

# Newsletter for the Keystone Capital Chorus

2008 Mid-Atlantic Western Division Champions

Harrisburg, PA Chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc  
We meet every Tuesday at the Christ Presbyterian Church 422 Deerfield Church Camp Hill, PA. Call (717) 766-0811 for directions

<http://www.keystonecapitalchorus.org/>

**Volume 60, Number 01**

**Uble M. Frost, Jr., Editor**

**February 9, 2010**

## Presidents' Corner

Join me in thanking Lamar for his forward-looking leadership during the past year. Although Lamar cannot be with us for a while, his actions this past year moved the chorus in a positive direction and we owe him our gratitude.

At a chorus rehearsal a few weeks ago, I quoted two "management" axioms that apply to almost everything we do. The first one states, "There is no such thing as the status quo. Things are either moving forward or sliding backward." The second axiom states, "If you keep doing what you're doing you're only going to get what you got". The two are related because when you keep doing what you're doing things tend to slide backward. So there is always a need to change in order to improve whatever it is you are doing.

Your new music committee has already made some changes. E-mails go out a few days before rehearsal listing the tunes to be worked. The music committee is also scheduling regular sectional rehearsals to help everyone know their notes and words. And the great thing is we have three or four volunteers in each section listening for incorrect notes and making corrections. Sometime in the next few months, the committee plans to initiate a taping program to help individuals improve their singing.

We desperately need to change our recruiting process. We need to find singers, care for them once they come in the door, and encourage them at every opportunity. We need to change the way we market our annual shows. I've asked Ron Shuey to work with local non-profit groups to use our shows as fundraisers. The non-profit would sell tickets and keep a portion for themselves. We need to change the way we market the chorus by enhancing our use of the electronic media including our WEB site and U-Tube and other appropriate networks.

Finally, we need to change the way we view ourselves. As Gary Plag said to us at the last retreat, we are not a group of hobbyists. We are a professional singing organization and we need to prepare for everything we do like a professional would.

**Ernie Giovannitti**

## **Board Minutes**

### **JANUARY BOARD MEETING**

The January Board Meeting was held on the 18th at the home of Bob Fisher. 12 members were present. Minutes of the November and December board meetings were read and approved. Treasures Report for November and December were presented and approved.

#### **OFFICER REPORTS**

##### **V.P. Chapter Development - Walt Heine**

Walt has schedule conflict with 3rd Monday of month; therefore board meeting will be changed to the 2nd Monday. Membership applications for John Gossard and Wayne Decker were approved.

**2010 BUDGET** - approved.

##### **V.P. Music - Galen Claar**

Name of the spring show will be "TRAVELING IN HARMONY". Spring show songs have been selected, although 1-3 more may be coming. Chorus will be Mic Tester for M-AD PRELIMS chorus evaluation.

##### **Public Relations - Bob Fisher**

Press releases have been sent out for Valentines Day. Posters available for distribution by members. Ad will be "Patriot - News" on Sunday, 2/7.

##### **Youth In Harmony - Jared Heisey**

No progress made with promoting quartet contest among local schools.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### **Chorus Manager - Don Myers**

Some wrong dates were noted in latest Chorus Activity Listing.

##### **Giant Cards - Ben Yost**

2009 -we sold \$26,980 and made #1,350 profits for chorus.

##### **Uniform Chairman**

Continue to collect tuxedos from past members.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Spring Retreat will be scheduled in April.

Pasta Dinner is scheduled for August 28.

### **2011 Spring Show**

Have signed "Old School" for the show.

Working on contract for 2010 with Dr. Jay.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Ticket sales for Spring Show - Ron Shuey will solicit group sales. Price of \$5.00 per ticket for group of 20 or more.

### **Corn & Doggy Roast**

Scheduled for August 13, NEED CHAIRMAN.

Ron Shuey will to Senators about singing at a game.

## **BOTM - DECEMBER**

Bryan Fox for organizing the Holiday Show and Carol Smith for appearing on show for second, gratis.

Next Meeting on 2/8 @ Barney Margolis'

**Ray Devereaux**

## **Partnering with Keystone Capital Chorus**

The Board has asked me to coordinate a program whereby groups may share in funds raised through ticket sales for *Traveling in Harmony*. It's simple. Groups, organizations, churches, etc. will earn \$5.00 of each ticket they sell at \$15.00. Why am I telling you this? Perhaps you belong to such a group. Or, you can suggest one for me to contact. A name and how to reach your person will be appreciated. Also, I am inviting anyone to work with me in this effort. Thanks.

**Ron Shuey**

766-5058 or *lshuey5235 @verizon.net*

## **Sing at the Ball Game**

We have again been invited to sing at a *Senators* game. My response was that we are not happy with the new policy of buying a ticket to sing. The Manager and I discussed some options, so we are not scheduled at this point. One thought given to him was to put us in touch with a large group celebrating a corporate outing. Perhaps they could "sponsor" us. We would sing for them as well as the National Anthem. Yesterday, while walking our dog, I stopped to chat with a neighbor. He mentioned a buddy who was recently promoted within Giant Foods. Wow! He offered to make an approach on our behalf. I'll bet some of our members have friends in corporations, law firms, real estate agencies...Well?

## **Ron Shuey**

### **Giant Cards**

One of the easiest ways we can earn funds for the chapter treasury is by purchasing Giant Gift Cards. Our 'cut' is 5%, or \$5.00/100.00. Ben Yost reports our gain last year was \$1448.75 thanks to fewer than twenty members. We can do better. A graph will be on display to follow our progress weekly. Meanwhile, plan to make your purchases on a regular basis. If we really try, 40 members could easily reach the four thousand mark.

## **Ron Shuey**

### **Tall Dude Review:**

I hope y'all noticed that the last two Tuesday evening Chorus sessions have been fruitful, satisfying learning experiences, and with any luck (there is no such thing as luck) we can continue to have rehearsals that actually show the improvements in our singing. Maybe a miracle, but it would appear that some or most of you guys are actually working on your music between Tuesdays!! Wow, that would mean that after 46 years of chorus teaching, we're actually doing what we're supposed to be doing?? PLEASE, keep up the good work. It makes for more fun, it makes the directors happy, it accomplishes MUCH in the way of learning new music, and refining the older stuff.

**THANK YOU!!!**

Fred Henke

## **Tall Dude Reviews Installation Dinner:**

Well, it was a fine affair! I would say it was well attended, although there could have been more people there. Of course there were some whose schedules wouldn't allow their presence ~ such as our Jay Butterfield and outgoing Prez, Lamar Bortner. New officers and directors were installed before the august group. Many photos were taken. The annual presentation of the BARBERSHOPPERS OF THE MONTH was again a good representation of the involvement and dedication of our members. The BARBERSHOPPER OF THE YEAR FOR 2009 was none other than our JOHN COSGROVE. He gave a short speech of appreciation. All the prior BOTYs stood to be recognized ~ a grand display.

The dinner was again good, thanks to Jim Gallagher and crew. The Paxtonia firehouse was certainly accommodating. It might be good to review for 2010 the choice of menu and venue though. There were some people who didn't show because of cost and variety on the menu. I know the efforts were there, but maybe we need to rethink the location? "Food" for thought for the new Board. Of course, once again the inimitable Master of Ceremonies, Bob Fisher handled the job nicely. Some entertainment by chorus quartets. Then the stars of the evening, 'HIT PARADE' made their mark and sang some pretty sweet stuff. They're on their way to Tampa to compete in the Seniors Contest, and if Saturday night's performance was any indication, they'll do well in the competition.

Our new Prez, Ernie Giovannitti gave a nice speech, announcing a GREAT year ahead, and thanking everyone for 2009 and asking for their full support in 2010. Several songs were led by our illustrious director, Freddy Womer, and the final "Keep America Singing" was led by our newest BOTY, John Cosgrove. A very enjoyable evening for one and all.

**Fred Henke**

## **The Tall Dude Wants Y'all to be Healthy, Whether You Want to be or Not..!**

Your hand holds the key to food portion sizes! Not even embarrassing to use in restaurants ~ just looking at your hand can help you determine the right amount to eat.

For example:

- \* Your palm equals about 3 ounces of cooked meat or fish.
- \* Your fist equals about 1 cup of cooked rice or pasta, cut veggies or fruit.
- \* Your thumb equals about 1 tablespoon of peanut butter or 1 ounce of cheese.
- \* The tip of your thumb equals about 1 teaspoon of oil or butter.
- \* Three fingers equals about 1 ounce of chocolate.
- \* A handful equals about 1 ounce of nuts.

As a point of reference, most people should aim for 5 to 6 ounces of meat/fish; 2 1/2 cups of fruit & veggies; 3 to 4 cups of grains; three servings of dairy, and 6 to 8 teaspoons of oil each day.

There now, don't you feel better already??.....good, now go out and sing better!!

**Fred Henke**

## **The Tall Dude Says....**

Y'ALL NEED TO KEEP BUYING/START BUYING/ THE **GIANT CARDS**....now that's not "giant" cards, but rather the gift cards that Giant stores sell! According to Ben Yost and Treasurer Alan Weinberg, we have made a profit of over **\$1000** last year!! That's free money, folks. If you buy food at Giant, it costs you/us nothing to make money! Is this a great country or what? For every dollar we sell on the cards, we make 5%. No charge! No gimmicks! We make money!! Only about a dozen of our members have been regularly buying these cards. Does that mean that the other 40+ guys never buy food at Giant?? I don't know! Thanks.

**Fred Henke**

## **Not Too Late To Sell a Singing Valentine**

It's not too late to sell a Singing Valentine... just get your order in to Walt Parmer (732-9403) by Wednesday, Feb. 10. We can take "emergency orders" after that if necessary. You know the details: \$40.00 buys one of our quartets singing a love song, plus presenting a long-stemmed red rose, Hershey's Kisses and a voucher for two tickets to our May 1 Spring show (Heck, that's worth \$30 by itself!). We're singing Friday, Saturday and Sunday of Valentine's Weekend, and the project is potentially our biggest moneymaker of the year.

News and advertising efforts have been underway for weeks to support the effort, but it should be an every-man-pitches-in project, so please get out there and sell a Singing Valentine to a neighbor, relative or co-worker. So far, we've got them as far away as Landisburg and East York, as well as a number within the greater Harrisburg area. Most disturbing, however, is that of the 25 sold at this writing, almost none appear to have come from members' individual efforts.

Listen to Gents' Nite Out with RJ Harris on WHP Radio (580 AM) at 8:05 a.m., Monday, Feb. 8, followed around 8:30 a.m. by a spot with Nancy Ryan and Newman on "BOB Country" (94.9 FM).

C'mon guys, let's grab this thing by the tail and make it a big success!

**Bob Fisher**  
**VP, PR & Marketing**

*(Note: The flyer/poster, plus suggestions for its use, AND a blank form to help you take necessary information on a Singing Valentine are all in the Files section of the Yahoo page. Call Bob Fisher at 766-8127 for any questions or assistance.)*

## **Firehouse Quartet HIATUS**

Due to the lack of business at the Firehouse during the winter months. Mr. Brown has asked for a break of the appearance of quartets on Saturday evenings. I have agreed to his proposal and he is looking forward to seeing us return some time in the start of May 2010. Should you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact on my home phone 717 566 1038.

**In Harmony!**  
**Joe Turzai**

## Editorial Musings...

First some housekeeping. The BOD and Music Team are not complete in this issue because I did not have a full list by the time I went to print. Also in the next newsletter I want to hear from all Valentine Day's quartets. Any pictures furnished to me will be included as well. Give me enough information and I will do my best to put out a "special" issue. So guys what do you say?

As I listen to some Barbershop Music from the likes of Gas House Gang and Acoustix. I ponder what I want out of this year. I am currently working with a quartet (33 1/3) as well as the chorus. I edit this body of work. I am a board member and I help out the chorus when asked.

Yet I am not just defined by that. Outside of this group I am a parent and a husband. I play in a community band. I work at a job I enjoy and volunteer to play Taps at Military Funerals. All of this together defines who I am. Does it make me a "great/good" person? I don't have an answer for that.

What I am trying to get at without hitting you over the head with a stick is I believe this chorus needs to find an identity. Do we want to be a good show chorus? A Competition Chorus? A chorus that has fun? I believe it will be a little part of all three. Yet with that said it will only be as good as each of us can make it.

We all love to sing and ring chords or we wouldn't keep coming back. We have fun most meeting nights and enjoy things like the Corn and Doggie Roast and other social events. For those in the group who don't relish the competing part you do your best so you can support the guys who do. It makes for a rewarding experience and the chance to make some lasting friendships.

I believe this chorus is in good hands with Fred and his assistant directors and the teaching and expertise that Jay brings. I applaud Jay for realizing he can't dedicate the time to us to be a director. With what time he can give he will teach and coach us. This will only raise the level we can achieve.

In closing I would like each of us to look deep within ourselves and decide what we all bring to this group. After that come each week ready to do what you can to make the whole group better.

Sing... for life!!

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