



The Voice of Rushmore



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

Volume 13

September 2011

Number 9

Incredible!

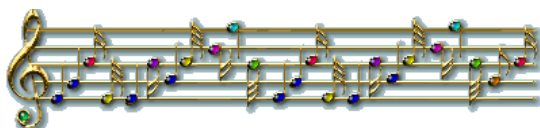
What an incredible weekend we just had with **Harmony Happening in the Hills!** Getting to meet and experience the incomparable **Jim Henry** was, to me, a treat almost beyond description. His passion for our craft oozes from his every pore, and he is such a superb teacher. Made me wish I had been in some of his formal classes either at **Harmony University** or the college where he teaches. Getting to talk with him about his family, **The Gas House Gang** and **Crossroads**, and having seen the **Ambassadors of Harmony** in action both in rehearsal and on the International stage in 2007 are experiences I shall always cherish.



Others, I hope, will write extensively about **ONE** and its **POWER** and some of the other things Jim taught us. He warned us he is a task master and perfectionist, and some of us spent much more time on our feet than we are used to, but it was worth every minute! His eight-word lesson "**Hard Work is FUN when Progress is Evident**" speaks volumes.

The performances at Rushmore were very special, and the lessons of the day sure seemed to have stuck. Some "goose-bump moments" were achieved, both by our own chorus and the Festival Chorus, where the great guys from **Billings** joined forces. The emotions were evident in Jim's face and eyes as he lead us, and I really admired his composure as **God Bless America** rang through the Hills! Overtones are hard to produce outdoors, but we "dood it"!

I urge you all to go back to the **November/December 2007 Harmonizer** and read Jim's brilliant keynote address from that summer's **Harmony University**, entitled **Gold Medal**



Moments. It's an inspiring read, and gives an incredible insight into this wonderful guy.

Guys, we've just experienced a bit of Barbershop Heaven. Take the time to reflect and savor the delicious treat we just had, and let's each of us commit to practicing what Jim taught us so gloriously over those three days!

In Perfect Harmony,
DAVID

What a Quartet!

What an exceptional treat to have #15 International Quartet **IGNITION!** as a big part of **Harmony Happening in the Hills** again this year, to have **Curtis** perform so beautifully on the solo for **Gonna Build a Mountain**, and to spend time again with Curtis' vivacious 10-year-old daughter **Amayah**. She's gonna break some hearts big time when she grows up!! Ask me about Curtis' comment about when she's old enough to date! 😊

The guys are, to me, singing better than ever, and will hopefully earn a spot at International in Portland.

It was fun to see the wide eyes and then the grin on **Denny's** face when he realized we were performing his arrangement of **Young at Heart!** We'll have a chance to see them again at Winner's show on November 12!

Although it would mean a personnel change at baritone, I also want to wish **Matt** the best of luck as he seeks the Director's position for the chorus in the Seattle area. He'd be an incredible asset to those young fellows.

And when I grow up, I want to be as free and easy a tenor as the incomparable **Dan!**

In Perfect Harmony,
DAVID

Shrine of Democracy

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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 fellowship hall at South Canyon Lutheran Church on 44th Street in Rapid City, S.D.

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

Correspondence about content and contributions for publication should be sent to the editor. All 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

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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!



SUPPORT YOUR QUARTETS!

Black Hills Blend

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

High Mileage

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

Vintage Reserve

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



BLACK HILLS AREA YOUTH CHORUS

You will read elsewhere in this newsletter the fact that the chapter has graciously decided to support a new youth chorus here in the Black Hills. Here is some information about it you may want to know.

While this has been a dream of mine (John Elving) for several years, it is finally time to get off the pot, so to speak, and make it happen. We have three universities, other schools of higher learning, and numerous high schools and middle schools all within a 50-60 mile radius of Rapid City. Recently I became aware that many of the young men ages 10-11 on up to 30 are looking for a more community-minded outlet for their singing, and that's where we come in.

So far I have been in contact with some area churches where we can rehearse once or, at most, twice a month on a Saturday morning, in all probability. Each rehearsal will last approximately 1-1/2 hours with a great social time afterwards—pizza, Taco Bell, BBQ, Paint Ball(?), video games, etc. And yes, we will be rehearsing on the risers for that time. That's one of the things we're looking for—a place where we can have risers, or at least set up for each rehearsal.

More information will be coming. However, if you would like to help get the word out, let me know and I'll supply you with some posters to put up and hand out. Be watching for all the information!

It's a membership thing



Bob Melvin
VP-Membership & Member Development

How do you eat an elephant?
One bite at a time!

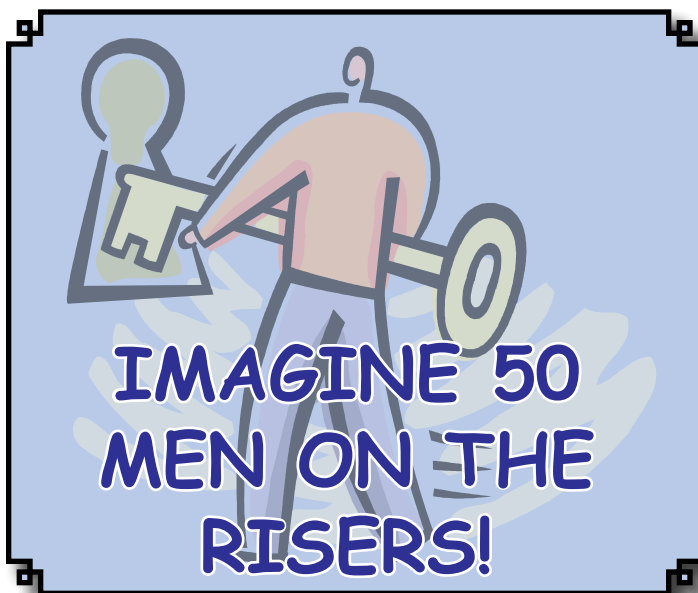
Well, for the 27 of us who celebrated our hobby at Mt. Rushmore this last weekend, it was wonderful to stand on the risers with a fifty man chorus again.

A few years back, our chorus committed to having 50 men on the risers at our weekly chapter meetings. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we once again were shoulder to shoulder with that many members? It will take a herculean effort to gain that experience, but we can achieve that goal.

Let's put it in the context of eating an elephant: one bite at a time. Bring one guest; recruit one potential member. Is that golfer, pool player, card player, gambler who sits next to you humming or even singing a tune? There you go! Let's begin—one bite at a time.

Be a singer-bringer,

Bob



**IMAGINE 50
MEN ON THE
RISERS!**



Rex Field

Sept. 20



We get E-mail

I don't have email addresses for the members of the Chorus, so I'm sending to Clayton & John, as I have your addresses. Please pass this along to the rest of the Shrine of Democracy Chorus, by email, or at the meeting if you have time.

You can't know how touched Dianne and I were when we read the card you sent me last week. I have read every sentiment from each of you over and over, and each time it brings tears to my eyes. I am blessed to have had the opportunity to sing and work with each of you, and I appreciate very much that you have been thinking of me.

I decided to spend my summer traveling to be with my daughters and granddaughter as much as possible, and that left me without the ability to rehearse with the SOD chorus, but there were many Thursday evenings that I have thought of you, and I really missed the chance to sing at Mt Rushmore Saturday night.

Medically, things are not so good right now. To paraphrase my favorite chorus number: "You're ridin' high in May and shot down in June." My remission induced by the stem cell transplant on November 11 ended in June, so now I'm back to looking for and trying experimental therapies. I have been on the newest chemo combination for one month and my tests today indicate it is not effective. I'm not sure what my next treatment will be. "If I didn't think it was worth a try, a try..."

However, I'm feeling fine. We just bicycled on the Mickelson trail for the last 2 days, and plan on riding the 3 day, 109 mile trek in September. My next short term goal is to sing the "Messiah" with the symphony in December (I've sung it every time for the last 30 years). If things go really well, maybe I could do the spring show with the Shrine of Democracy Chorus again.

The concert we did this May was one of the most fun performances I have ever been part of, and along with the birth of my granddaughter, that was why I was "ridin' high in May." Thank you again for all of your kind thoughts, and please know that I miss you guys and the music that we have been able to do together.

If anyone wishes to receive updates on my condition and treatments, I post regular updates on my Caringbridge site. The link is: caringbridge.org/visit/iver

With heartfelt appreciation,

Greg



Competing and Striving to Be Better

By Gary Maxwell, Community Services VP
From *Barbershop Clippin's*, Dick Cote, Editor

As I stood on stage in Primm at our recent competition, I realized something that I saw in a lot of us: Some of us were up there not trying to win, but perhaps to be good enough to qualify for the next level. Now don't get me wrong. I know that we are Number Fun and I want us to stay that way. By the same token, I think that our attitude as we go into a competition is a bit off of the mark. I think that for some, the thought is that we don't have to be that good because we're fun. And I am saying that winning and doing well is also fun.

I can be a good sport in losing as long as the victor beat me at my best. When I have had a sub-par performance and I lose the game, I only appear to be a good sport. Instead, I am disappointed and angry at myself until the next opportunity when I will be better.

I once read a book titled *The Mental Game of Baseball* and that book has resonated throughout my sales career, any game that I play, and my singing. The book spoke to many facets of approaching the game. I would like to speak to two of those things.

Striving to be better in each at bat, each ball thrown, each base run, and each catch made. In the book, it talked about never really being satisfied at where you are in terms of your proficiency. The great players always work to improve. They take extra batting practice. They field extra ground balls. They work on new pitches. They improve on their throws. They run to improve their speed. The great ones work the hardest. I am still relatively new to barbershop, but I can tell you this: Each time I come to a rehearsal or sing in a performance, I do strive to be better than the last time. For many of us, remembering all of the words is challenging. I am no different. I look at someone [three of our best singers] and strive to one day have their incredible memory for lyrics. I know that this won't happen and I am willing to put in the work to achieve this.

When I first visited the Fullerton Chapter, I did not think much of the choreography. In fact, this was an area of performance that I really wasn't sure about. I thought it was really hokey. And you know what? It is! And I have learned that if you are not doing those things and selling the song through your expressions and movement, the the effect is dullness. Now I know that selling the song is as important as singing in tune. I hope to be able to improve to the point that I have the same exuberance a [insert names here].

Singing has always come natural to me. I could imitate my favorite songs pretty well. Then along came barbershop. Now I am listening to [our director] focus us on vowel sounds and creating dimension in our singing. I am very aware that there is still a lot to learn.

I am there fore striving to be better each and every time that I sing. I probably will never really be satisfied with where I am in barbershop, and I hope that's a good thing. I will always hope to see something to improve. I hope that most of

you feel this same way.

To compete better each of us should independently strive to improve our own performance and ultimately, we will do better as a chorus in competition.

Focusing on the positive and envisioning success is paramount in being a great competitor. Being confident because you have practiced correctly is a part of this, as is ridding your thoughts of the negative. In the book, there was a chapter about the effect of negative thoughts. The example given is the player who goes up to bat thinking, "*I hope that I don't strike out.*" Just the words "*strike out*" in one's head as one steps into the batter's box is enough to diminish success. The positive is the opposite: "*I'm going to hit the ball hard,*" or "*I'm getting on base.*"

When we sing, especially in competitions, we should be focused on the fact that we are going to excel and that our performance will be one to remember. Our focus towards success is important. We cannot be thinking things like, "*I hope that I don't make a mistake,*" "*I hope that I don't forget the words or the moves,*" or "*I hope that I do not disappoint our director.*" These are the negative thoughts. Our thoughts should be positive because, "*I know that song and my part,*" "*I have got the words and moves locked and ready to go,*" or "*The judges are going to love us and we are going to score well.*"

Many of us can think back to when we played sports. We could not wait for the game to begin. We had honed our skills and we were ready to play. We never went into a competition feeling unprepared. Our coaches were confident, our teammates walked onto the field with a swagger, and we were going to win.

Every time we sing we need to be confident. We should be looking forward to the performance. We should be prepared and ready to perform. We will be prepared. Our director is there in front of us beaming with confidence that we are ready and we should walk onto that stage with a swagger knowing that we will do our best.

So, for our next performance, let's be ready. Individually let's strive to be better each and every time we perform. As a team, let's practice well so that we are confident that we will perform well. Let us still be Number Fun, but in competition, let's not use the excuse that we may not be the best because we are the most fun. We know our limitations as a chorus and we are fun. Let's set our goals each time with reasonable expectancies and then let's achieve those goals. We can do this better if we work together and individually practice and learn our parts.

I am learning something new each and every day about singing and barbershop. Let's remember our past successes and what made us successful and then apply those practices to our performances. Gentlemen, it is an honor and a pleasure to sing with you.

THE JOY OF QUARTETTING



Al Kelts
Tenor, Black Hills Blend

I find it exciting to hear four guys create a pleasing sound.

WOW! WHAT A WEEKEND! For me, three experiences really “tripped my trigger”:

- Jim Henry’s coaching of Black Hills Blend.
- Jim’s coaching session with **Shrine of Democracy Chorus** (SOD) and his directing on Saturday

• Listening to **Ignition!**

Starting at the bottom up, I do find it exciting to hear four guys create such a pleasing sound—attacks together, words together, vowels the same, and singing like Henry’s ONE—RESULT: Chords that ring, exploding sounds, and shivers up and down my spine.

I’m sure others will write about Henry’s coaching of SOD and Saturday’s chorus experience (where are they? –Ed), so I will try to describe tips which Jim gave **Black Hills Blend** (BHB):

- **Use a SINGING voice not speaking voice**
 - breathe through your jaw joints with your mouth forming the first vowel (for me, I can come closest to this type of breathing by a YAWN which opens my throat and my ears!)
 - sing “CUNGGGG—AH” and feel your palate lift, or sing your part an octave higher, then sing it down at the right pitch and keep your palate up.
 - pinch your nose—if the sound changes, then your palate is not up and you are not using your singing voice because air and sound is escaping through your nose.
 - Pieter: “It doesn’t seem natural.” Jim: “Nothing natural about it....I tell my kids that the most unnatural thing is being good at something!”



• **SING THROUGH THE LEAD:**

- Each part needs to duet with the lead: start out singing the lead’s part, then sing your part with the lead, concentrating on the lead’s part.
- One trick is to sing the lead’s part on “lu-lu-lu” or “lah-lah-lah” before singing the words, then do the same thing with the words—it makes it easier to match sounds with vowels first, then words.
- Jim says his quartet spends more time duetting than quarteting!

• **BEGINNING a song:**

- Listen to the blown pitch, think the pitch, then think your first note.
- Breathe in through your jaw joints.
- Take your first breath with your lips forming the first vowel of the song and in the rhythm of the first phrase of the song—that is, fast breath, if it’s a fast song, or a slow breath, if it’s a slow song.
- Then SING...ENJOY...RING THOSE CHORDS!

GOSH, THAT’S SIMPLE...chuckle....

Al



Looking for Joe Barbershopper: You Know Who He Is - He’s Your Most Faithful Member!

Montana Jack Fitzpatrick needs your help on a worthy project. We’ll let him tell it in his own words:

“I am starting a new project that involves finding and interviewing Joe Barbershopper. Joe is the little known guy who stands up on the third row. He is and/or has been involved in volunteer projects for the good of his chapter, district or the society. He is not a widely known person, but what he is doing is having a profound effect on those around him. He might be involved in a youth program, a recruiting program or anything that is making a difference. Maybe he has just been faithfully making the coffee for the past 40 years.

Please help me find Joe. He has given his whole life to do something for us--won’t you please take 5 minutes to acknowledge his contributions? Submit your nominations directly to me (click [MONTANA JACK](#)), including the reasons for making your nomination and contact information for yourself and for ‘Joe.’ Thanks for your help with this most important project.’

Blessings to everyone,

Montana Jack

“Keeping the faith and keeping it barbershop

Please send your entries directly to Jack. Thanks!

GET YOUR MONEY'S WORTH

by Dick Powell, DP, M-AD

from *Mid'l Antics*

As a 10-year member in 1990 I was not feeling good about my chapter and resented the time I was spending for, apparently, no return. I got the **Harmonizer** and **Mid'l Antics**—but the conventions and trips and schools and special shows just didn't seem all that worthwhile. I stopped attending on a regular basis and grew farther and farther away from the chapter and its members.

And then one day I got a call inviting me to become an Area Counselor. My wife said, "Why not give it a try? You might like it!"

Of course, she was right. The situation was the same as when I had joined a gym, full of excitement and optimism over losing weight, shaping my body, and enjoying my "golden years" in the bloom of good health. For a while I kept going and the good results accumulated.

But in short order life intervened and my regular attendance became infrequent. In a matter of months, my weight was up. I began to resent the money I was spending for not much gain. My attitude towards the gym in particular and fitness in general took a nosedive. I seriously considered canceling my membership. I sat down and made a list of the things I got out of going to the gym and the time and money I put in.

In a flash of the blindingly obvious, I realized that the value proposition of the gym was still there and just as valid as when I had joined. I had just fallen in the habit of not taking advantage of all the things I could do as a member—and so I was blaming the gym instead of looking in the mirror.

So I decided to give the Area Counselor job a chance. For the next two years I was a "member" of four chapters. I attended chapter meetings, board meetings, went to social events and performances, contests, and conventions, and even went to my first International. I made so many life-long friends in those two years that even today I find it hard to believe.

I discovered something many others knew: My membership in the BHS was a ticket to a wide world of harmony, fellowship, and fun—just as my gym membership was a ticket to fitness and health. No one could tell me how much to do or not to do. It was up to me. But if I wanted to get my money's worth for my dues, I had to choose to get engaged. And as soon as I did, my world changed forever.

Consider making a similar choice this year and get your money's worth out of your membership. Check out the schedule of events and plan to attend the RMD Fall Convention in Colorado Springs. You'll see and hear some of the best quartets anywhere.

Don't like competing? Then come and sing for evaluation only. You get all the fun, fellowship, excitement, and coaching but no one will ever see your scores.

Up for something really special? Go to Estes Park in February and join us for Rocky Mountain Harmony College. Great classes, great instructors, great food, and great fun.

You will get more out of this one weekend right here in the district than you can get anywhere in our Society short of Harmony University.

Finish up the year with a trip to Denver, Colo. to attend one of two Leadership Academies offered in the district.

You deserve all of this fun—it comes with your membership. Plan to get your money's worth this year. Believe me, you won't regret it.

Dick

♪ MUSICAL NOTES ♪



John Elving

VP Music & Performance

A great way to say "Thank You"

Sometime in October, hopefully, we will have a great chance to show our appreciation and give a big **Thank You** to South Canyon Lutheran Church. They have been so gracious to let us use their facility this summer as we were displaced from our normal rehearsal space at Central High School.

I realize that this may cause some of you to worry about not being in your own church that Sunday, but it is a great chance for us to show how grateful we are all the while adding to the worship during their Sunday services.

I am presently working with their music director, Mike Rathke, who some of you remember from judging our soloists and quartets for our show. It is not easy fitting in a visiting chorus while keeping your own programs in sync. They have several musical groups to consider when scheduling us.

Originally we had thought that the first or second Sunday in September would work well, but we have too many of our key people out of town or otherwise unavailable on either of those weekends. So, October looks like the best time for us to sing for our supper, so to speak. Prepare yourselves for this important time of sharing our musical gift with others.

Sing-cerely & Humm-bly,

John



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

The lighter side

During our last Board of Directors meeting, Bob Melvin, VP of Membership, said something that everyone needs to be aware of and hear. Although it didn't have to do with membership per se, it is meant for all of us to think about.

Bob said that when he first joined the chapter way back when, it was just assumed that everyone would take part in all the activities of the chapter and chorus. That meant that being a part of the Central States District (the Rocky Mountain District hadn't been formed yet) if there were a district convention to sing at, the whole chorus went. That meant travel to places like St. Louis, Missouri, along with several other distant venues.

Bob said that when the chorus scheduled a performance, the entire chorus showed up to perform. Yes, there were exceptions for things like health, vacations, work, etc. However, you could count on nearly 100% attendance.

I realize that times have changed, but after this weekend with Jim Henry I can't imagine his chorus not wanting to perform for every audience possible. They must love to spread the joy of singing to everyone.

Imagine if we had the same commitment that Bob was talking about when it come to performing, whether to a local audience or to a district convention audience. If we don't have that joy and commitment to perform our best every chance we get, why do we do it?

Let's commit, or recommit ourselves to performing every chance we get with near 100% participation. In that way we can become the premier choral performers in the Black Hills and in the process gain new members beyond imagination.

Sing-cerely & Humm-bly,

Gahn



As a bagpiper, I play many gigs. Recently I was asked by a funeral director to play at a graveside service for a homeless man. He had no family or friends, so the service was to be at a pauper's cemetery in the Kentucky back country.

As I was not familiar with the backwoods, I got lost and, being a typical man, I didn't stop for directions.

I finally arrived an hour late and saw the funeral guy had evidently gone and the hearse was nowhere in sight. There were only the diggers and crew left and they were eating lunch.

I felt badly and apologized to the men for being late. I went to the side of the grave and looked down and the vault lid was already in place. I didn't know what else to do, so I started to play.

The workers put down their lunches and began to gather around. I played out my heart and soul for this man with no family and friends. played like I've never played before for this homeless man.

And as I played 'Amazing Grace,' the workers began to weep. They wept, I wept, we all wept together. When I finished I packed up my bagpipes and started for my car. Though my head hung low, my heart was full.

As I opened the door to my car, I heard one of the workers say, "I never seen nothin' like that before and I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years."

Apparently I'm still lost.... it's a man thing .



Armpit barbershop quartet.

BOARD SCRIBBLINGS



DAVID L'ESPERANCE
Chapter Secretary



The August, 2011 meeting of the **Board of Directors of the Mount Rushmore Chapter** of the Barbershop Harmony Society convened on August 9 at the offices of **President Jim Olson**, with the meeting called to order at 6:34 p.m. The secretary certified the presence of a quorum, and the agenda was approved. The minutes of the July meeting were also approved as presented.

VP and COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Treasurer Ron Evenson's report showed the chapter continues to be in excellent financial posture. The South Dakota Department of Revenue decided to impose a penalty after all for the five-year period for which they felt we should have had a sales tax license. They did, however, charge only 50% of what they could have. The treasurer's report was accepted.

Music and Performance VP John Elving noted two new performance requests: the evening of Saturday September 10 at Hotel Alex Johnson, and Saturday afternoon (1:30) September 24 at the Golden West Annual Meeting in Wall. Because of dismal sign-ups for both the chorus advance scheduled for September 17 with **Matt Swann** and the RMD Fall Convention October 7-9, the advance is cancelled and the chorus will not perform in Colorado Springs. As a thank you to **South Canyon Lutheran Church** for allowing us to use their beautiful facility, he is also trying to arrange for us to perform at services either Sunday September 4 or September 11.

OLD BUSINESS:

2012 Annual Show: Chapter members voted to select Music From the Movies as the show theme. Still no one has volunteered to serve either as show chair or vice-chair for the event.

Harmony Happening in the Hills (HHitH): Chairman Pete Anderson expects about 50-60 participants, including 15-20 from the Billings Chapter. The **Somewhat Serious Quartet Contest** will be at **Slate Creek Grill** at about 7 p.m. Friday. Those wishing to eat will order off the menu at Slate Creek or can go to other venues. We will still have to use our own risers and sound system at Mt. Rushmore, since the National Park Service will still not allow us to use theirs. Pete also announced that **Jim Bagby** will return as clinician for 2012. Pete then announced that this will be his last as chair of HHitH; he figures after 25 years he'll give someone else a chance to excel!

RMD Fall Convention: the Chorus won't be competing, but the Board will still pay the registration package for mem-

bers who wish to attend. **Black Hills Blend** will compete in the Quartet competition.

NEW BUSINESS:

John Elving announced his intention to pursue the formation of a youth chorus for the area. The Board approved a motion by Gary Welsh, seconded by Del Beck, to provide up to \$1,000 for the sole purpose of support in this endeavor.

Secretary L'Esperance noted the passing of the wife of charter member Keith Johnson, and David will have a card for all to sign at Thursday's chapter meeting.

The next meeting of the board will be September 6, 2011, convening at 7 p.m. at President Olson's offices.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business for the good of the chapter, **President Olson** declared the August 2011 board meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
In Perfect Harmony,

DAVID L'ESPERANCE, Secretary

THE BARBERSHOP LEAD CREED!

1. We will not flaunt in front of others the fact that we have the best voice in the group (unless the music calls for it, which, come to think of it, it usually does).
2. We will do our best to stay in tune, but won't worry too much about that since the other guys have to follow us anyway.
3. As consummate gentlemen, we will continue to let the Basses feel like they're the most important part of the group, even though without the melody they would have nothing to harmonize.
4. As we focus on shaping and caressing the song, if we forget a word (or all of them), we won't worry too much since the other guys have to follow us anyway.
5. We will never allow a baritone to sing louder than us, even when we're on the seventh. The melody must be heard!
6. We will be sensitive to the Tenor's need to feel special. We won't overdo it, though.
7. In a chorus, although we will do our best to follow the Director, we realize that we have to take advantage of all the opportunities in a song to show off our wonderful Lead voices. After all, that's what the audience has come to hear, right?
8. We will do our best to cover the fact that the Baritone has a weak emaciated instrument, otherwise he's be singing Lead.
9. When in doubt, pitch it up!
10. When a Coach/Director advises us that we were under pitch, or too loud, we will always nod appreciatively, all the while knowing that we were just doing what the Composer/Arranger originally intended (even if the Coach/Director **IS** the Composer/Arranger)



Rocky Mountain District 2011 Fall Convention Colorado Springs, CO October 6 - 8, 2011



Convention Hotel: Antler's Hilton Performance Venue: Pikes Peak Center

Tickets: \$55 Per Person

*Convention Activities & Classes: Tag Singing Room, Vocal Production, Mass Sing,
Festival Every-Man Chorus*

Special Ticket Offers:

(Special Ticket Offers available with advance purchase only)

*Choruses - Chorus Performers, Bring Your Spouse for \$35
Quartets - Purchase Tickets Together, & Bring Your Bari For FREE*

PURCHASE TICKETS

First Name	Nick-Name	M. I.	Last Name
Street Address		City	State ZIP Code
		()	(Indicate if Yes)
Email Address		Daytime Phone	Handicap Access?
Competing Quartet (If applicable)	Three Other Quartet Member Names (For Special Ticket Offer)		Competing Chorus (If applicable)

<input type="checkbox"/> All Events Package (Adult, Advance Purchase)	\$55	X Qty	=	\$	All Events Package Includes: Quartet Semi-Finals, Quartet Finals, Chorus Finals, Activities & Afterglow. Advance Purchase deadline September 30th.
<input type="checkbox"/> All Events Package (Adult, At The Convention)	\$75	X Qty	=	\$	
<input type="checkbox"/> All Events Package Youth (up to age 18)	\$35	X Qty	=	\$	
<input type="checkbox"/> Single Event - Adult	\$25	X Qty	=	\$	Specify Session:
<input type="checkbox"/> Single Event - Youth (up to age 18)	\$15	X Qty	=	\$	Specify Session:
<input type="checkbox"/> All Events Package (Quartet 4-Pack, Advance Purchase) (Quartet Members Only)				\$165	List 3 Additional Quartet Member Names Above
<input type="checkbox"/> All Events Package (Chorus Performer, Advance Purchase)				\$55	
<input type="checkbox"/> All Events Package (Chorus Performer's Spouse, Advance Purchase)				\$35	Spouse's Name:
GRAND TOTAL OF ALL TICKETS PURCHASED					\$

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Checks, Master Card, VISA, and Discover are accepted (provide your credit card information below). <i>Please make checks payable to: Rocky Mountain District</i>
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Card Number: _____ **Expiration (MMYY):** ____ / ____

To Purchase Tickets: Send This Form and Payment To: Bob Reed, RMD District Registrar, 643 Crawford Cir, Longmont, CO 80504
Home 303-651-3196 Cell: 303-931-4800 Email: rgreed1@comcast.net

Hotel Reservations

Antler's Hilton, \$104 per night (Any Occupancy. Parking is Included)	For Reservations: Our Group Code is BARB11. Call 719-955-5600. 4 S. Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80903
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Deadlines & Ticket Restrictions

Advance registration must be received by September 30, 2011. Adult (All Events Package) tickets purchased at the convention are \$75. Tickets are non-refundable unless approved by Convention Team. **Note to Competitors:** All competitors must purchase an All Events Package. Competitors are reminded to complete the CJ-20 Contest Entry Form by the deadline of September 9, 2011.

Visit Us Online At:
www.shrineofdemocracychorus.org

"HARD WORK IS FUN WHEN IMPROVEMENT IS EVIDENT"
 (Jim Henry)



Del Beck
 VP of Marketing & PR

"It is people who sing it who make the song."

The **Mt. Rushmore Chapter** and the **Shrine of Democracy Chorus** meet every Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m. Summer meetings and rehearsals are held at South Canyon Lutheran Church (look for the banner), 700 44th St. All guests are welcome. All men are welcome to come sing with us. For more information, call (605) 209-3701.

Jim Henry's techniques for good vocal production are not complicated, difficult or new, but he does insist on them being carried out to perfection. He employs ordinary concepts like posture, preparation, pitch, vowels, volume (less of it) and voice (as in "one").

Executing these techniques to perfection (nearly) is hard work; but the payoff, the improvement, is truly rewarding. The "fun" in chorus rehearsals does not come about through gang singing or entertaining ourselves with gimmicks. The reward does come from working hard and achieving a great barbershop sound and then entertaining an audience with a performance which brings genuine enjoyment to the listener and a feeling of pride to the performer. Now, that's fun.

My German-Russian ancestors brought with them to this country an expression which goes like this: "Arbeit macht das Laeben sues." Hard work makes life sweet (as in "rewarding"). It seems to me that the same holds true for barbershop harmony.

Jim Henry is a unique talent. He is the best in what he does, and that includes his excellent people skills. We were very fortunate to have had him at our festival. He definitely made a huge impression on this old bass. Now it is my hope that every man as an individual and the chorus as a whole will discover great rewards through the experience with the great Jim Henry.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Meeting of the Board Jim Olson's Office – 7:00 p.m.	Sept. 6
USS Halsey Powell Reunion Perf. Alex Johnson Hotel – 7:45 p.m..	Sept. 10
Music Team Meeting TBA – 6 p.m.	Sept. 19
Golden West Telephone Perf. Wall Community Bldg. – 1:30 p.m..	Sept. 24
RMD Fall Convention Colorado Springs, CO	Oct. 7-8
Leadership Academy Denver, CO & Eden, UT	Nov. 12 & 19
International Midwinter Convention Tucson, AZ	Jan. 17-22
Rocky Mountain Harmony College Estes Park, CO	Feb. 3-4
RMD Spring Convention TBA	May 18-19
SOD Spring Show Elks Theater, Rapid City, SD	May. 5

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.