

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 Camp Hill, PA. Call (717) 766-0811 for directions

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

Volume 60, Number 05

Uble M. Frost, Jr., Editor

July 20, 2010

President's Corner

Boy! What an outstanding convention! It was hard for me, with my limited listening talents, to pick the winners. The judges had a hard time as evidenced by the close scores for the top QT's and choruses. I was impressed by the Hamilton Square chorus who did Billy Joel's "Goodnight Saigon" and "50,000 Names". It was truly moving. At the other end of the spectrum, Storm Front kept us laughing for the full 10 minutes of their performance.

But back to work!! We have a busy August with a commitment every weekend beginning with the Senators game on August 6, the Corn and Doggie Roast on August 13, the fund raiser at Bobby Rahal Honda on August 21 and finally the Pasta dinner on August 28. To make these events successful, we will need everyone's participation --- participation not only in singing but also in working the events. When asked to help, answer with an emphatic YES!!!

We also need people to step up and help manage the work of the Chorus. Right now we need someone to take on the duties of Chapter Development (Membership) VP. It's a hard job—no doubt. But there are resources to help you. It's time to show you are a member of the team not just an observer.

The 2011 annual show is fast approaching. I want to have a show script and music list in place before the end of the year. A committee has been formed to develop the show script and production plan. But we need a show chairman. The duties of the chairman are included in another article in this newsletter. Many of the subcommittee positions have been filled, so the job should not be too difficult. Step Up!!

Ernie Giovannitti

Board Minutes

JUNE BOARD MEETING

The June board meeting was held on the 14th at the home of Ron Shuey. 11 members were present.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The minutes of the May board meeting and the May Treasurer's Report were presented and approved.

Music V.P. - Galen Claar

Galen was not present but sent report of committee activities. He also noted that the chorus website will be reactivated on June 15. Additional chorus members will be authorized to contribute to website.

P/R V.P. - Bob Fisher

Bob is beginning work on promotional releases to attract new members to chorus

YIH - Jared Heisey

Jared has met with representatives of the Sweet Adelines to plan a summer coaching session for high school/college age students in 2011.

Chorus Manager - Don Myers

Chorus needs additional ass't directors. Don has contacted the District for help in training assistants. District team will be at the Church on Aug. 21 to help train any chorus member interested.

Giant Food Cards - Ben Yost

Chorus sold \$2800 worth of cards in May, netting the chorus \$140.

Uniform Chairman - Fred Henke

A digression by the "Tall Dude" - Fred recommended that to increase interest in the 50-50 drawing that the member with the winning ticket get \$5.00 even if he does not pull out the white ball. It was approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Corn and Doggie Roast - August 13

Need to improve signage; therefore Ron Shuey has volunteered to make new signs delineating the entrance, costs, 50-50 drawing, etc. The Sweet Adelines Chorus has been invited.

2011 Annual Show

Ernie has compiled a Show Handbook for guidance of the Show Committee. Several items for the show need to be determined; theme, have 1 or 2 shows, combine the technical and dress rehearsals, make each member responsible for sale of a number of tickets. Also still need a chairman - any VOLUNTEERS???

Chorus will sing at the **Senators game** on Friday, August 6th. Members will have to purchase tickets - \$7.00 each.

Carlo Masciulli has been appointed Program V.P.

Next Meeting

July 12th at Bob Fisher's - NEW time - 7:00 pm.

BOTM for May

The RISER TEAM for setting up and taking down risers each week.

Secretary

Ray Devereaux

Obituary for Ben Musser

Dr. Benjamin Garber Musser passed away peacefully at age 89 on June 17, 2010 at Hospice of the Valley, Eckstein Center. He was born on April 15, 1921 in Columbia, Pa, the only child of Alvin and Clara Musser.

He was preceded in death by his wife Vera of 59 years and his only son Phil at 22 years of age.

He is survived by his loving wife of almost seven years, Jacque; his daughters, Pam Harter, Lynne Miller and Cynthia Musser; grandchildren Dan (Maria) Harter, Phil (Jessica) Harter, Gregory Miller and Ashley Miller plus great grandchildren Stephanie and Michael Harter.

He was admired by all who knew him. Dr. Musser was a heart and thoracic surgeon in Harrisburg, PA for 35 years, practicing at the Polyclinic and Harrisburg hospitals. He received his medical training at Hahnemann Medical College and Hospital in 1941 for 4 years and at Walter Reed Medical Center. He interned at Lancaster General Hospital in 1945, and was in the Army at Tripler Army Hospital in Hawaii from 1946 - 1950; also serving 6 months in Korea.

Ben had an awesome tenor voice and for 59 years sang in many quartets including the Keystone Capital Chorus. He was also a charter member of the Christ Presbyterian Church in Camp Hill, PA. Ben started flying at age 50 and for 30 years loved to fly his own plane. He was a trustee at Elizabethtown College for 36 years and trustee emeritus since October of 2001. The Musser Hall Chemistry Building was dedicated to him in October of 1983.

Services were held 2:30pm Saturday, June 26th at First Christian Church, 7405 E. McDonald Dr., Scottsdale AZ 85250. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Hospice of the Valley or the church. Arrangements by Messinger Indian School Mortuary, Scottsdale, AZ.

NOTE: We will pay tribute to Ben on Saturday, July 17, at Christ Presbyterian Church (our regular rehearsal site). Reporting time is 1:15 p.m. for the 2 p.m. Memorial Service at which we will sing The Lord's Prayer and The Irish Blessing.

Keystone Capital Chorus Show Production Handbook and Schedule

May 2010

This handbook lists the tasks for producing a chapter show and a schedule by which the tasks should be completed. It also establishes an organizational framework and committees to see that the tasks are completed.

1. Show Chairman

The show chairman is responsible for the overall management of the show. He recruits chapter members to chair the various committees and insures the committees are adequately staffed. He works with the Board of Directors to select and contract with guest talent. He insures that a suitable venue is obtained. He sees that ASCAP approval is obtained. **The show chairman should be appointed about a year before the date of the show.**

2. Show Production Committee

The show production committee is responsible to select a theme for the show and develop a script. This should be a permanent committee comprised of members who have talent and experience in writing scripts. The show production committee auditions member for speaking parts. The show production committee defines scenery and costumes needs. **The show theme and show music should be established no later than 10 months before the show. The show script should be completed four months before the show.**

3. Scenery and Set Committee

The scenery and set committee is responsible to design and construct the set as envisioned by the production committee. The scenery and set committee must work closely with the production committee to insure the visual plan is achieved. **The design of the set should be completed two months before the show. Where possible scenery and sets should be constructed before the chapter has access to the show venue.**

4. Ticket Sales Committee

The tickets sales committee is responsible to see that the tickets are printed and tickets are distributed to members for sale. The committee tracks the sales, collects the money and arranges to have the “box office” staffed on the day of the show. **Tickets should be available for sale about two months before the show.**

5. Program Committee

The program committee coordinates the sale of advertisements in the program. It collects the ads, develops the program format and sees that the program is printed. **The sale of program ads should begin at least three months before the show. Materials for ad sales should be available to chapter members three months before the show.**

6. Publicity and Advertising Committee

The PR committee is responsible to publicize the show and to develop appropriate advertising. **Advertising should begin three months before the show.**

7. Guest Talent Liaison

The liaison is responsible for making hotel reservations for the guest QT, providing them with refreshments, hosting them for dinner if necessary and insuring they are on-time for the show. **The liaison should contact the guest at least one month before the show.**

8. Afterglow Committee

The afterglow committee is responsible for securing a venue for the event, arranging refreshments, scheduling entertainment, selling tickets. **Arrangement for the afterglow should be made six months before the show to insure a suitable venue. Ticket sales for the afterglow should begin two months before the show**

Show Production Time Line
Show chairman appointed
Show guest contracted
Show theme established
Show songs selected
Show script completed
Begin selling show program ads
Begin show advertising
Begin ticket sales
12 Months before show date
10 Months before show date
10 months before show date
10 Months before show date
6 months before show date
3 Months before show date
3 months before show date
2 Months before show date

Yep, The Tall Dude Again

What a rehearsal nite! Tuesday {June 22} with Ron Knickerbocker was fantastic!! NOW, we need to remember some of this stuff. Freddy has been saying most of the same stuff for years now, but usually it takes a guest coach to get through to our little brains. I will also say, however, that Ron gives us a different method of using/remembering some problem areas. We are more willing to focus [at least sooner than normal] on the director. I was again sitting out for some of the evenings ~ and WOW, do you guys sound good!! Gotta remember some things that never change: e.g. target vowels, ending words correctly/completely.

The song "**When Day Is Done**"....remember the FIRST WORD ~~

"Sinceyouvegoneawayonethingisclear to me you were deer er than deer to me..." {Yes I spelled the deer that way to emphasize the "e" sound}.

"When Deh-yiz dun"

The song "**Lookin At the World**"

For Tenors, remember measures 6 and 84 ~ we duet with the basses on "bm bm bm".and then, all you guys kept all of the songs "in key".....phenomenal!

Cheers to y'all ***

Fred Henke

The Tall Dude re. Board Meeting

Of course you can read the Board minutes in the newsletter, or ask any Board Member what went on at the last meeting, but I thought I'd share a few of the discussions.

1) Anyone wanting to try out being an Assistant Director? There will be an official class on August 21st at the Church. You don't need prior experience {although "some" would help}, but the idea is to get more guys involved in the chorus' functions ~ and certainly directing will help you with timing, louds/soft's and get better feeling of what the director hears! A side-note here, we have agreed to do the detail work on washed cars at Bobby Rahal's Honda sales lot that same day. This will still go on as planned. We need about 10 guys to do the job & you can volunteer for 1 or 2 hours [or more].

2) As begun last nite (June 15), our weekly drawing has some changes, which hopefully will become popular and increase the Social Fund for future events. First, the winning ticket number will receive \$5.

Secondly, the jackpot amount will be announced weekly so you know what you're playing for. As always, if you pick out a black marble ~ you get cheers from the membership. If you pick out the white marble, you get jeers from the membership ~ BUT ~ you get to keep the money!!!

As always, the jackpot is made up of 50% of the take for each week, the other 50% goes into the Social Fund. BUY A TICKET {3 FOR \$1} AND TAKE A CHANCE, AND HELP THE CHORUS AT THE SAME TIME.

3) KCC has tentatively said "yes" to host next year's Division Contest again ~ same place ~ but there's a difference. Next year, the District will have both Northern Division and Western Division competing, so our duties will be roughly doubled. This is in addition to our coming back to compete, so the Board's concern is if we can handle all that. Obviously we would have to have some help from other Chapters while we are preparing/competing/coming back to our hosting duties. Any comments? Let Prez. Ernie know ~ or Chorus Mgr Don Myers.

Fred Henke

Memorial Service

Well, we attended a memorial service for another of our Good Guys. The chorus sang the "Lord's Prayer" and "Irish Blessing" for the service, along with Union Station which sang "Somewhere" at Ev's request. Everett Bishop, long-time member of KCC as a Bass, and was always a staunch supporter of KCC activities. Born in 1928, passed away March of 2010. KCC president for 2003 & 04, and always active in Board and Leadership positions. We will miss him!

Fred Henke

The Tall Dude ~~ Division Convention

As of this writing (June 6) the Division Contest is now history! HUGE congratulations to all the quartet competitors!! All of you did a great job, and hopefully the experience will help you and your quartet.

Of course, BIG CONGRATS goes to "Touchtone"..... [Oops, sorry, that's something else entirely]... **TOUCHSTONE**. Our illustrious coach Dr. Jay and his buddies did a fantastic job. Big CONGRATS also to "**HIT PARADE**", placing 2nd.....then on to "**ON THE ROAD**". Nightmares...

oops, there I go again....."**KNIGHT-AIRES**" doing a great job. Congrats to "**33 1/3**" for doing a fine job on their initial contest attempt ~ and being our **Western Division novice Quartet Champs!!** Another fine quartet, "**JUST 4 YOU**" gave their best shot at competing. **WE'RE PROUD OF ALL YOU GUYS!!!**

Also, from what I saw, KCC handled the job as HOST to the entire affair, and handled it well! It's nice to get our faces in front of all the District people, and the more often we do this job, the better we get.

An interesting situation happened that wasn't planned at all, but when they asked for volunteers for the "JOE BARBERSHOP CHORUS" to act as Mike Testers, it was assumed that **ALL** available barbershoppers would be involved. Well as it turned out, with the exception of a couple of guys from some other choruses, KEYSTONE CAPITAL CHORUS really became the JOE BARBERSHOP CHORUS. Good job guys!!

A big hand has to go to the "riser" guys. John Cosgrove, Uble Frost, Matt Yost, Ron Shuey, Wendell Perry, the Tall Dude, and of course, Dick Graybill [who also made sure the risers were driven down early Friday morning]. From what I observed, the majority of KCC was involved somehow in the event, from registrations, to guiding quartets/choruses to their designated rooms in a timely manner, to providing food & drink to the judges.....**thanks to all you guys!!!**

The Tall Dude Fred Henke

Tall Dude & Daddy's Tales

Some of my Daddy's favorite sayings:

1. "Dijon vu ~ the same mustard as before"
2. "A man's home is his castle, in a manor of speaking"
3. "Practice safe eating ~ always use condiments"
4. "The man who fell into an upholstery machine is fully recovered"
THERE NOW, DON'T YOU FEEL BETTER ALREADY??

Fred Henke

Chorus Activities

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| August 6 | Senators Ball Game, Harrisburg PA |
| August 13 | Corn and Doggie Roast, Mechanicsburg Men's Club Picnic Grounds |
| August 21 | Bobby Rahal Honda - Detailing, Mechanicsburg PA
Chorus Directors Class, Rehearsal Hall |
| August 28 | 5th Annual Pasta Dinner, Scottish Rite, Harrisburg PA |
| Oct 1-2 | MAD District Contest, Lancaster Convention Center |
| Dec 11 | 9th Annual Holiday Show, Scottish Rite, Harrisburg PA |

Supplied by Ron Shuey from a Master Class at International Convention

Keystone Capital Chorus

ON MAKING GOOD MUSIC TOGETHER

Internationals 2010 provided much in the way of fellowship, great singing and learning. Several of us attended the **Master Class with Ambassadors of Harmony**. An early arrival allowed us see their normal warm-ups, followed by their planned program to inform and inspire.

Director Jim Henry's job was to first outline the steps they took to grow from an ordinary Joe Barbershopper chorus to International Champions in 2009.

My intent is NOT to suggest what we can do to advance that far. Rather it is to share these steps and their philosophies to become the BEST SINGING CHORUS THEY COULD BE, not Champions. I believe that is our goal. Most of the steps will be familiar to you.

1. CHANGE. Changing what you are now doing is good, overall. Some will resist and leave.
2. GET OUT OF THE CHAIRS and use the risers often.
3. DO NOT START REHEARSALS WITH "The Old Songs." It's gang singing. Directors should have decided what's to be accomplished for the session, tell the men, then use warm-ups to apply. Unison scales at first, striving for the desired quality sound.
4. AUDITIONS simple and be flexible—to a point.
5. COACHING. Use them and work hard to learn and apply their teachings. Above all, DO NOT FORCE THE NEXT SESSION TO REPEAT THEM. Improvement and growth should always be the goal... YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.
6. Schedule annual retreats.
7. Sing on-top of the notes. Sharp singing, which makes pitch pipes sound flat IS a good thing.
8. Employ a TEAM approach to teaching and refining. (Directors, Assistants, Section Leaders, Performance Observers/Advisors)
9. Sing with ROUND SOUNDS & HEAD VOICES. Light, rich tones are what we seek.
10. NO TUNE-UPS. Hear the pipe, then hear it mentally.
11. Keep BODIES energized and involved.
12. Maintain a "winner's attitude" although winning IS NOT the goal. GOOD SINGING to the enjoyment of others and to ourselves is more important. BELIEVE IN YOURSELF AND IN OTHER SINGERS.
13. Attend rehearsals, sing-outs, planned events regularly---year 'round.

DAVID WRIGHT, a great arranger and member of A of H added comments....Scales in unison do wonders; keep mind and body in the songs—even when another section is refining; and technicians must also create a "heart connection.

Happily WE are off to a good start in the year of improved singing. Do we have more to do? You bet, and we CAN if we WILL.

Riser Etiquette

In agreeing to and practicing what follows, we, the Tucson Barbershop eXperience, commit to treating our rehearsals as if they were performances, so that we practice what we most want to execute on stage.

Wait: If you arrive late, or step down from the risers and are returning, simply stand on the side and wait until invited by the Director to take your place.

No Crossing: Under no circumstances should we ever cross in front of the Director while getting on the risers. If crossing to the far side of the risers, walk behind him instead, or circle behind the risers.

Have Fun: By enjoying the great stuff the Director has to offer. Save your fun with your neighbor until after the rehearsal. (Exception - see Ten Second Rule)

Ten Second Rule: If the Director has not addressed the chorus within ten seconds, then you can talk quietly with your riser neighbor until the director resumes. Keep your eye on the director so you know when he has resumed, and then immediately give him your attention.

Listen, Don't Fix: Often when there's a pause, chorus members try to correct their mistakes or those of their neighbors. Although this may seem important, RESIST. You will miss important comments from the Director that affect everyone in the chorus. Bear in mind that the Director fixes all the problems eventually.

Listen, Don't Sing: When the Director is demonstrating how to sing a particular passage, do not sing with him. He's usually doing that to demonstrate micro-differences in pitch, nuances of vocal quality, or in some cases, notes or words. If you sing with him, you keep yourself and everyone else from hearing him, and instead, you become the example. That keeps us all from learning from the expert.

Listen, Don't Sing: When the Director is speaking to the chorus, don't pass the time singing or reviewing your part. It makes it difficult for all of us to pay him proper attention and to learn, because we're instead paying at least some attention to you.

Listen, Don't Sing: When the Director is working with another section or sections don't sneak-sing your part with them. You may think no one will notice, but it's guaranteed the Director will notice, and be distracted by it.

Listen, Don't Hum or Sing: When the pitch pipe is sounding, don't hum the pitch. It keeps you and everyone else from hear-ing the pitch accurately.

Wait: If you need to step down for any reason, stay on the risers until there's a break in the singing, then step down and leave quietly. If you need to cross to the other side of the risers, walk behind the risers if possible.

Following these general guidelines will go a long way toward assisting all singers to perform well with the chorus, and to creating a chorus we can be proud of!

David R. Updegraff
Editor and Publisher, "The VOICE of eXperience"
Tucson Sunshine Chapter

Other Thoughts from Harmonet

One paraphrased from the AOH Masters Class

If you are not singing through a part of the song, it doesn't mean you can take the time off. Continue to work on the visual performance (facial expressions, mouthing the words, performing choreo, etc) - the more you keep the brain engaged, the better the performance will be.

Additional Rules offered by the Harmonet

If you have a question, ask the director by raising your hand. Otherwise, wait until after chorus to ask it. If you ask your neighbor in the middle of rehearsal then you, your neighbor, and everyone else around you will miss what was going on during the asking.

-- Jenny Gordon, Greenville in Harmony

I can think of at least one more: if a pick-up quartet is singing (say, during a break, before or after rehearsal, etc...), don't join in unless invited. If the quartet is in a separate room somewhere, please! Don't enter the room and assume you are welcome.

-- Carl Stock, Greensboro (NC) Tarheel Chorus

There are some singers who are allergic to after-shaves and colognes. We need to avoid slathering it on. Also, I don't want to smell your 3 martinis after supper or the Mexican food belch as you belt out a note behind me on the risers.

-- Carl Stock (with an added "OR WORSE IF YOU ARE IN FRONT OF ME!" added by Shelley Herman)

-- How about this no-brainer. TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONE. We can't resist the urge to do the tango when we hear your funky ring tone each time you get a call. What a buzz kill.

Christian Hunter

Editorial Musings...

First some housekeeping. I updated the Board of Directors List. The list of Chorus Activities is up-to-date to the best of my knowledge. So if I missed something let me know and I will add it to next newsletter. Also at Ron's request I added what he brought back from International on page 10. I also added an article from Harmonet on Riser Etiquette from a barbershopper in the Tucson Sunshine Chapter. Keith and Dave sent that my way.

This is the first article that did not just write itself. I hope it does not mean it is getting "old hat". The special articles I included say a lot about what is expected in an "A" level chorus. I also got from Fred's overview of international that the only difference for a chorus at our level is total discipline. Is it hard to do? You bet. Will it be worth it? Of course. Will it be a lot of hard work? Yes but I bet it will be fun as well.

I am the first to admit that I am not good with total riser discipline. I find it way too easy to let myself drift. I keep trying to get better but it is a constant struggle. I know I am not alone. I am younger than most of you and I find it way hard to stand there for 2.5 hours every week. I am finding it more difficult to sing for that much time (usually more) without some problems the next day as well. Does this make me a bad barbershopper? Not at all.

What I am trying to convey is we all have to figure out what works for us each Tuesday night. Then we must do our best to repeat that each week until it becomes second nature. That also goes with learning our music. We all need to take responsibility for ourselves. When that is accomplished then the "whole" ensemble will get better. Is there a timetable for this procedure? Yes it is Division Contest next year. When we retake the stage we want to show that we "own" that stage. So let's all start working towards this goal. Wouldn't it be nice to give Fred and our coaches a chance to take us to next level instead of repeating the last one?



2010 Board of Directors E-mail

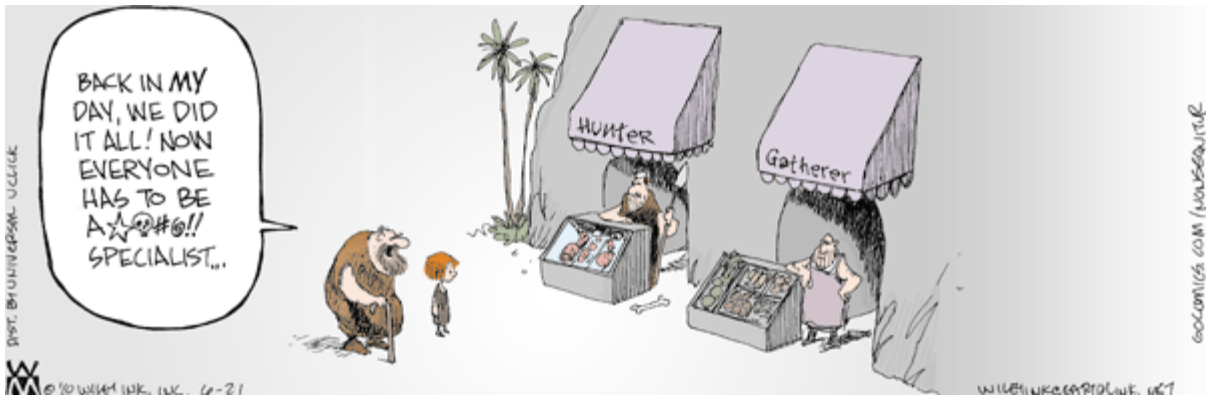
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