

# 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 04**

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

**May 18, 2010**

## President's Corner

### Keystone Capital Chorus Chorus Development and Improvement Plan May 2010

Your Board of Directors, the Music Committee and the Chorus Director evaluated the state of the chorus in terms of music and performance quality. They also reviewed the results of the questionnaire completed in March 2010. It was agreed-- KCC is a very good chorus. But improvements are needed to raise the overall performance to the 75 level members identified in the March survey.

The following plan outlines how improvement is to be accomplished. It will take several months for everyone to get accustomed to the new learning methods. It will take several more months to show the desired improvements. It is essential that all chorus members review the plan and be ready to work with the musical team.

#### **1. Vocal Improvement**

##### a. Individual audio recording

Each chorus member will record the song assigned by the Chorus Director. The recording will take place during a rehearsal. The director will announce when taping will begin and will allow the song to be sung to completion.

The chorus member will self-evaluate the recording using the form provided.

Between rehearsals, the chorus member will work to correct the errors he identified in the recording.

The following week, the song will be recorded again. The chorus member will again self-evaluate the recording and work to correct any errors he identifies.

At the next rehearsal, the chorus member will record the song once more. This time, the recording will be given to the section leader either physically or electronically.

## b. Individual coaching

The section leader will evaluate each recording and give a written “report” to the individual. The chorus member will work to correct the errors identified by the section leader. At the next meeting, the chorus member will record the song once more and will give the recording to the section chief.

If errors continue, the section leader will work with the individual to help him correct the errors.

## **2. Visual Performance**

Every time a chorus member sings on the risers, he should be in performance mode. That means performing choreographed moves with precision. It means living the lyrics with facial expression and body movement where there is no planned choreography.

Periodically, the performance team will evaluate individual performance. An evaluation sheet will be given to each chorus member specifying ways his performance can be enhanced. These evaluations should not be viewed as criticisms but rather as a helpful means to produce a unit performance.

## **3. Coaching**

The chorus is fortunate to have several coaches and teachers available to us. Dr. J is, of course, our primary resource. Ron Knickerbocker and Gary Plaag will also be used. Other coaches may be called upon as we improve.

Coaching will take place at least once per month.

A Saturday session or two may be held after the initial recording period to help assess improvement.

## **4. Chapter Meetings**

In addition to the risers, chairs will be set up in the rehearsal hall. The set up needs to be completed before 7:00. Warm-up will begin promptly at 7:00. The music agenda for the night will be sent out by e-mail by the Music VP by the Wednesday before the meeting. After vocal warm-up, the music for the evening will be sung for mental warm-up. The Director may want to correct any errors during this period. After a short break, rehearsal will continue on the risers. Everyone should be in performance mode. Recording will take place during this period.

## **5. Schedule**

The plan will be implemented beginning May 11, 2010. All chorus members must have a recording device at the rehearsal.

**Ernie Giovannitti**

**Board Minutes**

## **March Board Meeting**

The March Board meeting was held on the 8th at the home of Bob Fisher. 16 members were present. Minutes of the February meeting and the February Treasurer's Report were presented and approved.

### **Officer Reports**

#### **Chapter Development - Walt Heine**

Walt is working on a program to keep new members interested in the chorus. A Guest Open House will be held after Western Division Contest.

#### **Exec. V.P. - Rich Borque**

Rich is in the throes of studying the chorus so as to make some pertinent suggestions on our operations.

#### **Music and Performance - Galen Claar**

Galen proposes to have Ron Knickerbocker coach the chorus once a month.

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

Show press releases have been sent out. Mailing list will not be used this year; instead a comparable cost will be spent on newspaper ads.

### **Committee Reports**

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

Chorus members are still not responding to the EVITE program.

#### **Giant Card Sales - Ben Yost**

Chorus sold \$2400 in Giant cards in February. Way to GOOO

#### **2010 Spring Show**

Lunch will be served between shows. Afterglow to be held at the Susquehanna Rescue Fire Station on 6th St.

### **Old Business**

#### **Chapter Website - Dave Maxwell and John Cosgrove**

They are still working to upgrade the website.

#### **Chorus Retreat**

We are still looking for a location.

#### **Corn and Doggy Roast**

Craig Novinger has agreed to chair.

## **New Business**

Chorus will have a breakfast, in the parking lot, before the Western Division Contest. Jim Gallagher to host.

Chorus will supply risers for the International Contest in Philadelphia. Society will pay expenses for hauling.

## **BOTM - February**

Walt Parmer, Al Ranieri and Larry Hoerner for their work on Valentines Day.

Next Meeting - April 12 at Barney Margolis.

## **Ray Devereaux**

### **Secretary**

## **Gentlemen**

These are some notes I will print and carry with me in hopes of doing a better job of remembering/ practicing daily/ applying every time I sing. I invite everyone to do likewise. Why? Because, my friends, it was evident yesterday that Ron Knickerbocker was , again, telling us important facets of our best singers...skills we ALL should apply. We readily admitted that we, as a group, are not giving this hobby our DAILY attention. Let us give it our best efforts from now on-----

We reviewed and practiced the following, which, when we remembered what he just told us, resulted in some pretty great singing.

1. Support is critical! We used that "bent knees, up on our toes, heels off the floor, and arms raised... That gave us **tightened abdominals**, and good support. (I noticed some of us do not **stand upright with shoulders back**. That helps, too.
2. Singing with a forward sound; not back in the throat.
3. Less changing the open mouth, but singing more thru the vowels shape; oo, ah, uh, or o
4. Work daily and often with recorded arrangements we have for the show tunes. Georgia On My Mind needs serious work.

Thanks for your time. 'See you Tuesday.

## **Ron Shuey**

## Some Thoughts on Practice and Preparation

I sit and listen when my daughter has her Clarinet lesson. On weeks that I know she has prepared and learned all of her lesson work she as well as her teacher enjoy the lesson. Here is how the lesson goes.

They sit down...Take out the lesson books. My daughter goes briskly thru the various lessons that she was well prepared for and the teacher says positive things as well as gives her tips on how to better accomplish the various difficult sections to help improve the overall production of the lesson. My daughter gets additional tips on things that she would not be able to develop herself and gets to draw from the many years of experience her teacher has to offer. Wow we have extra time left during our lesson period lets preview next weeks material and let me show you some hints on tackling this hard section. An extra bonus for meeting the minimum expectations of her teacher.

On weeks that I know she has not prepared (or has not even picked up her instrument) here is how the lesson goes.

They sit down...Take out the lesson books. My daughter flubs thru the lesson trying her best not to be found out. The mental pressure alone is devastating even for the best con let alone a teenager. The clarinet even knows what is going on. The more she tries to limit the squeaking of the clarinet the more it seems to want to let her be found out. She can barely get thru 2 measures without having to stop and start over. The stress and discomfort in her teachers voice also adds to the difficulty. This can't be fun for either of these 2. This lesson seems to be lasting forever! How come they can't seem to get thru these simple 3 bars. This is painful! I feel so bad for her. The lesson time comes to a close and the teacher re-assigns half of this week's lesson for next week with no new material. Now here is another lesson (and money) and another week neither of us will ever get back.

Which one are you? How do you want your lesson to be? Expanding this out to an ensemble are you letting the group down? If you think you need help let someone know. Don't let personal vanity get in the way of improving yourself or the ensemble.

John Cosgrove

## Tall Dude Remarks

A few things I wanted to say:

1) Many thanks to the wives/friends/families who served as ushers for our show, and of course to Peg Reda who makes everything happen. I know that Ernie thanked the ladies at the Afterglow, and probably someone will make a comment in this newsletter, but I wanted to add my **THANK YOU!!!**

Usually the Sweet Ads do that for us {as we do for their shows} but since they were all in the show, we needed additional help! Bravo!!

2) Don't forget to celebrate..... **CINCO DE MAYO** .....

Which recognizes Mexico's victory over the French Army in 1862 (and note, it's NOT Mexico's Independence Day which is actually September 16). I mention this celebration because it's a reminder of one of our members Wedding Anniversary!! Yep, Steve & Steph Guy were married three years ago this special day! As Steve's loving friends called it.....**SINKO DE GUYO**.....! Isn't it great when you're loved by so many people????

3) As my Daddy used to say ~~~ "A bumble bee is considerably faster than a John Deere tractor"!! and always remember, "Life is simpler when you plow around the stump"!!

Take care....it's a jungle out there!

**Fred Henke**  
**Tall Dude**

## Lost and/or Found

Well it seems that we have a "lost" jacket. So far nobody seems to neither have it nor know where it might be. We have a "found" vest and tie. So far nobody seems to have lost it. I think we've found the culprit of those single socks I find in my dryer!!!

**Fred Henke**  
**Uniform Chairman**

## Tall Dude Still Stands 'Tall'

Well, maybe not as tall as I could be! Anyway, I didn't comment on several singing jobs of the chorus, since I've been under the weather for some time now. I missed the Pottsville show. At the time of this writing {11AM May 2nd}, I don't know if anyone is doing a review on the other shows for the newsletter, but since I did participate in the Spring Show, I will share some comments about that.

GREAT SHOW! Did I say it was a "GREAT SHOW"? The Sweet Ads went over the top with their performances as usual, especially with the crowd pleasing "Kazoo" song...oh yeah, and the "Wanna Come Back as a Man" ~~ always a crowd grabber!! Steve Guy did a masterful job putting the show package together, and with the help of Monte Baker, our Stage Manager (and Honorary Member of KCC), the show flowed beautifully. Of course the script by Ernie Giovannitti was well done, along with the inimitable Robert Fisher Esq., always there to keep the flow going with dialogue and humor as our MC. Freddie Womer as always, did a phenomenal job of directing, coaching, and with his usual style of showmanship. Of course the RamRod for ticket sales Barney Margolis ~ always pushing ~ and selling!! I don't want to miss any names, but there are so many guys involved in making this show a success and I want to express my thanks to you all!!

The "Program" (ala Fisher) was one of the best ever. I noticed we had a half dozen or so ads from barbershops. Wouldn't it be great to have "ALL" the barbershops in the area have their ads in the program? The next time you visit your barber, why not give him/her a copy of our program, and plant the seed that we'd like to see their ad in the next issue. Maybe we could have a quartet or two do some jobs in their shops to promote the show(s) and give them a little publicity at the same time!?!

The CHORUS did a fantastic job!! Congrats to you all!! The QUARTETS represented KCC to the fullest ~ including the crowd-pleasing "wind-up phonograph" routine by Gents Nite Out.

The Sweet Adelines Chorus and Quartets once again added the finishing touch to our show. I've said it before, we need to have a "kazoo" song ~~~ maybe the repeat in "76 Trombones". The crowd loved it.

The Afterglow was pretty well attended, and thanks once again to Jimmy Gallagher ~ he always comes through for us.

I'll tell ya, I'm PROUD to be a member of KCC. ....and my Daddy would have liked it too! As Daddy always said, "Always drink upstream from the herd".....yeah, I don't know the relevance either, but he was still always witty!

**Fred Henke**  
**The Tall Dude**

## Tall Dude....Yep, Again

Well, it's official {now that it has been explained to the full membership} that KCC will NOT be competing this year in the Division Contest [which also eliminates District].

The Board has voted to take a year off, with more emphasis on perfecting our singing and performing abilities. We will be having regularly scheduled coaching via Ron Knickerbocker on a bi-monthly basis, and will be utilizing self-critiquing tape recordings of weekly performances, and using a sheet for reference from week to week to see how you have improved.

Some concern by a few members that this begins a trend that can prove detrimental to the chorus. Others emphasize that we can improve ourselves, so that in 2011 we'll come back fully energized and better prepared. Some use examples of a few other choruses that stopped competing, and it slowly caused their demise {or at least severe illness}. Unfortunately those examples are incorrect in assuming the stopping of competition caused the demise ~~ whereas in truth, the lack of competition was the end result of many other mitigating circumstances. Hopefully, with everyone's support and involvement, we will survive and show improvement and new energy!

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Another item I've been talking about, so far without any interest from anyone else, is the handling of our weekly drawings. And remember, this is the money we can use for "fun" chorus stuff!

- 1) I would like to hear the current value of the "white ball" each week so the guys know what they're trying to win.
- 2) I would like to suggest that each week, the 'winner' of the ticket drawing get some money ~ maybe a \$10 bill, so it would encourage continuous involvement, not just when the major prize has built up to get the guys excited.
- 3) Thanks to Bob Mathews for handling the drawing each week. Not a huge job in itself, but it takes a continuing effort for someone to get the material set up, and tickets ready, and drawing to be announced. Congrats Bob!!

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.....  
**Thanks for listenin'**

**Fred Henke**

**The Tall Dude**

**As my Daddy used to say, "Eagles may soar, but weasels don't get sucked into jet engines".**

## Tall Dude, Audience of One!

Well, Tuesday nite (May 11), I sang with the chorus as long as my voice lasted {no funny comments from you guys}, so I got to sit out front again. I gotta tell ya guys, **THAT WAS DARN AWESOME!!!** You guys definitely proved that you can do it if you want to!!

Now, along with accepting the praise, ya gotta hear some comments as well! Yep, anything that you do that you shouldn't be doing really stands out when you're doing everything else so well.

1) There are still 1 or 2 guys really not watching the director. When everyone else is in focus, it really stands out and the audience will be distracted by you.

2) There are still 4 or 5 guys not totally "into" the song. Again, it really shows when most of the guys are totally involved and some are not. Once again, the audience watches you to see if you ever get "turned on".

Division & District contests are meant to improve the quality of a chorus, but to me it seems we haven't been learning what has been taught to us. I think some plans being implemented will be doing better job, including the new "Pod" singing units [fun and competitive].

1) Vowels - We've been directed/corrected/disinfected {OK, I just ran out of words that rhymed with directed}. For example, "When Day Is Done". Those two words are like..."Deh Yiz". We still have to be reminded to do the "Bung O" to get the correct "O" sound.

2) Singing as a Unit - We're definitely getting better, but it takes Freddie a lot of work to get us there.

3) Matching mouth shapes, forming the sounds in the mouth - When you practice at home, spend at least some of the time in front of a mirror {yeah I know, sometimes mirrors scare me too}.

**Back to the Praise!! You guys were great, keep up the good work. It will pay off!**

See y'all at rehearsal!!

Fred Henke

The "Dude

Vocal Exercises  
By  
Dr. Richard C. Stemple

Most vocal exercises are to help the vocal folds (strengthening, flexibility, etc.) These exercises are to strengthen the 15 muscles around the vocal mechanism. These exercises help to make all the muscles equally strong, therefore allowing the vocal folds the freedom to vibrate with much less tension.

· WARM-UP

Sustain the sound "Eeeeeeeeee" for as long and as softly as possible on the musical note "C" (middle C).

GOAL: 45 seconds with an uninterrupted tone flow

· STRETCHING

A. Slowly glide from your lowest note to your highest note on the "Oh" vowel/sound, as soft as possible.

GOAL: No voice breaks

B. Slowly glide from your highest to your lowest note on the "Oh" vowel/sound, as softly as possible

GOAL: No voice breaks

· POWER

Sustain the notes "F - G - A - B - C" for as long as possible on the "Oh" vowel/sound, as soft as possible.

GOAL: 45 seconds with an uninterrupted tone flow.

Each exercise should be done two times each; two times per day, and as softly as they can be done. **The softer the better.** For the best effect, these exercises need to be done every day, but good habits begin at the rehearsal. Take the time to do them completely each rehearsal and before every performance. These exercises may also be used as a Cool-Down after a rehearsal or performance where much is demanded of the voice. For more information on the creator of these exercises please visit the following website.

<http://www.mc.uky.edu/HealthSciences/faculty/stemple.html>

**Submitted by**  
**Fred Womer**

## Chorus Activities

<b>June 4-5</b>	Western District Contest	Radisson Hotel, Camp Hill PA
<b>June 27 - July 4</b>	BHS International Convention	Philadelphia Pa
<b>August 13</b>	Corn and Doggie Roast	Mechanicsburg Men's Club
<b>August 28</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> Annual Pasta Dinner	Scottish Rite, Harrisburg PA
<b>Oct 1-2</b>	Middle Atlantic District Contest	Lancaster Convention Center
<b>Dec 11</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Show	Scottish Rite, Harrisburg PA

### 18 Members Sell \$3,515 In Ads for Show Program

Publication of the program for the 62<sup>nd</sup> annual Spring Show resulted in a profit of \$1,141 for the Chorus while giving the audience some pretty decent reading; but, as with selling tickets for shows, it could have been so much better with greater involvement.

When all was said and done, a total of *18 members* sold \$3,515 in ads and patron listings in the program – nine of them are board members, nine aren't. Again, the grand total is 18! But this is not the time to lament; it is the time to say "Thanks" to those who helped the Chorus by selling ads and encourage others to resolve to help next year.

So, for the record, here in no particular order are the members who sold program ads, how many ads, and how much those ads brought in. Please thank them.

**Carlo Masciulli** (2 ads, \$165); **Ben Yost** (3 ads, \$105); **George Rehfuss** (5 ads, \$220); **Tom Yost** (9 patrons, \$90); **Walt Heine** (3 ads, \$230); **Ray Devereaux** (5 ads, \$190); **John Goedecke** (5 ads, \$400); **Ernie Giovannitti** (3 ads, \$200); **Ron Shuey** (3 ads, \$105); **Don Snelbaker** (3 ads, \$185); **Alan Weinberg** (3 ads, \$155); **Wendell Perry** (2 ads, 1 patron, \$65); **Bob Matthews** (1 ad, \$100); **Steve Guy** (2 ads, \$200); **Fred Henke** (2 ads, \$200); **Barry Fritz** (1 ad, 1 patron, \$75); **Galen Claar** (1 ad, \$100); **Bob Fisher** (13 ads, 1 patron, \$750). **TOTAL** (57 ads & patrons, \$3,515; Design & Printing, \$2,374; Profit, \$1,141.)

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

## Editorial Musings...

Some housekeeping to start, this is actually an issue for the last two months. So if some of the information is outdated other than the Board minutes then that's my fault. I only put two pictures in. I am working on something else involving the pictures. Look for a special edition in the next couple of weeks.

WOW what a reaction to a decision. It created some intense feelings from a few of our members. Everyone who spoke at the chapter meeting had valid points. Whether you think the board was right doesn't take from the fact that we need to change what we are doing if we want to get better. If that means changing our routine and focus then that's what we need to do. Does it mean that this was the only way to accomplish this task? By all means NO, it means this was perceived to be the best way. I believe we are going in the right direction and I doubt I am the only one who does. I truly believe that we have both the musical (Fred and Jay) and the non musical (Our board) leadership to get us there. Will it be easy? Not at all, it will be very hard work.

I am just as frustrated with where we were scoring and our current work ethic. I have noticed a definite drop in our overall ability from my spot on the risers. I do my best to learn the music and other things asked of us. Can I improve? Do I want to make the chorus better? You bet. Will it matter what I do?

Yes it will matter what I do. It will also matter what each and every one of us does. The better we make ourselves the better the chorus will get. The better the chorus gets the easier it will be to attract new members. So let's rededicate our commitment to this chorus and start down the road to get us back to performing at a high level each time we go in front of an audience. Whether that group is a retirement community, our annual show, or the competition stage in 2011.



Sing.... for life!!

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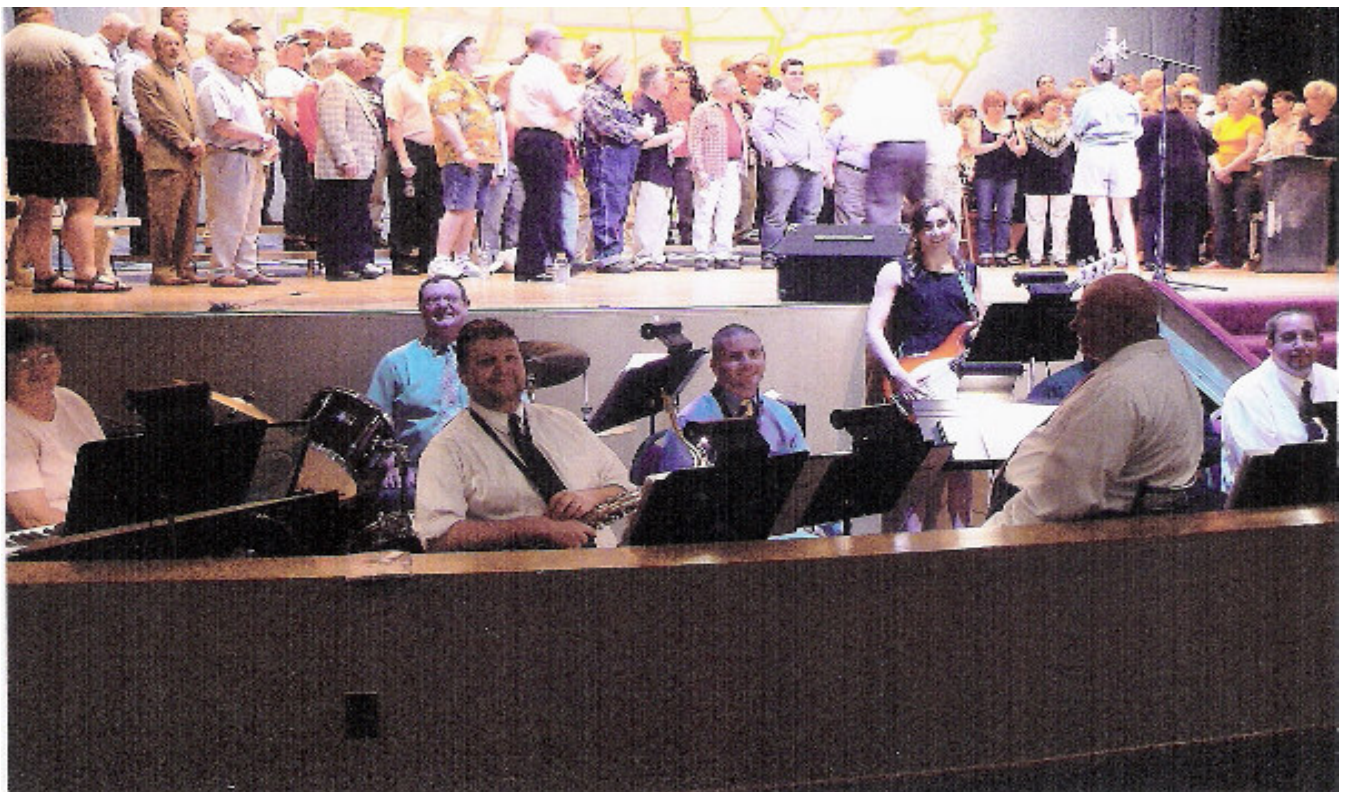
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**Keystone Capital Chorus  
Self Evaluation Checklist**

Date\_\_\_\_\_

**The purpose of this form is to help you to self-evaluate your singing.**

**Listen to your recordings for correct notes. List the measures where the notes are not correct.**

**Listen to your recording again. Do you know all the words? List the measures where you are having problems**

**Listen to the recording again focusing on vowels. Are the vowels correct? List measures where vowels are wrong**

**Listen to the recording again focusing on enunciation. Are you completing the words correctly? List measures where enunciation is a problem.**

**1. I am singing all the notes correctly**

**Except for measures \_\_\_\_\_**

**2. I know all the words**

**Except for measures \_\_\_\_\_**

**3. I am singing all the vowels correctly**

**Except for measures \_\_\_\_\_**

**4. I am enunciating the words correctly Except for measure**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Work on the areas that are weak so that the next self-evaluation shows improvement**