The regret I feel is that I could not, no matter my personal level of effort, stop the slide in Society membership that began in the late 1980s and continues to this day. Last year we slowed the decline, and so far in 2011 we are showing positive growth, but we have many pitfalls ahead and much to do to grow like we should.

The new Society CEO will be chosen by the Society Board of Directors; details of the search will be released as they become available. An interim manager (to be determined) will begin working with me sometime in June and will serve as the bridge to the new CEO until the transition has been completed.

Quoting from the Society Board's response to my letter of resignation:

The Society Board is unanimous in its feeling that Ed has been the right man in the right place for the past six years. When we review the accomplishments of the Society during Ed's term it is clear that it has been a time of significant change. During these years we have selected Nashville, TN as our new headquarters home, purchased a property and renovated the building into a

wonderful symbol of our organization. We moved much of our staff there and hired new staff members. We hired a consultant and formulated an exciting plan for SING—our future interactive face to the public in Nashville.

Our Midwinter Convention, through strong staff support under Ed's direction of the Youth Chorus Festival initiative, has become the place to be in late January. In the last four years, the attendance at Midwinter has eclipsed the previous year's attendance with nearly 2,500 attendees in 2011.

In a period of general economic difficulty, Ed has provided guidance to allow us to operate in a fiscally prudent manner. In response to those economic challenges, Ed reorganized the administrative structure of the Society headquarters to meet those challenges.

We join the entire membership of the Barbershop Harmony Society in wishing Ed and his family all the best in their future plans and thank Ed for his service to the Society.

Now, to the things I'm proud of, not necessarily my accomplishments, but during my tenure: the Associate program; the Youth Chorus Festival; the relative harmony of the Harmonet and overall improved relations and communication among members and leaders; the success of our competitions and our Midwinter and International conventions; Sing Canada Harmony; The Harmonizer's resurgence; the resurgence of small chapters; the fiscal health of the Society; your excellent, hard-working and hand-picked staff; iTunes and our Barbershop recordings; "American Harmony The Movie"; Harmony Hall Nashville; the wonderful Barbershoppers I've met these six years; our nine (soon to be 10 affiliates) worldwide; the "All Mine" tag.

It has been a privilege to work in this capacity, and while I'm leaving this position, I am not leaving the Society I have loved for the past 37 years. I believe brighter days are ahead as we continue to work together in harmony. I will continue to do my part as a volunteer to help the Society and barbershop harmony grow. I hope you will do your part as well!

Thank you for letting me serve you these past six years!

Ed Watson

CEO, Barbershop Harmony Society

Shrine of Democracy

2010 Board of Directors

- President:
Jim Olson
- VP Music & Performance:
John Elving
- VP Member Development:
Bob Melvin
- VP Marketing & PR:
Del Beck
- Secretary:
David L'Esperance
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- Immediate Past President:
Wayne Anderson
- Members at Large:
Alan Schulte
Gary Welsh
Jim Price

Appointments

- Music Director:
Clayton Southwick
- Assistant Directors:
Jim Price
John Elving
- Chorus Manager:
Pete Anderson
- Chorus Contact:
Pete Anderson
- 2011 Show Chairman:
David L'Esperance
- Webmaster:
John Elving
- Bulletin Editor-in-Cheap:
John Elving

The Voice of Rushmore

is published monthly and is the official publication of the Mt. Rushmore Chapter of the Rocky Mountain District (RMD) of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

The Mt. Rushmore Chapter is the home of the Shrine of Democracy Chorus. The chapter and chorus meet each Thursday evening at 7 P.M. in the choir room at Central High School on Mt. Rushmore Rd. in Rapid City, S.D. (Look for the banner.)

For more information visit our website, www.shrineofdemocracychorus.org, or contact the editor.

Articles, information and address corrections may be sent to the editor:

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Black Hawk, SD 57718
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605.381.9680

Print off two copies of this newsletter to share—one with your family and one with someone you are bringing to a chapter meeting. Let them know they belong here!



Thanks to this month's contributors

Del Beck, Jim Olson, David L'Esperance, Rod Pfeifle, John Elving, Al Kelts, Chuck Greene

The rest of you have stories and articles, I'm sure, you wanted to submit but were caught by surprise so didn't get them done with only the 10 day warning that you were given. You now have another month to get them completed. We'll read them next month!

SUPPORT YOUR QUARTETS!

Black Hills Blend

Al Kelts, tenor
Pieter Wouden, lead
Wayne Anderson, baritone
Pete Anderson, bass

Convergence

Jeff (JJ) Elving, tenor
Dave Sommers, lead
Clayton Southwick, baritone
John Elving, bass

High Mileage

David L'Esperance, tenor
Jim Olson, lead
Al Pitts, baritone
Chuck Knowlton, baritone
Del Beck, bass

Vintage Reserve

Dwight "Digger" Edstrom, tenor
Doug Andrews, lead
Clayton Southwick, baritone
Gary Welsh, bass



- | | |
|----------------|---------|
| Lee Ytreeide | Apr. 2 |
| Pete Anderson | Apr. 5 |
| Rod Pfeifle | Apr. 15 |
| Wayne Anderson | Apr. 18 |

THE PRES. SAYS



Jim Olson
Chapter President

"The time has come, the Walrus said, "to speak of many things." The things that make our show go on and all the good it brings. Oh, we could sit and do nothing or just go through the drill, of chapter meeting practices and so-on through April, until, the week before the show and panic. Will we ever learn, that music's fun to make, if only all the spots are learned, in time for heaven's sake.

So here we are as winter fades and spring begins to come. Lets make the effort, everyone, to make this show the one; that shows how much we all have learned and how the songs are sung.

We have the chance to make it great; let's all work hard some extra days and keep the music ringing. The show will blossom like the spring with harmony a-ringing.

What can I say. I like the effort that you all are putting into the show. The next thing for us all to do is to think about those sales of ads and tickets. We want an audience and we want to raise some money in order to keep us going for the rest of the year.

In case you missed it at the chapter meeting this last week, the success of the Singing Valentine ads got us more attention than we wanted in one place. The South Dakota Department of Revenue invited us to get a sales tax license or else! Although we are a non profit corporation, our sales of tickets and Singing Valentines are subject to sales taxes and entertainment tax. We have to file for the past five years. Ron Evenson, the new Treasurer, was welcomed and thanked by the State for making application and then told we had to do the old returns. It's a good thing that our previous Treasurer has such good records to look over, to answer the questions for those years.

Don't forget to keep May 21 marked on your calendars for the Compellingly Attractive Chapter Meeting workshop that Saturday from 9-5. It will be fun and will show us some new ideas on how to maintain and grow the chapter, having fun at the same time.

See you all at chapter.

Jim



♪ MUSICAL NOTES ♪



John Elving
VP Music & Performance

May is turning out to be a very busy month for the Shrine of Democracy Chorus and Mt. Rushmore Chapter. It is going to be packed full of wonderful things to take part in.

Starting out on the 7th of May we will be presenting our annual show. You have been challenged with some great arrangements of some of those songs we associate with the crooners. Frank, Dean, Sammy, Fred, Nat, Bing, even Michael could only imagine what great songs like theirs could sound like in close, four-part harmony.

You have been working hard to learn all the songs and then be as artistic as the great crooners themselves. Be proud of yourselves!

One week after our show is over we will probably take a little breather from singing so hard. Be on the lookout for what will be happening on May 12. It may surprise you!

May 21, two weeks after the show, we are hosting the Compellingly Attractive Chapter Meetings Workshop. This is a not-to-miss event. Jim Olson, Wayne Anderson, Bob Melvin and John Elving have already been to the workshop in Denver and Clayton Southwick in Phoenix. We were all so enthused about what it could mean to our chapter that we felt it was necessary for us to bring it to Rapid City to share with many more people.

Chuck Greene, the workshop facilitator, is a great presenter, but more than that he is a great leader in getting everyone involved in what is happening in every chapter meeting. Be prepared to take part, not just sit back and listen. You will end up taking leadership roles you never knew you were capable of.

Hopefully everything we learn together that day will take hold and we will continue to implement. It will make our chapter a stronger and better chapter and chorus because you all will take charge of it.

Part of what we will learn will help us reach out to the younger people of our community, while not forgetting about us older ones. How would you like to see more of the young guns want to be a part of what we do? It can happen!

Plan now to come and have fun, fellowship, and learn a great deal. I promise you will do all three.

Sing-cerely & Humm-bly,

John

BOARD SCRIBBLINGS



DAVID L'ESPERANCE
Chapter Secretary

On the Oneth of March, 2011, your Board of Directors for the Mt. Rushmore Chapter of The Barbershop Harmony Society convened for their March meeting. **President Jim Olson** dropped the hammer at 7:06 p.m. in his office's conference room. The secretary certified the presence of a quorum of the elected members.

The minutes of the February meeting and the special meeting addendum to the January minutes were approved as presented.

VP and COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Treasurer Ron Evenson's report showed we're still in good financial shape. He has been in discussions with the South Dakota Department of Revenue concerning our requirement to have a sales tax license. More to come on that issue. The need for an annual audit remains. All the numbers are not yet in, but it appears we netted about \$1000 from the privilege of delivering the Singing Valentines.

Music and Performance VP John Elving presented an excellent written report of the Music Team's activities. The Harmony Happening in the Hills (HHiH) listing of songs has been received, and we already have spots and learners for all except **Gonna Build a Mountain**. John has posted an ad in the next issue Vocal Expressions. The registration prices for HHiH will be \$40 in advance and \$50 "at the door". Of course, the wonderful director of Ambassadors of Harmony and twice Quartet Gold Medal winner **Jim Henry** is our clinician.

Marketing and PR VP Del Beck reported the Main Street Banner, radio spots and member contacts were the top

three categories in the "how did you hear about Singing Valentines" survey. He's already planning his attacks for the Show and for HHiH.

Show Chair David L'Esperance is closing in on an official name for the Spring Show; it will probably be **Crooning the Memories Barbershop Style**. The stage dimensions will soon be taped out in the chapter meeting room since we don't have free access to the ELKS stage. He's awaiting the selection of the soloists and quartets before finalizing the performance order. **The Potter Family** will be guests for the afternoon show and the afterglow.

OLD BUSINESS:

Singing Valentines: our four quartets delivered 65 paid valentines. Each quartet reported very special moments from many of their visits. Chairman Jim Gogolin did an exceptional job shepherding all the preparations and execution.

Board Retreat: members of the Board felt the day was well spent, and a lot was accomplished. The hospitality of Lin and Jim Gogolin was superb.

NEW BUSINESS:

Compellingly Attractive Chapter Meetings (CACM): after considerable discussion of the best date, the Board voted to invite Chuck Greene to present his event on May 21 at a location to be determined. John Elving will contact Dakota Choral Union, A' Cappella Showcase and several regional Chapters about participating.

The next meeting of your chapter board will be April 5, 2011, convening at 7 p.m. at President Olson's offices.

With no further business for the good of the chapter, President Olson declared the meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

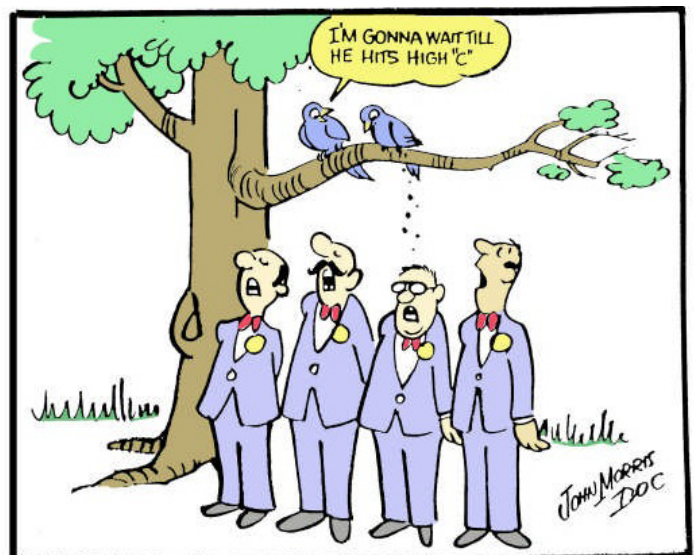
Respectfully submitted
In Perfect Harmony,

DAVID L'ESPERANCE, Secretary

Welcome Guests!

Dana Darger
(guest of Pete Stach)

J. Paul Koehler
(guest of John Elving)



HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT US?



...every chapter member needs to become part of the marketing team.

Del Beck
VP of Marketing & PR

This question was asked of every caller requesting a Singing Valentine this past February. (Thanks to the Gogolins.) Here are the results of that survey in order of highest to lowest number of responses: Radio, banner, chapter member, repeat customer, poster, Journal, internet.

Plans for marketing the SHOW include all of the above except the banner which was posted over the 600 block of main Street. Although highly successful and the likelihood that it would serve us well again, the cost of over-hauling and re-hanging it create a cost-prohibitive situation.

For the 2011 show to be a financial success every chapter member needs to become part of the marketing team. The survey indicated that the efforts of our members brought about some of the greatest results.

The task, then, is to contact people, many people, getting out the message about our chapter show. Start with the folks who are past customers, include family, friends, co-workers, church members, etc. Hand them a small flyer with all the necessary info including your phone number. Flyers will be provided.

The other task requiring member effort is the delivering of posters to as many businesses as we can reach. Thanks to many of you who made this effort a big success for our Valentine project. Let's do it again. Posters and lists of business addresses will be provided.

So, just when you thought learning the show music was a huge task, you find out there is more to do. Producing a chapter show is a huge undertaking and works well when the job is shared by many. With your help we will "git 'r done."

Del

The show goes on



David L'Esperance
Show Chair

Gentlemen, as we enter the final month of preparation for **Crooning the Memories Barbershop Style**, I want to thank you all for your incredible diligence learning all the challenging new music we chose to throw at you. I'm very pleased and proud at the way you have embraced the selections. And deep thanks to all who have taken on the tasks of prepping the house, envisioning the stage setting, arranging the afterglow, tickets, advertising booklet, etc. To the soloists who have worked so hard on your preparations, thanks for being courageous enough to "go it alone" to entertain our audience. And finally, to the directing team of Clayton, John and Jim, your visions for each of the numbers and getting the best interpretations out of us guarantee this can and will be one of our finest productions yet.

Thanks again to each and every one of you! It's a privilege to serve as your show chair.

Did you ever wonder: How to sell a song better?

By Tom Wheatley
From *The Dundalk Charivari*
Jim Botelle, editor

There have been many descriptions of this concept, but I like to use the comparison of that old spiritual, "**Dry Bones.**" Basically it tells us "*the foot bone connected to the shin bone; the ankle bone connected to the shin bone; the shin bone connected to the knee bone*" and so forth, right on up to the head bone.

To sell any song, we need to use a similar concept. Think of it as "*the body bone connected to the head bone, and the head bone connected to the voice bone.*"

If you concentrate only on getting the voice bone to work right, the body and head bones will just stand around like corn stalks. However, if you get the body bone working, there's a good chance that the head bone will get into the act. When the body bone and the head bone are telling the story, the voice bone seems to automatically follow. Try it. The audience will like it!

Tom

"Ringing Chords A Mile High!"

Thornton, Colorado



April 29 & May 1, 2011

RMD SPRING CONVENTION
& QUARTET PRELIMS



What is Your Gift?

Adapted from an article by John Robinson
As seen in the The Beat Newsletter
of the Greater Indianapolis Chapter
Jerry Troxel, Editor

Imagine many of you are familiar with the biblical teachings of spiritual gifts (see 1 Corinthians 12). In this passage, the reality that all parts are important, all parts are dependent, and all parts are part of one body is made clear. "A body has many parts; its many parts form one body." "A body is not made up of one part; but of many."

So it is in **The Shrine of Democracy Chorus**, and a "barbershop translation" might include that a tenor can't say, "Because I am not a bass, I do not belong to the body (chorus)." And a baritone can't say, "Because I am not a lead, I do not belong to the body (chorus)." If the whole body (chorus) were any particular section then there would be no harmony; just one note (hopefully). Thus, there are purposefully many parts.

It is also true that it takes many gifts besides vocal talent for a chapter to succeed. Continuing the "barbershop translation," the guys most directly involved in performance can't say to those involved in promotion, "I don't need you." The guys most directly involved in membership can't say to those involved in long range planning, "I don't need you." The guys involved on the board can't say to the members, "I don't need you." And, the members can't say to the board, "I don't need you." I think you get the idea and perhaps realize my point that it takes each of us; and, it takes all of us.

Some are more gifted in the realms of performance, marketing, development, bean counting, recruiting, leading, speaking, planning, singing in the chorus, solos, or in a quartet, etc. But that doesn't mean that anyone is less gifted. While some are more gifted in certain areas, others are more gifted in certain other areas (which are different but equally important). Perhaps some like to be out front,

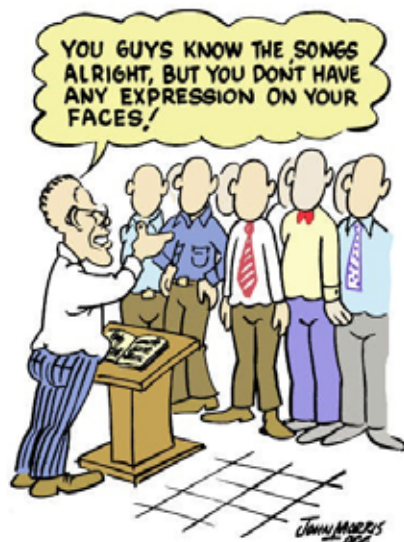
while some prefer to work behind the scenes. The point is that it takes each of us; and it takes all of us. It takes each of us using our own gifts to advance this chapter; and it takes all of us using our gifts to advance this chapter, as well.

"...whatever your gifts, this chapter needs them and deserves them..."

So, whatever your gifts, this chapter needs them and this chapter deserves them. If your gift is recruiting, recruit and share with others the tools to do so. If your gift is promotion, promote and share with others the tools to do so. If your gift is performance, for God's sake, make up for the rest of us (just kidding), perform and share with others the tools to do so. And, if you are absent, this body is missing a very important part. More than anything, we need you (and your gifts).

If we each use our gifts in an intentional manner, this chapter will continue to grow, we will improve our performance, we will sell more tickets to shows, and we will get more shows. The funny thing is that each of these areas are so intertwined towards advancing this chapter. So, intentionally use your gifts in whatever area and just do it; advance this chapter. Get members, improve your performance level, whatever, just do it.

Of course, I'd be remiss if I didn't mention, PROMOTE THIS CHAPTER. Be on the lookout for paying gigs, tell (don't ask) the companies and associations to which you belong that we'd be interested in performing at their conference, convention, summer picnic, Christmas party, etc., and be thinking NOW about new ways to sell tickets to our annual show. Let's fill the hall and make it a great show for them AND for us! It's for them, but it's our night to shine, and I'd rather do it to the sound of thunderous applause and make a statement.



THE JOY OF QUARTETING



Al Kelts
Tenor, Black Hills Blend

Ages ago I told John that I would write a column on "Quarteting". Many moons have done their moonly cycles since then....nonetheless, better late than never....

My roots in quarteting go way back...as a boy growing up in the church choir director's home, I sang soprano, alto, and, finally, tenor, (daddy sang bass and my three sisters took care of the other parts). These experiences taught me how to see notes on the page and "guess" where my voice should go, as well as figure out how chords should sound, sing harmonies with radio voices, and sing off key to drive my mother crazy!

In my freshman year in college I first sang in the SATB A Cappella Choir, until I joined a fraternity and a junior with a nice bass voice and perfect pitch asked for recruits for a barbershop quartet. Remembering four chairs in the downtown barbershop, it made perfect sense to me and I became The Tenor. Our baritone (always wise-guys) had sung in a chorus and produced a single copy of "**Just Plain Barbershop.**" Huddled around that single copy really made for some CLOSE harmony (disharmony?).

Since our frat brothers didn't really appreciate our chords, we sang each lunch time down in the furnace room with the metal door closed—really hot music! Also gave us our name, **Furnace Room Four!**

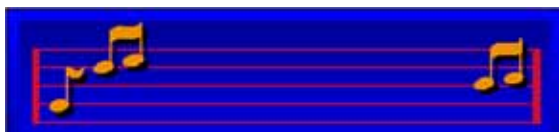
Eventually, we began doing gigs around campus—mainly songs from The Book, but some others, such as "Coney Island Babe" and "Ain't She Sweet". At that time, "The Music Man" with The Buffalo Bills was popular, so our finale became "Lida Rose" with my girlfriend (Mandy's future mom) singing "Sweet and Low". That turned out to be one heck of an ending; of course we didn't know any encores!

Our **FR4** continued with the original crew for two years and even competed in the second collegiate SPEBSQSA Regional in Columbus, Ohio, where we took second place (only four quartets participated). During my last two years in college, **FR4** personnel changed yearly, but it continued until I graduated.

Thirty-two years later Chuck Knowlton asked me if I wanted to sing in a quartet, breathed on those smoldering Barbershop coals, and reignited the flames of "quarteting."

I'll try to contribute to John's electronic rag monthly—maybe I just needed to get started!

(Now how about the rest of you! —Ed)



Rod P. STILL has too much time

A man is walking through an Arabian desert and finds a genie's lamp. He picks it up and rubs it and, of course, a genie appears.

The Genie tells the man, "OK, you've rubbed the lamp, now you get one wish."

The man says he thought it was three wishes.

The genie says, "Hey, it's a recession, it's one wish. Take it or leave it."

The man then pauses to think, trying to find something selfless to make the world a better place. Finally, he pulls out a map of the Middle East and says "These people have been fighting and killing each other for as long as anyone can remember. I wish for peace in the Middle East."

The Genie looks at him dumbfounded "I'm a genie, not a god. Give me something I can work with."

"Uh huh," and another long pause as the man tries to think of something which might be within the Genie's power. "OK, I know," says the man. "I sing in a barbershop chorus back home, the lead singers, could you tone their ego's down a bit?"

After another long pause, the Genie finally says "OK, OK. Let me see the map again!"

Q: What is the missing link between the bass and the ape?

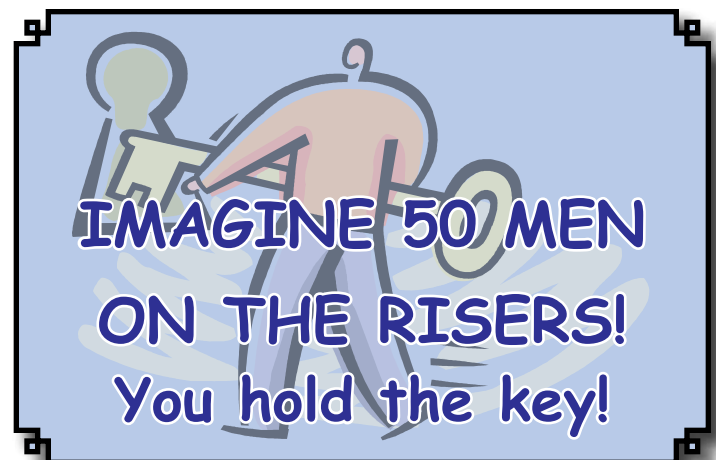
A: The baritone.

Q: Dad, why do the barbershop singers rock left and right while performing on stage?

A: Because, son, it is more difficult to hit a moving target.

Q: How can you tell if a Baritone is really stupid?

A: When the other baritones notice!



Building a Great Barbershopping Organization...

What the Compellingly Attractive Chapter Meeting Workshop is all about



Chuck Greene

Compellingly Attractive Chapter Meetings—Shifting to Priorities that Revitalize

Wouldn't it be grrrrreat if...

- chapter meetings were so compellingly attractive that guys couldn't wait to participate every week?
- new song learning was fast, easy, joyful, effective and not heavily dependent on individual homework?
- over 70% of the potential members who visited your chapter joined?
- several really good associate directors and audio and visual coaches were active members of the chorus?
- each member's talents were tapped to innovate improvements?
- chorus progress was so keen it fostered the Director's artistic growth?
- at each meeting you could feel your chapter becoming the great organization you always wished it would be?
- your chapter helped model the way for other chapters' vitality and growth?
- the **Radio City Music Hall Rockettes** kicked off your chapter meetings?

No pipedream (except maybe for that last item)—

This workshop is chocked full of new stuff—no tired familiar rehashes. It's designed to be fast-paced and fun. It involves innovation, leadership and management primarily by the Music Director and Music/Performance team. This Workshop can bring out the keys to vitalization for the majority of Society Chapters and provide extremely valuable strategies for chapters already on an upswing. The best part is the near-term results. It can take as little as three to five months to introduce the strategies in steps, refine them and get consistently good at it while continuing the chapter's usual annual schedule. Yes, the near-term turnaround claim seems unbelievable. But after two years beta-testing strategies and inventing tools with the Asheville Chapter, the confidence is warranted.

Purpose of the Workshop: "Get chapter leaders to use strategies that will cause their chapter meetings to become compellingly attractive and inspire growth."

Activity Content:

Chorus singing, directing, emceeing, coaching, innovation, new song learning, injection of fun and humor, director training, efficiency habits and more...

Classroom Content:

1. Learn the characteristics and priorities that people cur-

rently look for when considering joining or renewing membership (bulleted below).

2. Translate that knowledge into action—new innovative strategies that cause chapter meetings to become compellingly attractive.

Within every hour of the workshop, participants have opportunities to test-drive attractiveness strategies, use new creative tools, evaluate for improvements and sing. By the end of the workshop, everyone will have a vision—based in experience—of what can happen on meeting nights to make their chapter compellingly attractive to members and prospective members.

This workshop teaches participants what members and prospective members desire and look for in a chapter-based organization like ours—the 14 items bulleted below. Then, participants learn what to do to make sure the eight Deal-Maker items out of the 14 are obvious to anyone attending so much as one of their chapter meetings.

Basis:

In this organization members are:

- Appreciated/sought for their talents
- Approached about their needs
- Given high efficient return on their investment of time, energy and resources
- Welcoming to diversity in membership

This organization gives all members opportunities for:

- Creativity—participation in "imagineering" new or improved results
- Participative leadership—power to influence the pace, content and direction of the organization's life
- Skill, talent and knowledge growth
- Social Circle

This organization has:

- Astute and trustworthy managers & leaders with succession
- Community Acclaim—membership is a community-wide respected status
- Peer appeal—cool enough to invite friends
- Upbeat ambiance—interwoven fun, humor and positive attitudes
- Value-driven Mission—the opportunity to transform society
- Variety
- Visual appeal

[Each sub-set of bulleted items is alphabetized and not indicative of prioritization.]

During beta-testing (Asheville, NC) over 2 ½ years, active membership increased by over 100%, over 70% of the prospective members who visited a meeting joined, and the average age of the active chapter membership dropped by nine years.

It's only one Saturday of your time...

Warming-up: tips from the top

By Scott Hansen, *Masters of Harmony*
From the Santa Fe Springs *The Master's Voice*

Warm-ups are important. They set the tone for the rehearsal that is to come. Each Wednesday night at 7:30 p.m. as the **Masters of Harmony** gather, we say goodbye to the worries of the weekday world and welcome the opportunity to meet with other men to make musical magic.

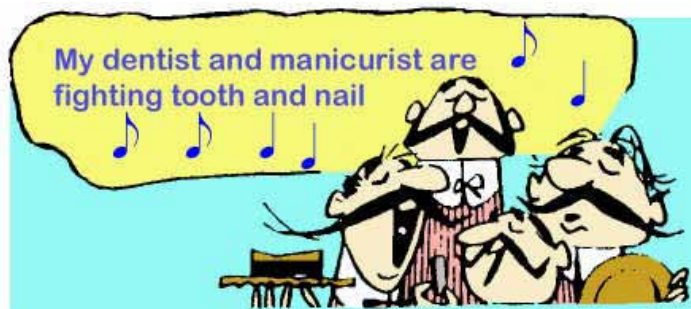
A common misconception exists that vocal warm-ups are for warming up your individual voice. Not so. The warm-up's primary purpose is to warm up the ensemble, not the individual singer.

The two most important aspects of warming up the ensemble are the mental and the aural. The **mental warm-up** involves the process of casting away concerns of the day and focusing our attention on the task at hand. As we are warming up, these thoughts may cross my mind: Am I in proper singing position? Am I focused on the director? Have I made a commitment tonight to maintain personal discipline? Am I using the same vocal placement throughout my range? Is there any physical tension in my voice? Are my vowels shaped properly? Am I connecting all of the word sounds to create a seamless melodic line? Is my face reflecting the emotions I am singing about?

The second aspect of the warm-up is the **aural tuning** of the ensemble. As anyone who has sung in a quartet is aware, all four singers may be completely warmed up without the quartet itself being warmed up. Time and attention are required to match our voice to the voices around us.

As we are warming up, the director is listening to the sound of the chorus and the various sections and making suggestions to fine-tune the ensemble. While he is doing this, we are fine-tuning our own individual instruments, much as an orchestra does before a performance, paying particular attention to how our voice fits with the voices of the men behind and beside us.

So beginnings are important. Warming up the ensemble is about melding the minds and voices of the chorus into musical excellence. You can't do that without all your brothers in harmony, and we can't do that without you.



Hydrate, hydrate, hydrate

From *The Charivari*, Dundalk MD

Avocal health seminar was offered by the Johns Hopkins system at Suburban Hospital in Bethesda on Nov. 3. **Dr. Lee Akst**, assistant professor and director of Johns Hopkins Voice Center and **Heather Starmer**, a speech language pathologist, presented a series of slides and videos, demonstrating how vocal cords work and what conditions can damage them. In addition to this editor, M-AD President Dick Powell attended, representing others like us who depend on our voices.

One of the major tips presenters gave was one we hear a lot: hydrate, hydrate, hydrate. The rule of thumb they gave is to drink greater than 60 ounces per day. A real treat was seeing the vocal cords of **Steven Tyler** of **Aerosmith** as he was singing. To see this seminar, go to: www.hopkinsmedicine.org/healthseminars/seminar_video.html. Choose OTOLARYNGOLOGY and click on Keeping Your Voice Healthy. You then can enjoy the seminar at your own leisure and pace. Best of all, it's free!

Cornerstone Women & Children's Home

On Wednesday, March 30, a few of us attended a wonderful benefit concert for the **Cornerstone Women & Children's Home**. This concert, **God & Country**, was planned for, and put on by our recent guest **J. Paul Koehler**. (You may recall J. Paul from his appearance as a competitor on the American Idol Show in 2005.)

Featured on the show were many performers, some familiar to many such as **Tom Haggerty**, the two of the **Davis Sisters**, **Voices of Faith Choir** and **J. Paul**. Other performers were not so familiar to most of us. But what great talent we heard. If you want to hear great guitar in almost any style, give a listen to **Donnie Williams**. One family group of a brother and two sisters, **The Garry Family**, none above early teen-age years, showed amazing chops both vocally and on the guitar.

Although we weren't able to sing as a group (we had the opportunity if only we had a tenor), we were recognized and a great plug for our upcoming show was put out there. We did help lead the audience of over 300 sing the finale of **This Land Is Your Land**.

Not only was it a great evening of entertaining music, but it all started off with a great meal, including barbecue from Dickey's Barbecue Pit. As if that weren't enough there were more desserts than what anyone should want to eat. There were even left-overs on those desserts!

Those who missed out on this evening, especially the tenors, missed out on something good!

Shrine of Democracy Chorus

Mt. Rushmore Chapter, BHS
c/o John Elving, Editor
6806 Peaceful Pines Rd.
Black Hawk, SD 57718

The **Mt. Rushmore Chapter** and the **Shrine of Democracy Chorus** meet every Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m. Meetings and rehearsals are held in the Central High School Choir Room (east side of the building, near the gym – look for the banner), 433 N. Mt. Rushmore Rd. All guests are welcome. All men are welcome to come sing with us. For more information, call (605) 209-3701 or (605) 574-4740.

Visit Us Online At:
www.shrineofdemocracychorus.org

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Meeting of the Board Jim Olson's Office – 7:00 p.m.	Apr. 5
Music Team Meeting Alternative Fuel Coffee Shop – 6 p.m.	Apr. 18
RMD Spring Convention Thornton, CO	Apr. 29 - May 1
Meeting of the Board Jim Olson's Office – 7:00 p.m.	May 3
Crooning the Memories Barbershop Style Elks Theater, Rapid City	May 7
Compellingly Attractive Chapter Meetings First Congregational Church – 9:00 a.m.—5 p.m.	May 21
Hart Ranch Performance Pool Pavilion – 7 p.m.	June 4

Mission Statement

The Mt. Rushmore Chapter and the Shrine of Democracy Chorus shall promote, encourage and perpetuate barbershop-style singing in both chorus and quartets. We will recruit and welcome interested and motivated men who like to sing four-part a cappella harmony. We shall continually strive to improve our singing and performance skills, through the use of proper resources and opportunities. An attitude of fun, fellowship and teamwork will always guide our activities.



The 25th of
each month