

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/>

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Uble M. Frost, Jr., Editor

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President's Corner

The next few months will be extremely busy for the chorus. With the Prelims and the Palmyra show in March, the Pottsville show in April and our Spring show the first weekend in May. Every member must make a supreme effort to attend every rehearsal. We need to be on time and ready to rehearse at 7:00. By now, all the show music should be off the paper.

We are a professional singing organization and we need to act and rehearse as such. We need to respect our directors by giving them our **undivided** attention when they are directing. We need to respect our fellow chorus members. Talking on the risers and conducting business in the rehearsal hall is distracting and causes others to lose focus. No doubt performing at a high level is hard work. As our Director Emeritus has often said, "If it was easy we'd all be champs".

Ernie Giovannitti

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Board Minutes

February Board Meeting

The February board meeting was held on the 8th at the home of Barney Margolis. 13 members were present. The January meeting minutes and the Treasurer's Report were presented and approved.

OFFICERS REPORTS:

Chapter Development VP - Walt Heine

Walt is in the process of establishing a procedure for mentoring and orienting new members.

Music VP - Galen Claar

All the planned music for the Spring Show has been handed out with the exception of "If There's Anybody Here From Out of Town?" which will be sung with the Sweet Ads.

Music Committee meeting has been switched to the 1st Tuesday of the month at 6:15PM.

Public Relations VP - Bob Fisher

We presently have 55 orders for singing Valentines. We will reduce our rose order from 125 to 100.

Bob is also working with the District on the Pre-Lims.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Chorus Manager - Don Myers

We have 32 Evite 'yes' responses to sing on the Palmyra's Show and 48 to sing as mic-testers at Pre-Lims. This is a POOOOR response for the Palmyra Show!!!!

Giant Card sales - Ben Yost

We sold \$3300 worth of cards in February which netted the chorus \$155.

Uniform Manager - Fred Henke

Wayne Decker has been accepted as a new member and will be outfitted for a tux. Ed Herring has noted that due to time constraints he will no longer be singing with the chorus and will return his tux.

Web-site - John Cosgrove and Dave Maxwell

They are in the process of updating the site. It should be on-line by April 1.

2010 Spring Show - Steve Guy

He has begun to write the script. Barney Margolis has the tickets. Bob Fisher and Ray Devereaux will begin to solicit Program Ads.

OLD BUSINESS:

Director's Contract

Ernie Giovannitti has prepared a contract for Fred Womer and has the board's blessing to present it to him.

Spring Retreat

Ernie will try to schedule for the weekend of April 16 & 17 at the Carlisle Hotel with Ron Knickerbocker and Gary Plaag as coaches.

- Corn and Doggie Roast

. It will be on August 13th. We still need a Chairman.

BOTM - January

Wendell Perry for handling reservations for the Installation Banquet.

NEW BUSINESS:

Lost music

Members who lose their chorus issued music will be charged \$5.00 for additional copy. We all NEED to be responsible.

Board approved placing ad in the Pre-Lims program.

We decided to cancel rehearsal on February 9 due to weather forecast.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Gents Night Out will appear at the Forum on May 9 for a musical program and will promote Barbershop Singing.

Next Meeting - March 8th at Bob Fisher's house.

Ray Devereaux

Uniforms: Vests

Specifically, vest "buttons". As I mentioned at rehearsal on Tuesday February 23, I do now have some extra buttons for those of you who have lost one or two. No, I don't do the sewing! Contact me at any chorus rehearsal and I will give you the ones you need. (notice to Steve Guy: no, they won't cost you anything!).

Fred Henke

Uniform Chairman

View From The Audience

As Tenor Section Leader, I was primarily watching/listening to the Tenors, but while doing that, I observed some additional topics of conversation:

1} How many years now have we been told that the words "day", "way", "play", "say"...etc., all have the object vowel sound of "EH"? It seems we need to be reminded every week of that rule ~ and the rule never waivers. When the chorus does the vowels correctly, you would be amazed at the difference of sound!

2} Learning notes before coming to practice on Tuesday nites. Every time it appears that you guys have worked on your music, the evening starts off with a definite positive 'note' [no pun intended]. I can only assume that you have indeed actually worked on your songs while away from chorus. CONGRATULATIONS!

During the evening's rehearsal, we really do get up to a "B" or even possibly an "A" level of singing. Unfortunately, that doesn't guarantee we start out the next week's practice with that same level. I'll tell ya, standing out front {like the directors keep telling us}; the sounds are quite different than what you're hearing while standing on the risers! When those chords lock, it's.....WOW!!

3} As mentioned hundreds of times, the 'target vowels' need to become habit. You shouldn't have to think on it every time you sing. The only way to get to that point is to practice that way every time you sing.

Whether it be by yourself going over your music, or with a quartet practicing some songs ~ and it has to be used in every song you sing. Use your recorders to hear how you sound to yourself.

4} Unit sound! This is something you strive for every time your section sings something, especially if it's a hold or post or lead-in for the next phrase. Once again, standing out front allows a person to hear lots of specific areas of sound and performance.

Now don't get me wrong here. You guys are doing phenomenally well. I'm just trying to add some nit-picking comments to make the sound even better!!! Next week, how about EVERYONE stand out front to listen ~~ you'll go nuts!!

Now, onto the business of Chorus, Singing Capital Chorus Style!!!.....what...oh yeah, Keystone Capital Chorus!! Lots of activities, competitions, hosting a Prelim, shows....lots of stuff!! Stay tuned....and involved!!

The Tall Dude

Fred Henke

The KCC Chorus Sang A Sad Note

We have lost one of the good guys! On Wednesday Feb 24th, **Lou Reda** left us to join a Heavenly Choir (I hope they don't do choreo). Barney had it right when he said "Coney Island Baby" would never be the same! His quartet has had its second big hit now ~ the first being "The Rev".

I won't be able to hear another story like when Peg told him not to try to fix the roof of his carport, to stay off a ladder because he might get hurt. So, Lou did the next best thing. He stood the ladder in the bed of his truck so he wouldn't have to climb so high!!

Well, the service went well, and it's over! Now everyone can remember Lou & Peg in the reliving of old times, good times and songs. We had a good turnout for the service. There were around 45 guys with Director Emeritus Hal Kraft leading us in song. After the service, a nice lunch was served and it provided the whole crowd time to mingle and share memories. Nice to have a few people who had been chorus members join us in song.

We'll miss ya, Lou!

Fred Henke



Susquehanna 4 with Lou Reda

Tall Dude Current Report {3/11/10}

Well, here we are at the eve of the March 2010 Int'l Preliminaries. Many jobs to fill and from the sound of it, just about all of our members are involved in doing something. That's great news!

This is a 'pretend' competition for us, but we have to do a mental job on ourselves and perform just as though we were in a real competition, instead of just mike testers and an adjudication review.

The newsletter will be printed after the Prelims, so I'll probably make another comment [or wait till the next newsletter] on the results.

I just received my copy of the latest **HARMONIZER**, and it is chock-full of good info! I won't bore you by repeating what is in the magazine, but the topics range from '**BETTER SINGING**' to '**THINGS TO DO FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF YOUR CHORUS**', and '**WHAT SUCCESSFUL CHORUSES DO TO GET/KEEP NEW MEMBERS {AND OLDER MEMBERS WHO ARE FADING IN INVOLVEMENT/EXCITEMENT}**'. WOW, I'm so impressed with the comments/suggestions/directions given.

Do we (KCC) do justice to guests and potential new members? Well, sort of! Do we make sure the guest/prospect has a good time each time they visit? Well, maybe! Do we have fun evenings that provide enjoyment for **ALL** attendees? Well, sort of! Do the new members/guests get a pamphlet that explains EVERYTHING they need to know about the chorus ~~ costs, duties, expected benefits, family atmosphere?? Well, maybe!

PLEASE, **PLEASE**, read the current "Harmonizer", see how we/I/you/us do a good/bad/missing job of welcoming the new people, and making them happy, while keeping our own faithful members occupied, satisfied, fulfilled, wanting to come back next time and experience the whole picture again!!!

Fred Henke

TDD



Gents Night Out with Terri

Valentines Day With The Quartet Union Station

The usual celebration of the ole "Cupid" results of a romantic day for friends/recipients. It's great to sing and bring joy to the lady in the morning, knowing that the joy will extend to the boyfriend/husband in the evening!!! Lots of tears, lots of love, lots of envy from the onlookers. Then there's the one that tugs at your heart.

We visited a lady whose son ordered the Valentine. Nothing unusual there, except when we got to the house, there was the mother of a loving son. She was obviously suffering from, or recovering from, some physical pain. She didn't really react initially, when asked a second time as to who might have sent us to her home, but then the joy began to show itself.

Beginning with no facial expressions, to an expression that showed some memories of the song(s) {we always sang at least two}, to actually singing along with us, and with a loving smile that was as big as her living room! As I glanced around the room, it was filled with newspapers, magazines, and other piles of 'treasures'. A path leads through the rooms around these mounds of 'savings'. I was immediately brought into her world. This was one job where we had to collect the money, so while the rest of the quartet returned to the car, I stayed to chat with the lovely lady and wait for her son's check. She was delightful and we had a nice talk. She mentioned knowing about the Sweet Adelines. In a way I was sad that our visit had come to an end.

But there ya go! You never know who you will sing to.... Who you might complete the day for.... Bring some sunshine into the life of...!
It's a very nice payment for a job well done!!

Fred Henke



Union Station With Karen Fisher



Journeyman II With Carol Smith

Valentine's Day With The Quartet Journeymen II

My quartet had the pleasure to sing for a Pastor in an old-time church in Landisburg on Sunday evening. The reason we were there was because his wife had arranged to have this Valentine for her husband and only she and his secretary knew what was going on.

We were told to be there for the 7 pm. service and we had no idea why. When we got to the church, which is an altogether different story, we were met by the secretary in the back of the church and asked to wait until he began the service. It was then we were told the story that had started about 1 year ago when he was preaching at the church and his wife was home by herself. She had an attack of something and couldn't catch her breath. Somehow she was able to call the paramedics and by the time her husband got home, she was completely paralyzed and would remain that way for the best part of the year.

During this time her husband, the Pastor, bathed, clothed and fed her every day while still taking care of his congregation. After he started the service she got up, recovering just recently, and took the mike from him. She told the congregation that she wanted to do something special for him this year since he had been so attentive to her since her ailment. Then she introduced us and as we walked in to a standing ovation, we saw he was starting to break down. I went to him and put my arm around him and told him if he started to cry I'd never be able to complete his Valentine. He held up and we sang "Don't Blame Me" to him. After we finished we asked if we could add a little something to his service. With his permission we sang "The Lord's Prayer" and got another standing ovation. I've done many singing Valentines since we started this many years ago but this is the one I will always remember.

Jim Gallagher

Valentine's Day With The Quartet 33 and 1/3

From starting out our day singing to the Blind Association as a “warm-up” to ending it trying to find mailboxes in the dark and all that snow. We had an enjoyable day.

We even filled one at someone's home when it couldn't be done at their job. Another quartet showed up there and were told they could not go into the area she worked and the company would not let her come out front. As we were eating before what we thought was our last one our phone rings and it's Bob Fisher. He was trying to find out what time our last one so they could reschedule the one that was missed. It seems we were less than five minutes from the ladies home. Although we managed to find the address and sing to her, we did not have any info on who it was from.

The “highlight” of our day came when we had a guest join us. We sang one to a lovely couple. When we entered I noticed that there was bird cage, what I did not notice was the birds were loose. I believe they were parakeets. As we started to sing I noticed a “new” voice joining us. It appears the bird was joining in to help us out. It liked Al that we got a picture of them together.

Uble Frost



Al with guest; Top photo Lady quartet sang to who owned bird.

Singing Valentines Gig Did Well; Could Have Done More Recipients

Another Valentine's Day has come and gone, so let's look at what the Chorus did in our annual Singing Valentines program and fund-raiser. According to preliminary figures, we made a profit of around \$3,500 – and a real Thank You must go out to the 32 members who gave of their time and talents on a Friday, Saturday and/or Sunday to sing for unsuspecting sweethearts in Dauphin, Cumberland, Perry, York and Lebanon counties – as far away as Cornwall, York and even Alinda. (Thank you, Mapquest and Google Earth!)

That profit figure approximates what we realized in 2008 and far exceeds last year's low earnings, so congratulations go out for everyone's efforts in general. With three days to cover and eight quartets available all or some of the time, however, there was plenty of down time, and we certainly could have handled perhaps twice as many requests, the number we used to do often in the past decade and earlier.

This year, for the first time in many years we used paid advertising, and our \$300 expenditure profited us around \$250 after subtracting the cost of the ad. We also had stories and calendar listings in local dailies and weeklies, appearances by Gents Nite Out on two Clear Channel radio stations and a prominent story about us and the Sweet Adelines in The Patriot-News – plus, of course, members' efforts through word-of-mouth, distribution of posters and e-mail alerts to friends and family. Notably, a number of members bought Singing Valentines for their loved ones.

Your suggestions as to how to improve our program are always welcome, as is your continued support. Special kudos go to Walt Parmer, who with guidance from Paul Zieber, handled 100-plus phone calls in a few short weeks; to Al Ranieri, a veteran of the Valentine Wars, whose task it was again to schedule all the visits; and to former member Larry Hoerner, who personally sold three valentines for his quartet, then sold three more along the way! Barney Margolis continued his usual good work in the business of flowers, and our thanks go again this year to friends at The Hershey Co. for their continued support of our efforts.

Anecdotes of special Valentine experiences by members may appear elsewhere in this newsletter; but for pure madness, you can't beat the two hours experienced by the assembly team "the night before," and the way our friends at The Brewhouse (watering hole for many after Tuesday rehearsals) came through for us in a real pinch (Thank You, Becky and Company!). Ask me if you want to hear a real "seat-of-the-pants" story. And guess what? It's only 11 months till Valentine's Day 2011

Bob Fisher
Singing Valentines Coordinator



Capitol City Four With Barb

Editorial Musings...

First some housekeeping. All photos other than my quartet were furnished thru Bob Fisher. I asked for articles and photos from Valentine's Day weekend. I published all I received before I went to print. I will publish any others next month if you miss this deadline.

We are entering a very busy period. Two performances in a little over a week. One weekend we will also be working behind the scenes at Prelims as well. We need to have a good turn out for both weekends. We also need to be singing and performing at the top of our game. This will help us get our name out there in this area. We will be compared to the Sweet Adelines but that can not be helped since we are both on the same venue singing the same style. So, just know your music and moves.

After that we will start putting the finishing touches to our upcoming annual show and then competition. It seems in the short team we have been pounding the competition package and have pushed the other music to the background. That just means we all have to do our homework and come to rehearsal ready to work. That also means we give our directors our undivided attention. Even I am guilty of it from time to time. I challenge all the chapter quartets to find a song and get it ready to perform on the show.

In closing remember to balance learning music for the show with the competition package. So we will all be comfortable with it. Also remember our current jobs must be done to at our best. We are professional singers.



Sing.... for life!!

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