



The Voice of Rushmore



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



Volume 13

January 2011

Number 1

CHRISTMAS AT THE CAPITOL



Photo by Lin Gogolin

Oh, the weather outside was a) frightful, b) delightful, c) cold, d) okeydokey, e) all of the above, f) none of the above. Whatever your answer, it ended up being a great day in Pierre for the 30 singers of the **Shrine of Democracy Chorus**.

What an honor it was to be asked to sing for **Christmas At the Capitol**. Although the normally very live rotunda was somewhat subdued due to the 100-some Christmas trees everywhere you looked, we gave a stellar performance to the enjoyment of the people viewing the trees. There were even Christmas decoration in the press room where we dressed and warmed up. True, they were still in boxes, but they were there nonetheless.

Many people talked with us after the performance saying how much they enjoyed what we did. I personally talked with one man who is a member of the Pierre **Capitolaires**

barbershop chorus, who had performed there last week. He said that many of the songs we sang were the same ones they sang. The big difference in his mind was that we did them so much better. He especially liked that great barbershop classic **Betelehemu**. In his eyes (and to his ears), that was the highlight of our performance. We do that song very well and it really shows off our versatility and musicianship. (We still have some work to do with the movement, however.)

All in all it was a great day to be a proud member of the **Shrine of Democracy Chorus** and represent the BHS in a most positive light to the hundreds of people attending the performance and viewing the magnificent Christmas trees.

What say we do it again sometime!



The Shrine of Democracy Chorus performs at one of Rapid City's retirement homes. Many of the singers wish they could be sitting in the easy chairs!

Photo by Lin Gogolin



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
- Treasurer:
Ron Evenson
- 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 Contacts:
Pete Anderson
Jim Gogolin
- Singing Valentines
??
- 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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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 (aka Trailer Trash)

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



- Del Beck Jan. 1
- Keith Schulte Jan. 15
- Chuck Knowlton Jan. 19
- Al Pitts Jan. 23
- Harry Kickery Jan. 31

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!

MUSICAL NOTES

John Elving, VP Music & Performance

Are you ready to rumble? Not that I'm encouraging a wrestling match, or what passes for one on TV. I'm thinking more of a train getting ready to rumble down the tracks.

Before we talk about rumbling, I want to thank you and congratulate you on all we accomplished this Christmas. We ended up with six performance at six different retirement homes on three nights, plus one major performance at the State Capitol in Pierre. We also opened up the Men's Community Christmas Chorus to men throughout our communities to have the opportunity to sing familiar Christmas carols in four-part harmony with no obligation to join—only the chance of enjoying our music and singing together with other guys. The biggest response we had from that was the five young college-age guys who came to sing with us. We want to thank them and publicly invite them to continue singing with us if they so like.

During that time we also learned several new songs, or arrangements of songs—*Go Tell It On the Mountain*, *Mary's Little Boy Child*, *Joy To the World* and *Betelehemu*—plus perfecting many of our other songs. We didn't reach our goal of having them all "off spots" but we at least learned them well enough that we could get away from the "underhead" projector when reminded.

Now let's get ready to rumble down the tracks toward our annual show. What it's going to mean is even more commitment from you, the members, to get everything done and ready to go. Clayton has asked that we work on our songs at home, with the excellent learning tracks we have, so that we can be off spots on each of them three weeks after we first do it in chorus rehearsal time. If we each were able to carve out ten minutes a day from our busy schedules just to work on our music, we could accomplish more than we think possible.

The first song we will work on is *It Had To Be You*. Although some of us have sung this song just a couple of years ago, there are many who haven't. That plus the fact that we tried doing it without the learning tracks before (bad idea).

The second song will come from your learning tracks that you received this last Thursday. As soon as it is decided which of those three songs it is I'll let everyone know. Just know that it will be either the *Dean Martin Medley* (*You're Nobody 'Till Somebody Loves You / Ain't That a Kick In the Head*), *I've Got the World On A String*, or *That Old Black Magic*. With the music and learning tracks in hand, there is no reason you can't get started right away on your own. (If you need a copy of the learning method we are using, please email me and I'll send you back a copy of it.)

Sing-cerely & Humm-bly,

John

HERE BUDDY, BUDDY...

Bob Melvin, VP Membership & Chapter Development

Happy new year! One of the new additions to our chorus visitor policy was the assignment of a "**buddy**" to visitors.

Let's back up and consider what happens when a new guy walks in the door, unannounced. Several things have to happen. First, introduce him to Clayton or John (they will make sure he has a guest book) and find out what his Barbershop experience is. Then voice place him either at his own requested voice part, or during a brief evaluation by a director or assistant director (D/AD). We then get his name and particulars in the guest book. Finally, ask Bob Melvin, Rex Field or Ron Pfeifle to assign him a "**buddy**" and enter that in the guest book, too.

The buddy then sits with the guest, makes sure he has the music necessary to participate in the chapter meeting, and answers questions that come up. The buddy also makes note of the guest's phone number and email address and makes a copy of that information for the D/AD. The buddy and the D/AD are asked to call the guest in the ensuing week to answer questions and invite them back. The buddy assignment is for six months.

Mary Poppins said, "*Well begun is well done.*" She sang well, too just like you. One of the tenants at Echo Ridge cornered me and said, "*We had several singing groups come in for Christmas, but you guys are professional; you were the best.*" I believe that to be true. Thank you for being there for me to harmonize with.

Bob

YOUTH CHORUS CONTEST

Hey all... I wanted to let everyone know that the Society will be webcasting the **International Youth Chorus** contest from Las Vegas next month! For \$15 you'll get to see 20 (yes **TWENTY**) youth choruses competing for the title from the Riviera Hotel! Each chorus sings two contest ready songs, plus one non-competition piece, and that third piece is often the most entertaining of all! You might want to subscribe if:

- You have a young one who is competing at the convention, but can't be there yourself!
- You or your chorus sponsored youth to participate in the convention!
- You're a competitor yourself, and want to be able to watch all the choruses you missed because you were offstage getting ready!
- You want to be able to show your family, friends or other youth how awesome barbershop can be for an entire week after the convention is done! The contest starts at 10:45 a.m. PST on Saturday, January 29.

Registration for the webcast is open and waiting: www.youthchoruswebcast.com.

Adrian Leontovich

BOARD SCRIBBLINGS

The December 2010 meeting of your Board of Directors of the Mt. Rushmore Chapter convened at 7:12 p.m. on December 7, called to order by Member At large and President-elect Jim Olson. A bare quorum was present, with newly elected Treasurer Ron Evenson, Member at Large Jim Price and PRVP Del Beck in attendance as well. The Secretary also had Gary Welsh's proxy in hand if necessary. The Minutes of the November Board meeting were approved.



VP and COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Treasurer Jim Gogolin submitted perhaps his final report as Treasurer, showing the Chapter in good financial condition. Jim requested clarification and confirmation of the Board's decision to sponsor Rory Behrens in the amount of \$250 for his appearance in the New Year's Eve Black Hills Symphony Concert.

Music and Performance VP John Elving has finally been able to establish contact with Chris Arnold for the remaining learning CDs. He is also seeking a better learner for *I'll Be Seeing You*.

VP Chapter Development Bob Melvin intends to create a comprehensive educational brochure for prospective new members, outlining the Society and the obligations, both financial and time-wise, which they may encounter.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Leadership Academy (formerly known as COTS) was very beneficial to the four members who attended. As a result of ideas shared, President-elect Olson intends to establish a formal planning retreat for the new Board, and asked each VP/Director prepare a formal budget for their areas of responsibility.

John Elving noted we have at least 50 signed up for the January 8, 2011 Installation Banquet. Since John is an RMD Officer, he can serve as the Installing Official. The 2010 Barbershopper of the Year will also be announced, as will recipients of Spark Plug awards.

After much discussion, the Board voted to allot \$10/member to provide some contribution toward gas expenses for the Pierre performance.

Rocky Mountain Harmony College is in Estes Park February 4-6. The Board was in agreement that the Chapter coffers cannot afford to fully subsidize the roughly \$200 cost/man for whomever may choose to go. They were in agreement to pay the registration fees of \$60 (through Jan 21); the room and board expenses will be up to each individual.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Secretary noted the Annual Report of Incorporation to the SD Secretary of State has been filed.

CDVP Bob Melvin asked if it is possible for the Chapter to fund the \$10 registration fee for new members? That can be done if the social fund account monies are used.

The Board established a budget of a maximum of \$1500 for the 2011 Singing Valentines events.

NEXT MEETING and ADJOURNMENT:

The next meeting, complete with your new Board, will be held January 11, 2011, convening at 7 p.m. at by-then-President Jim Olson's offices.

With no further business for the good of the order, the meeting was declared adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
In Perfect Harmony,

DAVID L'ESPERANCE, Secretary
Mount Rushmore Chapter

DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR?

Del Beck

Do you still hear it? You know, the sound of those tunes that keep running through your head. That cerebral CD which cannot be shut off. Yes, I still hear my favorite Christmas carols; **"Can't get it out a my head."**

But, that's OK. I enjoy it as I sing along or do a soft whistle to the tunes which have left a lasting impression. My wife asks me what that low whistling sound is all about.

Christmas caroling is such an outstanding activity. Bringing the sounds and messages of Christmas to the retirement centers and nursing homes truly is a rewarding experience that has become my most meaningful barbershopping time of the year. For us as an organization it is a powerful public relations program. We are contributing something to a segment of our community, to people who really appreciate what we do. Many of those folks come to our annual shows.

By the way, some of the arrangements we have added are absolutely outstanding:

"Go and tell it now, go and tell it now, go tell it now, everywhere" (cool bass line)

"Ha-ark no-ow he-ear the-ee angels sing" (bass line running up and back down the scale making a great part)

These outstanding lines from **"Go Tell It on the Mountain"** and **"Mary's Little Boy Child"** are examples of what makes these two arrangements so special.

BUT; that's not all. The December 18 trip to Pierre for an appearance at the Capitol Rotunda was an SOD highlight. This was an awesome experience with the sound of great chords traveling up, up and away in the most exciting place we could possibly perform our Christmas package. What a thrill to sing in such an amazing venue with a state-wide audience in attendance. Where do we sign up for next year?

Now, how about extending our caroling on the three

Continued on page 5

MAKING AN IMPRESSION... (ALWAYS)

By Bob Heim
From *Toosday Toons*



That first impression. Where does it start for a prospective chorus member? Inside our well-lit rehearsal hall with smiles, handshakes and an invitation to sing some music? Perhaps. But it may very well begin earlier. Perhaps from a hesitant walk from between a car and [Central High School's] doors. With nods of your heads, a few hello's and "glad you're heres," and by conveying the sense of camaraderie we all share.

Or it may begin at one of our [performances]—our display of enthusiasm and fun (not to mention musical ability). The spark often grows from eye-to-eye contact, a one-to-one chat and genuine passion expressed about our art form.

Truth of the matter, wherever you are—in a barbershop setting or not, on the risers or in a social setting, you are a living, breathing catalyst for a new member—first impressions waiting to be made. **YOU** are the beacon, from a public relations standpoint, that makes the real difference in chapter growth. Feel good about yourselves [and your chapter].

"... the secret of success is a long continual process that cannot be accomplished by one man. It takes a group of men, all dedicated to the same, ultimate goal, with each one willing to put forth the effort necessary to improve their chorus."

"... Remember, 'Hard work spotlights the character of people: Some turn up their sleeves, some turn up their noses, and some don't turn up at all.' (Sam Ewing) Let's all be one of those who turn up their sleeves."

Rodney Ripple, President
Twin Mountain Tonesmen

"Success isn't given to you, nor does it come to you. I happens because YOU did something."

Charlie Davenport
Past Society Director of Membership

DO YOU HEAR... Continued from page 4

Thursday nights in December to include strolling through downtown, stopping in numerous business places which are open at that time.

I don't know when that mental CD will run down. But, let me close with these thoughts:

The carols have been sung; the decorations are gone; the colorful lights are turned off but Christmas is never over. Remember what the song says: "The secret of Christmas is not the things you do at Christmas time, but the Christmas things you do all year through."

Happy New Year.

Del

ROCKY MOUNTAIN HARMONY COLLEGE



Vocal Spectrum, 2006 International Quartet Champions, are making a return performance at Rocky Mountain Harmony College **February 4-6, 2011.**

These four young men wowed the barbershop world when they won the International College Quartet in 2004, then quickly proceeded to win "the Big Contest" just two years later. **Vocal Spectrum** comes from the world champion **Ambassadors of Harmony** chorus in St. Charles, Missouri. Their entertaining show has made them sought after by chapters all over the world. We have been fortunate to have them at RMHC in the past, and we are thrilled to have them back.

They will present their full show on Saturday night, and will be coaching quartets during the day on Feb. 5. Many of our RMD quartets have appreciated the great coaching skills that **Vocal Spectrum** have displayed during their previous visit to RMHC. **Vocal Spectrum** will be joining two other gold medalists on our coaching staff: **Rich Knight**, lead singer of the **Gas House Gang**, and **Jim Bagby**, baritone of the **Rural Route 4**. Jim and Rich are two of our Society's finest coaches and icons in the Society.

Don't miss this opportunity for a great weekend at the YMCA Camp in the Rockies, located just outside of Estes Park. Check out the Nov/Dec RMD **Vocal Expressions** www.RMDsing.org for a full list of classes, faculty, and registration details.



VIEW FROM THE PILOT'S SEAT

Wayne Anderson, Outgoing President



It is approaching the end of a very busy winter holiday schedule at the Anderson household. Christmas saw visits from most of our kids and their families. As I sit writing this, Todd and his family are getting packed to return to their home in Las Vegas tomorrow, Matt is in San Francisco with some buddies after a week or so here on his way back to Sheppard AFB in Texas (the long way around), Jamie and his family have safely returned to their home in Sioux Falls after a few days here at Christmas, and Sandy and I have decided to wait until better weather to take down the Christmas decorations. And, with all that, there has been a lot of barbershop singing going on since the last newsletter.

The performances for nursing homes and assisted living facilities during December were all very enjoyable for me and I'm sure for the rest of the chorus as well. Mother Nature tried to put the kibosh on our last two outings with icy roads and very unfriendly driving conditions, but about 18 of us came out anyway. Maybe it was the challenge, or perhaps the adrenaline from trying to stay on the road en route to the final two venues, but whatever the reasons, the performances were some of our best in my opinion. We all had a lot of fun, and our audiences were especially appreciative.

The trip to Pierre to sing in the rotunda of the beautiful 100 year old state capitol building was also very enjoyable. The whole building was full of beautifully decorated Christmas trees, and the chance to wander around the building and see some of the legislative offices was a lot of fun. Clayton's decision to move us away from the steps and directly under the dome produced a very good place to sing, and again, in my opinion, we sounded really good. Many of our audience members agreed, by the way.

Next on the agenda is going to work learning new music for the "crooner" show in April. The music and learning CDs are mostly in hand, and I know we're all raring to go to learn the new stuff. I say that seriously, by the way. You have all shown the last few months that there is a new attitude in our rehearsal hall of wanting to produce a quality performance product to take to whatever audience we find. I hope that excitement will carry over into the forming of a few more quartets. There's no better way to become a better chorus member than to sing in a quartet where you have to do your part by yourself. Believe me, it improves your chorus performance tremendously.

Depending on when this newsletter is published, the installation of newly elected officers will either soon happen or will have just recently happened. Either way, at the end of that event, yours truly will give way to your new president, Mr. Jim Olson. It will be my pleasure to serve on the board as the immediate past president for as long as Jim wants. My three years in this office have flown by unbelievably fast. I can truly say I have enjoyed being your chapter

president during this time, but it's time to move to a different chair. Thank you very much to those who have served on the board during that time, and also thank you to those who have stepped up to be part of the board this coming year. If you're curious about what goes on in those board meetings, by the way, come to a meeting and sit in. Maybe you'll see how much fun we have, and you'll want to be part of it!

Again, thanks for putting up with me for the last three years. I'm obviously not going anywhere, just, as I said earlier, moving to a different chair around the table at the board meetings. I'll also still be down at the far end of the chorus with the rest of the baritones waiting for the other sections to learn their part as fast as we do. This barbershop singing sure is a lot of fun, isn't it?

See you on the risers.

Wayne

GROWING THE CHAPTER

If we want our chapter to grow, we have to individually invite, pick up, and encourage every man we know who likes to sing to our chapter meetings. Putting ads in the media doesn't cut it. Making a blanket invitation at a concert is too impersonal. There are men who would join us but will not come to a rehearsal on their own for one reason or another—either they are too shy, or don't know what to expect. They **WILL** attend, however, if **YOU** invite them, offer, uh **TELL** them you will pick them up, and then make sure they have a great time at rehearsal and follow up with them afterwards. This is very important.

Remember these four important words—**Approach, Invite, Bring, and Delight!** **Approach** them with a smile and enthusiasm of our great hobby. **Invite** them to a rehearsal and let them know we are a great group of guys and they will be made to feel comfortable immediately. **Bring** them yourself. Pick them up. Nine times out of 10 a guy will cancel or make an excuse not to attend at the last minute if he has to come by himself. And finally **Delight** him with warmth, quality singing, fellowship, and a welcoming attitude! Now what guy could go home after a wonderful night like that and not have had a great time?

Just remember, those chapters who are not actively recruiting **ALL** the time are losing ground—and one day will wake up to find the chapter practically dead (no pun intended).

If we all bring one member, we've doubled our size! But let's don't stop there. It's fun to have new faces in the group and they bring a new level of enthusiasm, which helps us all. Let's make recruitment our top priority over the next few months and see how much fun we'll have during and after all these new faces become solid chorus members!

Continued on page 7

ROTUNDA IS NOT A BODY SHAPE

David L'Esperance the non-rotunda

It had been at least six or seven years since I had the privilege of stopping at the State Capitol Building to view the Christmas trees, and never to perform in the rotunda with about 30 wonderful friends, for our families and a large number of our state's citizens! I viewed the invitation to be part of the **Festival of Trees** as a major kudo for our chorus, and to have the prime spot just one week before Christmas even more of a prize. The building holds a special place in my heart as well, for my dad was a member of the House of Representatives for two terms in the 1950s, and I was really proud to show his great-granddaughters his official photos up in the second floor gallery.

I was nearly blown away with pride at the huge turnout of our singers, and the focus and palpable excitement of each and every one of us as we prepared to ascend to the main floor!

The sound in the Rotunda, even with all those gorgeous trees and the mass of visitors, was, to my ear, absolutely incredible as we locked and rang those many spectacular chords and responded so well to Clayton, John and Jim as they sought real dynamics from us!

I was particularly excited with the way we sang **Go Tell It on the Mountain, Joy to the World, Betelehemu, and Mary's Little Boy Child**; I relished the goosebumps which I felt as we soared through the final measures of **Go Tell It**. In my eyes and ears, we have never sung Christmas music better in the decade I've been privileged to sing with you gentlemen! All our hard work paid off many fold.

And a special note to Elvis: my granddaughters thought you looked like the character Alan from the TV show **Two and a Half Men**!

Many in the audience were lavish in their praises of our efforts, thanking us for a joyous Christmas sound which made their visit even more special. To them, I add my thanks for making Christmas 2010 even more memorable and joyous.

A very **HAPPY AND HARMONIOUS NEW YEAR**, and let's try to make 2011 as joyous and memorable!

In Perfect Harmony,

David

GROWING THE CHAPTER *continued from page 6*

Getting them here the first time is the hardest. However, if they return, we have to keep wowing them with quality singing, fellowship, and fun meetings. Every member of the chorus is important in that endeavor.

Our Christmas preparation was a great start. Let's keep up that same work ethic and attitude of top-notch singing time.

BRANDING OUR CHAPTER

From **Concho Capers**

Competition is not just singing in front of judges. We compete every [Thursday] night for the time that our members spend with us. There are too many options out there. We must make sure we have a quality product for people to spend time with us. There was a **Barbershop Public Relations & Marketing Event** in Flemington, New Jersey September 20. One of the attendees, **Lee Roth**, from the Hunterdon, New Jersey chapter, reported on what he heard.

One of the speakers, **Ed Delia** is the president of Delia Associates, dedicated to helping organizations achieve market leadership.

Ed pointed out that we have the ABC's of members:

A: the awesome members

B: the bipolar members

C: the corrosive members

Ed went on to say: "The A's may not be the greatest talent, but they are enthusiastic, willing learners, who want to get better, are engaged, and contribute in many ways.

"Once you key in on the A's you find they attract A's. You have something to build your brand around."

The B's make us wonder if they are with us or against us. You are not sure. Sometimes they are not there. You question: what is their commitment to the group? Can you make them into an A?

The C's are the people holding you back. They are into political infighting in the group. They will drive you nuts. You are better off without them, even if they are talented.

A LESSON IN SINGING FROM A BASKETBALL COACH

From the Internet

I heard **Coach K** from Duke say one time, that, speaking of basketball, in order to really get better at the game, you have to love the process of getting better, from the drills to the workouts, to studying plays. All of it goes into making yourself better. I believe that it is much the same way for being the best you can be at barbershop, or anything else. So, don't tell me that I am not having fun. Every time I open my mouth to sing, I am having a blast.

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.	Jan. 11
Music Team Meeting Alternative Fuel Coffee Shop – 6 p.m.	Jan. 17
BHS Midwinter Convention Las Vegas, NV	Jan. 25-31
Rocky Mountain Harmony College YMCA of the Rockies Camp - Estes Park, CO	Feb. 4-6
SOD Annual Show Elks Theater, Rapid City	Apr. 16
RMD Spring Convention Thornton, CO	Apr. 29 - May 1

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