



The Voice of Rushmore

Mt. Rushmore Chapter

Volume 19

August 2017

Number 8



Calendar of Events

Chapter Board Meeting

Tuesday, August 8, 7 p.m.
Commons Area at PAC Center

Harmony Happening in the Hills

August 25-26, 2017
Hill City Boys & Girls Club,
Hill City High School,
& Mt. Rushmore

Chapter Board Meeting

Tuesday, September 5, 7 p.m.
Commons Area at PAC Center

Chapter Board Meeting

Tuesday, October 1, 7 p.m.
Commons Area at PAC Center

RMD Fall Convention

October 6-8, 2017
Zermatt Resort
Midway, Utah

Harmony Happening in the Hills 2017!

Get Ready! Get Set! It's almost time to Go!

It seems it was only a short time ago that we rolled up the Harmony Happening in the Hills banners and mopped the floors one last time at the Hill City Boys & Girls Club, but time flies and here we are gearing up for **Harmony Happening in the Hills 2017**. Communications with chapters potentially coming with greater numbers than just representation from Bismarck, Billings and Denver area give me the feeling this could be a truly great event. We have registrations from singers across the area, Sioux Falls, S.D., Scottsbluff, Neb., Oakland, Neb. and others from as far away as Florida. We have fielded calls for information regarding HHtH from Minneapolis to California which shows the event is being talked about across the nation. **WOW!**

This event takes a lot of work to put together and it brings joy to my soul to learn men are interested in attending and sharing with fellow Barbershoppers in the education, fun and majesty of the event here in the Black Hills of South Dakota. What would go through a singers mind to want to commit to driving 350 plus miles to get here, pay tourist room rates at motels, have memorized six plus songs, just to take part in a **"Somewhat Serious Quartet Contest,"** spend six hours in intense rehearsal, eat hotdogs and oh, yes!, sing at the foot of Mt. Rushmore, one of the grandest national monuments in the world. I

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President:
Al Kelts

VP Member Development:
Dan Horsley

VP Music & Performance:
Jim Price

Secretary:
David L'Esperance

Treasurer:
Ron Evenson

Immediate Past President:
Steve Ferley

Members at Large:
Jessica Kading – Marketing & PR
Rod Pfeifle
Wayne Anderson
Lynn DesLauriers
Bill Grant

Appointments

Music Director:
Clayton Southwick

Assistant Director:
Jim Price

Chorus Manager:
Jim Olson

Chorus Contact:
Pete Anderson

Music Librarian:
Open

2018 Show Chair:
Open

Harmony Happening Co-Chairs:
Pete Stach
Rod Pfeifle

Bulletin Editor-in-Cheap:
John Elving

Webmaster:
Ken Weybright

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 (BHS).
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 the Rapid City Performing Arts Center.
For more information visit our website, www.shrineofdemocracychorus.org.
Correspondence about content and contributions for publication should be sent to the editor. All material, except copyrighted material, in **The Voice of Rushmore** may be reproduced without permission; please credit the author and **The Voice of Rushmore** in all reprints. Thanks.
John Elving
leaderman@midco.net
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!

CHAPTER QUARTETS!

Black Hills Blend
Al Kelts, tenor
Alan Schulte, lead
Wayne Anderson, baritone
Pete Anderson, bass

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 Performing Arts Center Choir Room (through the South St. entrance) in Rapid City. All guests are welcome. All men are welcome to come sing with us. For more information, call (605) 209-3701.

Visit us online at:
www.shrineofdemocracychorus.org

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS
Dan Horsley August 30

THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD AND BEING A BARITONE IS BETTER THAN BOTH OF THEM.

How many Men of Note do you have? Pete Anderson has the most with 23. Fourteen of our 30 members have not brought in a member. That's half of our membership who have yet to believe that our "hobby" is worth sharing with anyone! Imagine what would happen if those 14 people brought in one new member this year!

Harmony Happening continued from page 1

think I can tell you why in my opinion. It is a bond of fellowship through music that only a select few get to experience, friendships are reconnected and new ones made. This gathering is a sharing of lives that may only get together once a year but together we share a bond of love through music that allows us to grow personally and as a chorus. Pete and I realize it's a huge commitment of time, money, and practice time, to come to **Harmony Happening in the Hills** but we believe that once you do attend and experience what others tell us they have experienced you will return again.

Below is a brief schedule of the event:

1. The event kicks off Friday evening the 25th of August, with the welcome of guest director Darin Drown of **Sound of the Rockies Chorus** and **Storm Front** fame.
2. We gather at 5 p.m. at the Hill City Boys and Girls Club gym in Hill City for registration, meet & greet, hot dog feed, beverages and somewhat serious quartet contest. This is a great opportunity for everyone to meet and reconnect.
3. Also Friday evening Hill City has a Wine, Beer, Barbecue cookout contest that runs most of the day and we are invited to sing on main street for this event, as it gets closer we will find out to what extent they want us involved. Usually music we all are somewhat familiar with—pole cats, etc. We need to be out of the building by 11 p.m.
4. Saturday the 26th, registration begins at 8:30 a.m. for those unable to register Friday evening, at the Hill City High School theater. This is just a couple of blocks from the Boys and Girls Club location.
5. Saturday the 26th at 9:00 a.m. we gather at the Hill City High School theater for rehearsal, again just a couple of blocks from the Boys and Girls Club. The mayor of Hill City says a few words of welcome, some announcements by Pete Stach, co-chair, and then we rehearse till noon, breaking for a short lunch and then reconvene for practice till approximately 3:00 p.m. We then head to Mount Rushmore for riser setup and audio setup. Please help with setup as you are able to. Parking at Mt. Rushmore is each individual's responsibility.
6. The concert begins approximately 5 or 5:30 p.m., depending on the number of chorus's, and quartets that will be involved. At the close of the concert, if you have the opportunity to take in the Memorial lighting ceremony at Mt. Rushmore, it is outstanding.
7. We then return to Hill City to the Boys and Girls

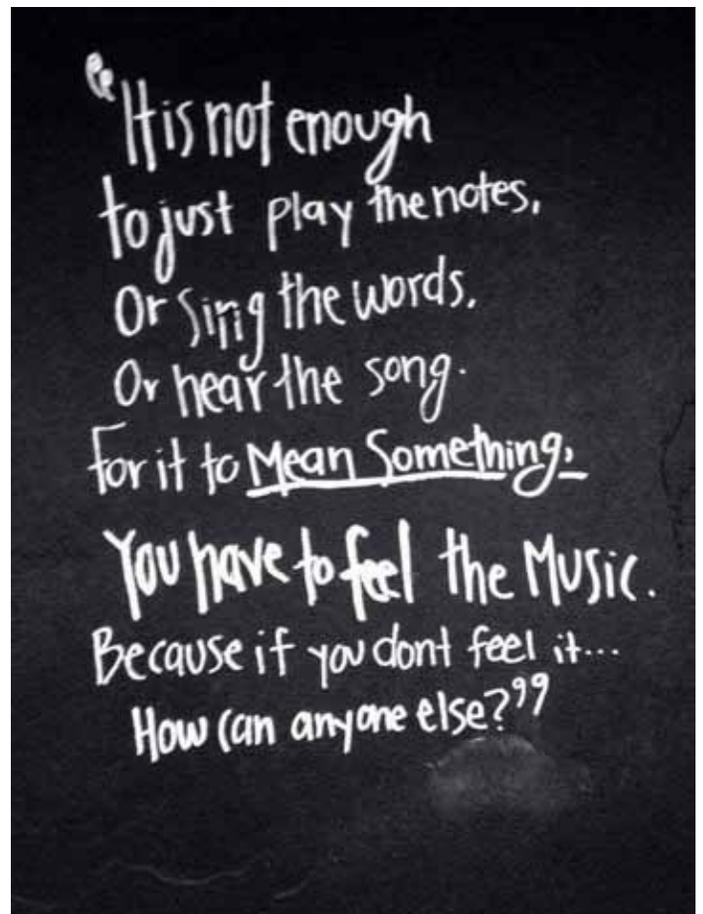
Club for our afterglow (where the meet and greet took place). Cost is \$10.00 per attendee, (spouses are encouraged to attend the afterglow where we have a light meal, beverages and afterglow). If you do decide to take in the lighting ceremony don't worry. Food will be available when you return from the mountain. Just let Rod know who will be staying for the lighting ceremony so he will know how many to prepare for.

8. We do, however, have to be out of the club by 11 p.m. We are all the cleanup crew so help as you can, many hands make for quick work.
9. Event concludes.

This is the overall picture of what happens at **Harmony Happening in the Hills**. We are very excited for you to be able to attend and participate in this very special event.

E-mail or call me regarding any questions or concerns you may have (605-863-2345). We look forward to having you call for additional information or insight.

Rod Pfeifle
Event Co-Chair



BOARD SCRIBBLINGS



DAVID L'ESPERANCE
Chapter Secretary



CALL TO ORDER:

The regular monthly for July 2017 of the **Board of Directors** of the **Mt. Rushmore Chapter** of the **Barbershop Harmony Society** was called to order by **President Kelts** at 7:05 p.m. on July 11, 2017 in the Commons Area of the PACRC/Rapid City High School. The secretary certified the presence of a quorum of the elected board, with **Director Clayton Southwick** also in attendance. The proposed agenda was approved as modified.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

The secretary distributed the minutes of the June 2017 meeting for members to review. After some brief discussion, the minutes were approved as presented. Computer issues had precluded earlier distribution, as has been the norm.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

The president noted the Healthy Chapter Initiative is big in the Society right now, and RMD Immediate Past President John Elving is pushing it for the Mt. Rushmore Chapter. He has requested 20 minutes presentation time during a regular chapter meeting. The issue was tabled, after considerable discussion, to a meeting night sometime in September, since the remaining days in July and August are essential to preparations for Harmony Happening in the Hills.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer Ron Evenson announced we're still in very sound financial condition. He requested, and was granted permission to make a multiple payment, totaling \$6,000, to our pledged obligation to the Performing Arts Center Rapid City. The Treasurer's Report was accepted.

VP and COMMITTEE REPORTS:

MUSIC AND PERFORMANCE VP Jim Price noted, as with **EMBRACE**, the music for Harmony Happening in the Hills (HHitH) is pretty challenging for the Leads, especially "**Bring Him Home**." The Music Team has been sorting through potential music for next Spring's show, depending on the theme. Someone needs to step forward NOW as Show Chairman, to get the planning and preparations moving.

CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT AND MEMBERSHIP VP Dan Horsley has some excellent ideas for moving forward, but expressed the desire, and the board agreed, to wait until the Healthy Chapter scenario is initiated and some of those ideas

and goals are set by the members.

MARKETING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS VP Jessica Kad-ing needs input for HHitH so she can get the word out; she wants to start publicizing the event during Rally week, which begins August 4. Social Media will again be a big part of the program.

Principal Music Director Clayton Southwick wants to keep the momentum moving forward toward HHitH. He's also really looking forward to attending Harmony University in Nashville the week of July 23. He really wants to see a Show Chairman step forward very soon, so serious planning and programming get underway now instead of the habitual scrambling after New Years.

HHitH co-chair Rod Pfeifle reports momentum is building for the annual event. He, Ron Evenson, Bill Grant and Mark Burgad made a motorcycle road trip to Bismarck to attend one of their rehearsals, and the gang is eagerly awaiting their annual trek to sing with the Great Stone Faces. Singers from North Dakota, Nebraska, Colorado, Montana, Florida and South Dakota are anticipated being here that last weekend of August.

Singing Valentines 2018: the issue of continued use of the banners above Main and St. Joseph Streets as advertising for Valentines was raised and the decision was made to continue the practice, even though there's a substantial "rental fee".

OLD BUSINESS:

Al Kelts asked the board why the transportation and any in-transit lodging had not been included in the approval of his attendance at Harmony University in Nashville the last week of July. The majority of the board was in agreement that it was not considered part of his official duties as Board President, and a precedent had been set to pay registration fees for anyone wishing to attend, but the other items were the member's responsibility. The motion to pay his transportation was defeated.

NEW BUSINESS:

Wayne Anderson reported that some large backdrops and props which the late Doug Nahrgang had were available, since these have been in storage for a long time and either needed to be retrieved or will be disposed of. The place where they are stored needs the space. The board agreed the items will be of future use. Wayne agreed to coordinate with the storers, talk with Gary Welsh about available space, and handle the transfers.

NEXT MEETING//ADJOURNMENT:

The next meeting, for the month of August will be August 8, 2017, convening at 7:00 p.m. in the PACRC Commons area. The board also decided the September meeting will be September 5, same location and time. With no further business for the good of the chapter, the July 2017 Board of Directors meeting was declared adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
In Perfect Harmony,

DAVID L'ESPERANCE, Secretary



THE JOY OF QUARTETING



Al Kelts
2017 President

Based on my busy July and, in fact, my attendance now at Harmony University, I initially planned to write one line: “*The Joy of Quarteting is on vacation....*” However, it seemed to me that you might enjoy a pictorial tour of some aspects of Harmony University, as well as some of the courses!

As soon as we walked onto the campus, we saw several signs



advertising, “FROM HERE TO ANYWHERE—BELMONT.”

We checked in to our dormitory, Bear Hall, and discovered that security was certainly much tighter than in our days! However, Clayton made himself at home fairly quickly, although we discovered



fairly quickly that they had provided us with no towels, no clothes hangers, and



no new toilet paper rolls—oh, my! The quadrangle was quite elegant and lush, and seemingly fairly new, with impressive campus buildings, although a rooftop garden three stories up did appear to need the skills of a gardener! Certainly a highlight of the campus was the “Bell Tower” (a rath-



er exotic title).

Although Clayton and I both took the same flights from Rapid City to Chicago to Nashville, Tenn., his suitcase arrived at the baggage department in Nashville and mine

remained in Chicago. Fortunately, Bryan, the delivery guy, was able to find Belmont University, called me at 8:30 p.m. during our first General Session, and, with my handy penlight in one hand and a map in the other, I was able to navigate through the dark campus to meet him at the Circle K and retrieve my suitcase—WHEW!!



The Master of Ceremonies for the Opening General Session on Sunday night was our beloved HHitH director, **Don Rose**. To help support the HU program, he received a check from the Harmony Foundation CEO, Perry White for \$80,000.

The Keynote Speaker was **Kurt Heineke**, one of the writers of, and the musical mastermind behind, the computer-generated children’s show, “**Veggie Tales**.” As time went by, he became writer, arranger, director, and singer in the show’s well-known (?) “**Silly Songs**.” Kurt described his job as breathing life into a ragtag group of lovable “nude, limbless vegetables!” His first exposure to barbershop was in college where he was good friends with the Barbershop Harmony Society’s CEO, **Marty Monson**. A couple of Kurt’s quotable quotes included, “*Don’t take singing for granted... Drink it in and enjoy it,*” and “*Music is very powerful!*”



Courses which I took on our first day, included:

- “**Parody Writing**” with **Shane Scott**, a member of the comedy quartet, **Lunch Break**, which converted the song, “**Where is love?**” to



Continued on page 6

THE JOY OF QUARTETTING *continued from page 5*



“Where is lunch?”
He is also teaching my week-long course **“Make ‘Em Laugh.”**

- **“Building and Marketing to an Audience”** with **Chris Rempel**

is another week-long course which addresses the changes in society in the last 50 years and ways to make Barbershop relevant in our new world.



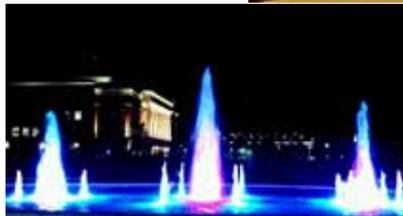
- **“Resonance Matching,”** another week-long course, with **Scott Kitzmiller** deals with each barbershop-per making changes in vowel sounds in order to produce ringing chords in a quartet or chorus. He uses the projected graph in the above photo to help the pick-up quartet in the picture change vowel sounds and ring a chord.



- **“Transform your Chapter through Strategic Planning”** with **Todd Wilson**

(tenor in the International Championship Quartet, **Acoustix**) focuses on the use of strategic plans to develop chapter programs which improve financial viability, design grants to schools and other programs, and provide good experiences for chapter members.

I leave you now with a photo of a lull in the usually packed line



for the nocturnal ice cream social and, finally, with a photo of the beautiful Belmont U. fountain at night.

Presidential Prattling



Al Kelts
2017 President

Just as I was feeling very comfortable that I had told “the story” of every SOD Chorus member, **Bob O’Connor** and his wife **CeCe** showed up at our Thursday Chapter Meeting as he has each summer for the last several years! Oops! What is Bob’s “story?” Where did he get that unusual accent?



Bob was born in early August 1938 in Brooklyn, N.Y., the oldest of three children born to his father, an accountant for US Rubber, and his mother, a Telephone Company worker and, subsequently, a homemaker. Both his sister, 75, and his brother, 71, are still living. When Bob was about seven years old, his dad’s job at US Rubber resulted in a family move to San Juan, Puerto Rico, rather than a move to Johannesburg, South Africa. When Bob’s mom developed megaloblastic anemia, his dad brought the family back to Brooklyn and then Long Island where Bob spent most of his life. Much of his education was provided through Catholic Parochial Schools until he broke his wrist fighting with a *“kid cheating him out of collections for a paper route”* and his pacifistic Latin teacher refused to deal with him in the classroom setting. This resulted in transfer to a public high school for his last two years of education. In response to his dad’s very strict disciplinarianism, Bob refused to go to college and instead entered the Navy in 1956. During his naval service from 1956 through 1958, his battleship became involved with the first Arab-Israeli War and disposed of a Russian trawler carrying weapons to “the Arabs.” (Apparently things haven’t changed much in 60 years, i.e., Russians/Arabs!) However, while stationed on an aircraft carrier, he did develop a trade as an electronic technician.

In 1958, after discharge, he began attending a community college on Long Island. Basically, Bob indicates that he spent more time in pubs than in classes, developing the reputation of a *“Romeo on the Prowl.”* This lifestyle screeched to a halt at a picnic on Father’s Day, 1961, when Bob brought boy orphans and CeCe brought girl orphans. Although Bob was immediately attracted to CeCe, she was more attracted to

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Presidential Prattling *continued from page 6*

his 1960 salmon-colored MGA! They were married on June 30, 1962, and CeCe immediately asked a very practical question: “*What are you going to do about college?*” HhhhMmm.... With no good answer to that question, Bob enrolled at the Queensboro Community College, Long Island, where he attended classes and studied during the day to obtain an Associate Degree in Electronics in 1965, while continuing to work nights at Grumman Aircraft on the Lunar Excursion Module (LEM). Interestingly, during that time, he discovered that he could survive on four hours of sleep! CeCe obtained her Bachelor’s Degree in Business in 1963, and subsequently worked in, and eventually ran, her father’s Insurance Agency.

After his graduation, Bob moved away from a career in electronics:

- He initially was hired by Control Data Corporation which required him to go to Minneapolis for four months for training and back to Long Island to work.
- After a few years, he decided to move to a medically-associated business when he became a Pharmaceutical Representative for Strasburg Pharmaceutical Co.
- In 1970, at the age of 32, CeCe correctly diagnosed Bob’s low self-esteem due to treatment by his dad and strongly recommended that he attend a Dale Carnegie Course, to which he now attributes a huge change in his personality and his life!
- In 1972, he became a Rep. for Bristol Myers-Squibb and spent the next 20 years detailing drugs such as Pericolace and Vasodilan to doctors in the Long Island area.
- In 1993, he received his Bachelor’s Degree in business management from Nyack College and started working for a division of Pfizer, initially as a Dental Supply Rep. and later as a Specialty Manager.
- After receiving his MBA from Dowling College he moved on to detailing products for dental and medical schools in New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, and Connecticut, eventually retiring in 2000.

After five years of marriage, Bob and CeCe decided to adopt their first child, Russ, who now works for a home care company. Three years later, in 1970, they adopted Michael who is now a vice president in his own business which specializes in cabinetry and flooring in Florida. Shortly after this adoption, in 1971, CeCe got pregnant and gave birth to their third child, Christina, who has her MBA in finance and works as office manager for a lawyer in Venice, FL. Eleven years later, Bob and CeCe adopted a South Korean girl, Michelle, who is married to a policeman, is a

homemaker, and is a mother of two.

In 2000, Bob “retired” and he and CeCe moved from Long Island to Venice, FL. However, Bob says that he “*just couldn’t sit still,*” so he works seven months of the year part-time in Security at the Ringling Museum of Art in Sarasota, Fla., where CeCe gives tours to visitors. In 2011 Bob and CeCe decided that they wanted to “*see the country*” by visiting and working in National Parks, a wish that they have been able to fulfill. In fact, they continue to enjoy working at Mount Rushmore for their sixth summer. However, Bob is now working in security rather than in the retail store because of a knee injury in 2015 which limited his walking. An answer to my questions about his security job, he indicated that some 140 foreign exchange students work and live in the dorms at Mount Rushmore. It is his job to patrol the dorms in the evening and night to be sure that there is no alcohol, no smoking, and no excessive noise! The money they earn each summer provides funds for their trips out and back and visits to other parks as well as visits to family and friends.

But wait a minute....This is supposed to be the “*story*” about a barbershopper, isn’t it? Well..... Bob says that, for unknown reasons, he had a “lifelong ambition to sing barbershop.” This came to fruition when they moved to Venice, Fla., and he joined the **Venice Gondoliers** in the Sunshine District. In 2012, while working at Rushmore, he happened upon the afterglow at the Keystone Recreation Center after HHitH, got in touch with John Elving, and definitely decided to attend SOD Chorus meetings in the summer of 2013 (and since)! His experience with the Gondoliers has been pleasant, but he finds that they tend to focus on “*the same old songs.*” Singing with the SOD Chorus has been more exciting because of the songs we sing, although this year he has had to work very hard with learning tracks to update himself!

As Bob looks back over his past life, two events are very special to him:

- CeCe’s recommendation that he take the Dale Carnegie Course.
- His dad’s final request: “*Please stay the free bird that you are!*”

Bob’s words of wisdom:

- “*Life is what you make it, but when you make it, you’ve gotta have some fun.*”
- “*Keep a light head, open heart, and faith in the Lord and you will be happy.... BUT always sing!*”
- “*The culture of the SOD Chorus is that of a family, wonderful and valuable, i.e., a truly happy experience when there is too much negativity in the world!*”

Harley Happenings

By Bill Grant

In June, **Rod Pfeifle** had the idea to ride a motorcycle up to Bismarck to sing with that barbershop chorus at one of their practices. It took about one minute of discussion over beer for **Mark Burgad, Ron Evenson** and **Bill Grant** to agree and **SOD's Angels** were born. Through Rod's connections from Harmony Happening, the meeting and room arrangements were made and the perfect road trip of friends, motorcycles and songs was born, assuming good weather.



We left at 7:30 a.m. Monday, July 10 with former North Dakotan Mark leading the way, as he knew the most scenic routes. (Yes, if you get off the interstates, there are a lot of pretty areas in both states!) We couldn't have had better riding weather—warm but pleasant due to total cloud cover and a light tail wind much of the time. The only "hitch in the git-a-long" was a loose wire on Ron's battery so the electric starter failed four or five times. At least he finally learned to park facing downhill so Mark didn't have to work so hard to push start him in second gear.

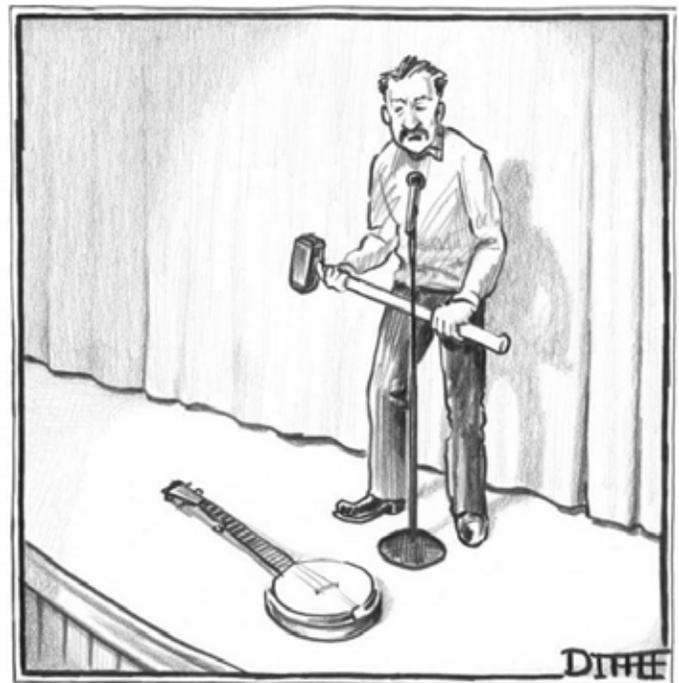
In Bismarck, we proceeded to a long-time family diner named **Krolls** to feast on the local cuisine of knoeplia soup and chicken fried steak and root beer shakes, all qualifying for the senior discount. Then off to the Super 8 with just enough time for showers, short naps and to resolve the loose wire issue. Armed with an address for a church five minutes away, our second "road trip" began with what turned out to be a chapel in a very large retirement complex with the only address numbers being about a block into the maze of buildings.

Being slightly late was actually great though, as the Bismarck chorus assumed we weren't coming so were surprised and broke into a standing ovation when Ron entered singing "**Crying in the Chapel**" as done by Elvis. We had a fun practice, learning a couple of their songs, reviewing songs for August's

Harmony Happening, and their graciously joining us in songs we all knew from the past. At least 9-10 of them treated us to beer and song at their traditional afterglow bar named **Rock'n 50's**. The camaraderie couldn't have been better and it was very obvious the Bismarck chorus was most appreciative of our goodwill visit.

The ride home Tuesday was a bit too warm during mid-afternoon, but Mark helped us out a little when he took us through a badly aimed irrigation pivot providing a nice cool-down spray. We got back to Rapid City just in time for a shower and the SOD board meeting. As life should be, we had a very enjoyable journey and a unanimous vote for a "do-over", perhaps to other destinations.

Bill



Barbershop and Bluegrass!



Executive producer and TV host **Mike Rowe** has been named an Honorary Life Member of the Barbershop Harmony Society. Rowe received the award on Saturday, July 8, at the Society's international convention in Las Vegas.

A barbershop singer and fan, Mike credits his show business career in part to the influence of his high school choir director, Fred King, who also happened to be a world champion barbershop quartet singer. ([Read Mike's touching memorial tribute to Fred, or listen to him tell the story.](#)) Under Fred's encouragement, Mike became a Barbershopper, later sang in the Baltimore Opera, and eventually earned his title as "the dirtiest man on television" (*Dirty Jobs*, *Somebody's Gotta Do It*), narrator (*The Deadliest Catch*) and podcaster (*The Way I Heard It*).

As CEO of the [mikeroweWORKS Foundation](#), Rowe speaks regularly about the country's dysfunctional relationship with work and challenges the persistent belief that a four-year degree is the best path for the most people. His foundation works hard to debunk myths about the skilled trades and help close the skills gap.

Honorary Life Members of the Barbershop Harmony Society are performers and leaders who make an impact on the world through their passion and influence on close harmony and singing for everyone. Recent honorees have included:

- Grammy Award winning gospel quartet **The Fairfield Four**
- **Deke Sharon**, a cappella godfather
- **Lynn Abbott**, researcher into African-American foundations of barbershop harmony
- **The Nylons**, pioneer a cappella pop stars
- **The Oak Ridge Boys**, country mega stars
- **Bill Gaither**, gospel music legend
- **Gordon Lightfoot**, folk/pop superstar
- **Dick Van Dyke**, Grammy/Emmy/Tony Award winning actor and singer

(See full list at <http://www.barbershop.org/about-us/honorary-members/>)



When District Presidents from throughout the Society recently met at the Leadership Summit, one of the primary focuses was on the new Strategic Vision—**Everyone In Harmony**. This new vision was approved and put in place on July 3, 2017 at the Society Board of Directors meeting. If you haven't already, take a look at what AI Kelts sent out to all of us to read, then you need to go on the Society website (barbershop.org/everyoneinharmony/) and not only read the information, but also view the video. This is the path the Society will be moving in as we move forward.

Everyone in Harmony is all about expansion and inclusion rather than, "we have this wonderful art form and we are going to keep it all to ourselves and guard it from being taken over by new ideas and methods." **"This is the way we have always done it and we are not going to change!!"** is not the pathway to Preservation and Encouragement, and we need to be willing to accept new ideas and directions to maintain the health and growth of our Society.

This is not totally that new, as there have been small pockets of initiatives that have been growing for a number of years. Things like mixed quartets and choruses, women directors, women as associate members, members-at-large, mixed harmony youth explosion camps all over the country, the Youth Harmony Festival in January is now men, women, and mixed, and now, as of July 23, we have women that have been accepted as Candidate Judges in our judging system. What is new is the bold and very public statement that our Society recognizes that we need to lead the way to **Everyone in Harmony** and provide the opportunities for that to happen.

This will not only happen within the Society, but also within each district, including the Rocky Mountain District, but also within local chapters. It will mean a new way of thinking for many of us. Many of us came into the Society when it was definitely an all male organization. It was a place of respite, as O.C. Cash stated in the early days of our "hobby."

Things have changed drastically in society in general, and if we are to survive as an art form, we, too, must change with the times. We just can't grow, either worldwide or locally by recruiting men "just like us." Are we willing to make the changes necessary to join in this Strategic Vision of **Everyone in Harmony** or...? The choice is really up to us to thrive or not.



WHERE HAVE WE BEEN... WHERE ARE WE GOING?

The Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS) has recently published their new vision and strategic plan for the future of the Society. How will the Mt. Rushmore Chapter fit within that new vision? What direction will we go?

Let's first take a look at where the Society came from and then where they are headed.

OC CASH THE EARLY YEARS

by Idress Cash

As seen in *Concho Capers*

Paul White, Editor

(Idress Cash was the sister of SPEBSQSA co-founder Owen C. Cash. At the request of editor Ron Dudley, she wrote this article especially for the Gateway Gazette. It appeared originally in the January and June/July 1983 issues.)

I was not aware of barbershopping until the big explosion of 1938. My brother, Owen, worked in a barber shop when he was a youngster, and I suppose he encountered the craft there.

At home, my mother was always singing—hymns, ballads, Stephen Foster songs—while she was in the garden or busy with housework. Mother and Dad attended singing school when they were young and we had the book they used. Dad used to sit in a big chair with the book and we would look over his shoulder and sing, but not often. Dad's time to sing was Sunday mornings. He used to get up singing some favorite hymn—very loud. When we were teenagers, groups of us used to spend a lot of time singing around a piano. Owen was the leader in our crowd. He managed to get songs from the current New York musicals shows. He also visited with friends in neighboring towns. Then Owen learned to play the cornet and played all the Sousa marches. I played all the accompaniments and we made a lot of noise. Then he

switched to the trombone and more noise. Then he took violin lessons and explored the world of classical music for a time.

In the latter part of World War I, Owen was in Officers' Training School. I have no idea whether he sang barbershop style there; he could have. It is evident he knew the craft so surely he must have practiced it.

One Friday afternoon in the spring of 1938, I stopped by my brother's house. The table was set for 12 and he told me he had invited some men friends for a stag dinner; they wanted to see his new house. He was anxious to show them the club room which was decorated according to his plan. It was in that room that the seed was sown that grew into the Society for the Preservation and Propagation of Barbershop Quartet Singing in the United States (SPPEBQSUS). The men had such a good time, someone suggested that they meet again, and that was the meeting on the roof garden of the hotel. When the story appeared in newspapers all over the USA, men began writing letters to Owen wanting to know how they could be part of such a group. When Owen and Mr. Hall met in the Muehlebach Hotel and talked it over, the answer became clear: incorporate. That provided a home for the many "orphans" out there crying to be adopted. The movement was really born that night when 27 men sang under the stars on a hotel roof.

Now, as the Barbershop Harmony Society is in its ninth decade, the Society has just published the new goals for the future of Barbershopping throughout the world. They have published information and a downloadable brochure on their website, which can be accessed by visiting barbershop.org/everyoneinharmony.

Here, then, is just a small excerpt from the brochure mentioned above:

Now in our ninth decade, it's time to pause and reflect on where we've been...and where we're going.

Our founding members did much for our Society, leaving us with a set of enduring purposes. They also made key decisions that, while befitting the times, no longer serve us today.

We've spent the last several years re-focusing our energy and regaining momentum, building stronger programs and re-establishing our voice in the choral field. In fact, it's safe to say that our current vision has already been realized: We have become "the premier membership organization for men who love to sing."

Along the way, we've realized a few things:

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- We, as a Society, understand and embrace the transformative power of harmony.
- Our members have an appetite for change.
- The collective time, talent, and generosity of our members are our greatest assets — and we have released only a fraction of that potential.
- What worked in our past may not work for our future.

Most importantly, we realize that harmony is a gift we've been entrusted with, and it's too wonderful to keep to ourselves. We must share it with young and old, with people of every color and every background, with our neighbors and perfect strangers and everyone in between, because the world needs what we have.

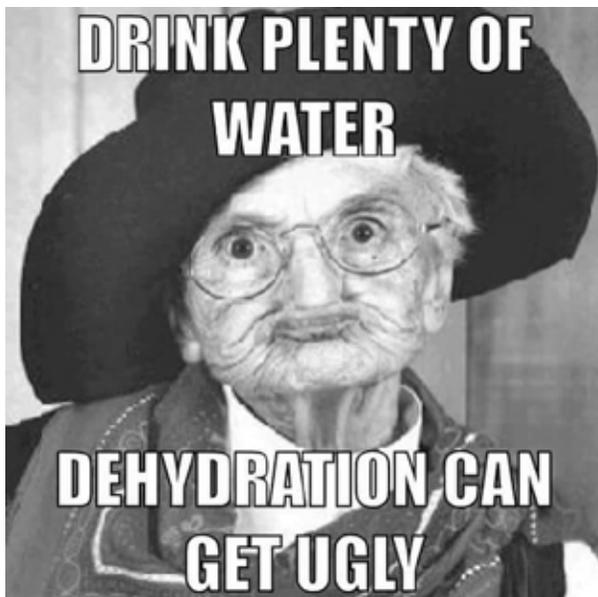
In times of conflict and exclusion, barbershop inspires us to blend, to cooperate, to create beauty and to love each other. Imagine its impact as a balm for wounded warriors, an intervention for at-risk youth, as a way to ease end-of-life transition, or even as a better way to rehabilitate people in our prison system.

It's time to see barbershop as more than a treasure for our own enjoyment, but as a force for direct impact on society. We have the resources and the capability. And now, we have a renewed vision:

Everyone in harmony.



Now for something a little special for our chapter and Harmony Happening in the Hills, go to that website mentioned above and take a close look at the video on that page. Watch the entire video and see if you can find how many times our chorus is shown.



FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR-IN-CHEAP



John Elving
Editor-in-Cheap

Gentlemen –

After many years of editing **The Voice of Rushmore**, it is time I hang up the editorship and let someone else take the reins. Just so you know, this will be my last issue as Editor-in-Cheap.

It has been an enjoyable time, however many years it has been. (I believe I started in March, 2006.) Along the way I have been fortunate to meet many people throughout the Society who are also newsletter editors. I have proudly served as an officer in PROBE (Public Relations Officers and Bulletin Editors) since 2007 and have been able to teach others the fine art of newsletter editing, along with Marketing and Public Relations. One of the great distinctions and honors is consistently producing one of the top newsletters within the Society. It is an honor to see articles from this newsletter make their way into other chapter, district and society newsletters and magazines.

There are several reasons for my hanging up the old visor at this time. I won't go into them, but suffice it to say I will miss it in many ways. I do wish whoever takes on the job much luck. Thank you for allowing me to become fairly adept at the craft and serving the Mt. Rushmore Chapter in this way (among others).

Sing-cerely and Hum-bly,

John



Just before the funeral service, our friend "Digger" spoke with the elderly widow.

"How old was your husband?"

"He was 98," she replied. "Two years older than me."

"So, you're 96," Digger commented.

She responded, "Hardly worth going home, is it?"

Tag of the Month

GOODBYE, MY FRIEND

(Tag)

TOM PAYNE

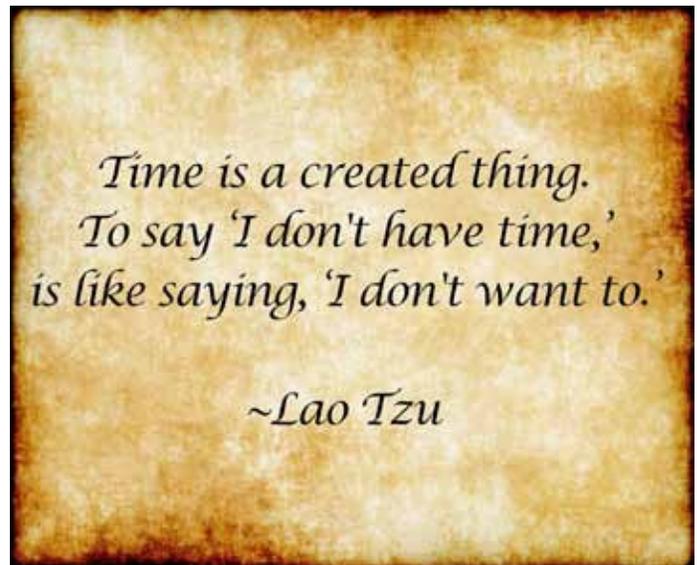
good - bye, my friend.

And I will say to you good - bye, _____
good - bye, my friend.

The musical score is written for Tenor Lead and Bari Bass in 4/4 time. The Tenor Lead part has five numbered measures corresponding to the lyrics. The Bari Bass part provides harmonic support with chords and single notes.



*“Take me out to the golf course,
Take me out to the links.
Only three clubs (and a bucket of balls)...”*



MEMBER'S RESOURCE CENTER

Keep for reference – click on active links below

- BHS Website – www.barbershop.org
- Rocky Mountain District website – www.rmdsing.org
- BHS Phone Number – 1-800-876-SING (6474) – toll free
- Renew you membership – www.barbershop.org/ebiz
- Quartet registration – www.barbershop.org/ebiz
- Find a member, chapter, quartet – www.barbershop.org/ebiz
- SOD Chorus VP Music – sdprice@rap.midco.net
- SOD Chorus President – dockelts@aol.com
- SOD Chorus VP Membership – dan@horsleyrefinishing.com
- Voice of Rushmore editor – leaderman@midco.net
605-381-9680 (Cell)
- Webmaster – kenweybright@shrineofdemocracychorus.org
605-721-7650

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mount Rushmore Chapter and the Shrine of Democracy Chorus shall promote, encourage, and perpetuate the barbershop style of singing in both the chorus and quartets by bringing men together in harmony and fellowship, thereby enriching their lives through singing. We will continually use resources and opportunities available to us locally and through the Rocky Mountain District to improve our singing and performances.